

EACR President: Anne-Lise Børresen-Dale

President, Anne-Lise Børresen-Dale, looks at the progress the Association has recently made and its route forward over the next two years. EACR-21 in Oslo 2010 is also high on the agenda.



Anne-Lise Børresen-Dale

It is a great pleasure to write my first Newsletter Address as President of EACR. I am looking forward to building on the very firm foundations of the previous two years and thank my predecessor Marco Pierotti for his good wishes and encouragement, as well as for his chairmanship of EACR-20 in Lyon, widely regarded as the Association's most successful meeting to date.

The success of EACR-20 has set a benchmark for EACR-21 which will be held in Oslo next year, and I hope you will make an early note of EACR-21 in your diary. If you have not participated in an EACR Congress before, please make 2010 your first.

More than 80% of the participants who attended EACR-20 have already expressed an intention to join the EACR conference again in 2010 and David Lane has accepted my invitation to open our conference at a special session in the new Oslo Opera House (Pictured right). As I write, the Scientific Programme Committee is beginning to receive replies to their invitations to speak at the meeting (see opposite) and the

Faculty will be updated regularly on the EACR website.

EACR is engaged in rapid growth and development as an Association and this is reflected in a membership approaching 8,000 members, its attractive meeting programme and the range of benefits and services to members. The Association is also active within the ECCO organisation as a founding member and will be contributing to work on 'EuroCancerComs' a Cancer Communications project that has been granted the support of the European Union through FP7.

Members of the EACR Executive Committee are also at the centre of discussions about a network of excellence of Cancer Centres across Europe, and the early planning stages for a European Academy of Cancer Sciences.

The future of the Association must, of course, be based on its relevance and value to its membership of students, 'postdocs', early career scientists and well established researchers.

So what is the route forward that the Association is taking?

Executive and Council:

The members of the new Executive come from diverse backgrounds really capturing the basic science and translational aspects of cancer research, so that discovery based translational research can become a strong focus for our Association.

The Executive Committee will be taking important advice from a newly re-constituted Council. The Council

now includes the Presidents of the EACR affiliated National Societies and this will bring a new level of strategic input and partnership working to the Association.

At the beginning of 2009 we are also particularly excited to be discussing mutually supportive partnerships with the Israeli Society for Cancer Research (ISCR) and the Irish Association for Cancer Research (IACR). In February I was privileged to attend and give a keynote talk at the inaugural meeting of the Israeli Society for Cancer Research: an excellent scientific meeting attended by over 500 participants. We wish the new society every success.

Conferences and Focused Meetings:

We intend to make the EACR conference a 'must attend' event in every member's diary by providing an outstanding programme that responds to members' needs and interests. A Satellite meeting at EACR-21 will also be offered this year on the systems biology of cancer in collaboration with RECOMB Cancer (Research in Computational Molecular Biology), following the successful Epidemiology satellite at EACR-20.

The biennial ECCO-ESMO conference must also meet members' requirements in the alternate years. The ECCO 15 - 34 ESMO programme extracts in this Newsletter (pp 51 - 54) and the Advance Programme available at www.ecco.eu.org show the strength of our contribution to the planning of the scientific programme in the interest of EACR members. This year EACR is also

organising a satellite meeting to the ECCO-ESMO congress focusing on 'Inflammation and Cancer' (pp 54 - 55)

Our first EACR Symposia and Special Conference take place in Cambridge in July followed by the satellite to ECCO-ESMO in Berlin in September. If we can secure viable meetings in terms of cost and attendance, there is no limit to the range and variety of provision we can make. I know from your survey feedback there is a genuine desire for more opportunities to meet to discuss specific topics in dedicated symposia. A 'Molecular Pathology Workshop' is already on next year's agenda.

Benefits, Services and Communication:

Our Fellowship budget has been increased so that we can support

every 'excellent' proposal and we also take great pleasure in celebrating excellence through EACR Researcher Awards and EACR Poster Prizes at our own and 'Sponsored Meetings'.

As you may already have read (pp 4-5), our journal EJC goes from strength to strength with an improving Impact Factor and strong papers submitted and selected for publication. Members are encouraged to submit their papers to EJC.

Our website and e-News bulletin service continues to be developed and personal support from our Secretariat in Nottingham (UK) is also highly valued. Do ask EACR, through the Nottingham Office, if you feel it could provide advice, information, or a route to make a contact that might help

you in your work. Please visit the website frequently; it is increasingly becoming a place for discussions, recruitment of people, finding collaborators and even partners for EU grant applications.

Tell your colleagues and fellow students about EACR and urge them to become members, and let us have your suggestions for the workshops and courses you need that we may help in facilitating.

Planning of EACR-21 has already come quite far and I am excited to be your host in Norway just after midsummer, the brightest time of the year, with daylight 24 hours and no need for sleep!! just science and fun!!

I wish you every success in 2009 and hope to see you in Oslo next year.

Discovery based translational cancer research

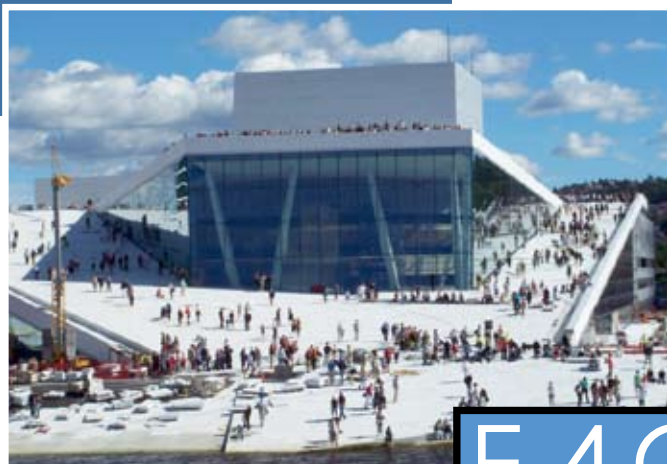


Photo: Jaro Holian, Statsbygg

EACR 21

"Join us in Oslo at this most exciting conference on discovery based translational research, discussing the latest breakthroughs in research and how to speed them effectively into the clinic. New diagnostics, new therapies, new biomarkers and systems biology approaches to drug combinations in the Scandinavian summer". Sir David Lane - Opening Lecture

**21st Meeting of the
EUROPEAN ASSOCIATION
FOR CANCER RESEARCH**

Oslo Norway 26 - 29 June 2010



Nonwegian
Cancer Society



Stop Press: Speaker Confirmations..... David Lane, Arnold Levine, Tak Mak, Peter Jones, Thea Tlsty, Samir Hanash, Yossi Shilo, Carlos Caldas, Yossi Yarden..... Visit www.eacr.org for regular EACR-21 Faculty Updates