

Dear EANO member,

In 2005 I was an intern, starting my first research projects in Neuro-Oncology, when I entered the halls of my first EANO congress in Edinburgh. Seeing people coming together from all over the world, representatives from all professions dealing with brain tumor patients sharing their experiences and presenting science designed to challenge the paradigms of how brain tumors were understood and treated at the time, was a great inspiration and would influence my career in many ways.



I remember sitting in the darkness of the audience with so many others when an update on the seminal EORTC brain metastases trial that continues to guide how we treat patients up to this day was given. We were united by the collective hope that the data generated in an international effort would go on to change our clinical practice and thus our patients' lives. And they did.

Experiencing the dedication of the neuro-oncological community to join forces for the good of brain tumor patients inspired me back then to become an active member of EANO. I have not missed one EANO Congress since and always welcomed opportunities to contribute to advancing our society.

Today, it's my honor to serve all of you as EANO president for 2020-21 and with this letter I wish to share my vision for the development of our society under my leadership. I'm looking forward to bringing EANO into a new decade and shaping its future with all of you.

Before I do so, I wish to express my deep appreciation for the work of Prof. Martin van den Bent as preceding EANO President. I am immensely proud to take over the Presidency from such a distinguished colleague, and am very grateful for the tight-knit collaboration we had in the past year that allowed me to support and learn from him in my function as President-elect and prepare our society for a smooth and steady transition. Driven by his tremendous dedication very important advances for the benefit of our society have been made. Martin van den Bent was not only integral for the successful transfer of the legal seat of EANO from Belgium to Austria, but also coordinated and led the very challenging process of generating and ratifying the new statutes of our society, which will remain central to the development of EANO for many years to come. In the past months, Martin van den Bent's efforts have focussed on steering EANO through the many challenges that arose from the still ongoing Corona-crisis.

The Corona-crisis remains a challenge for EANO during my presidential term. But as we know from our everyday lives at work, there's opportunity in every crisis. As an international medical

Society it is our first and foremost responsibility to contribute in every way possible to contain threats to the health and well-being of not only our members, but also our patients and society at large. Together, we will thus explore and learn how to best use digital formats for exchanging and interpreting new data, for networking, for communicating, and for mentoring, in short: we will keep being in touch with and learning from each other, like we were used to before the current restrictions became necessary.

It is my firm belief that EANO can and will become a stronger and better society through learning from the challenges of this pandemic. For this we need active contribution from all our members, to further strengthen the role of EANO as the one European society uniting all relevant disciplines to enable persons affected by tumors of the nervous system live a longer and better life. Be it drawing a patient's blood, securing funding for research, filling in a study report form, passaging cell cultures, explaining treatment options, or holding a patient's hand in the middle of the night - it is only when we join our forces that we have the ability to change people's lives by helping them fight their disease and push our scientific efforts into new dimensions.

When I think of the future of EANO, I see a modern, multiprofessional, open and dynamic society venturing out into the beginning decade, with hunger for the new and unknown. Jointly, I see us overcoming boundaries - those explicit and implicit. I see a society listening to and meeting the needs of the next generation of neuro-oncological health-care professionals, I see us opening up to our colleagues from Central and Eastern Europe, and I see us fighting disparity in career opportunities and inequality in cancer care - be it due to geographic location, economical restrictions, gender or ethnicity. I see us learning from each other, across the outdated structures of hierarchy, to strive and make a difference in the lives of our patients. Together.

Sincerely,

Matthias Preusser



You have thoughts on EANO, feedback you would like to share or questions? I am happy to hear from you and invite you to reach out to me at president@eano.eu, all communication will be followed up and answered.

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