

Message from the Secretary General

Richard Marais notes the extent to which EACR is meeting members' expectations and how feedback from members influences the development of the Association



Richard Marais

EACR continues to flourish as an association and the Executive Committee, advised by Council, is keen that activities and policies meet members' needs and interests. Growth in membership, attendance at EACR meetings, and the number of high quality applications for travel fellowships, meeting bursaries and awards are all strong indicators of the Association's performance and relevance in the eyes of its members. Alongside this, we are

also keen to respond to the feedback from the Members' survey. The survey at the end of 2009 again provided the Executive Committee with a very worthwhile review of members' feelings about the Association's activities, a summary note follows:

EACR Members' Survey

The Response

The questionnaire was completed with a fairly even distribution of respondents across student, recent and long established members.

Why members join EACR

The majority of respondents joined EACR because they view the Association as 'professionally important and supportive'. Opportunities to apply for Travel fellowships, Meeting Bursaries and Awards were also highly rated as a reason for joining.

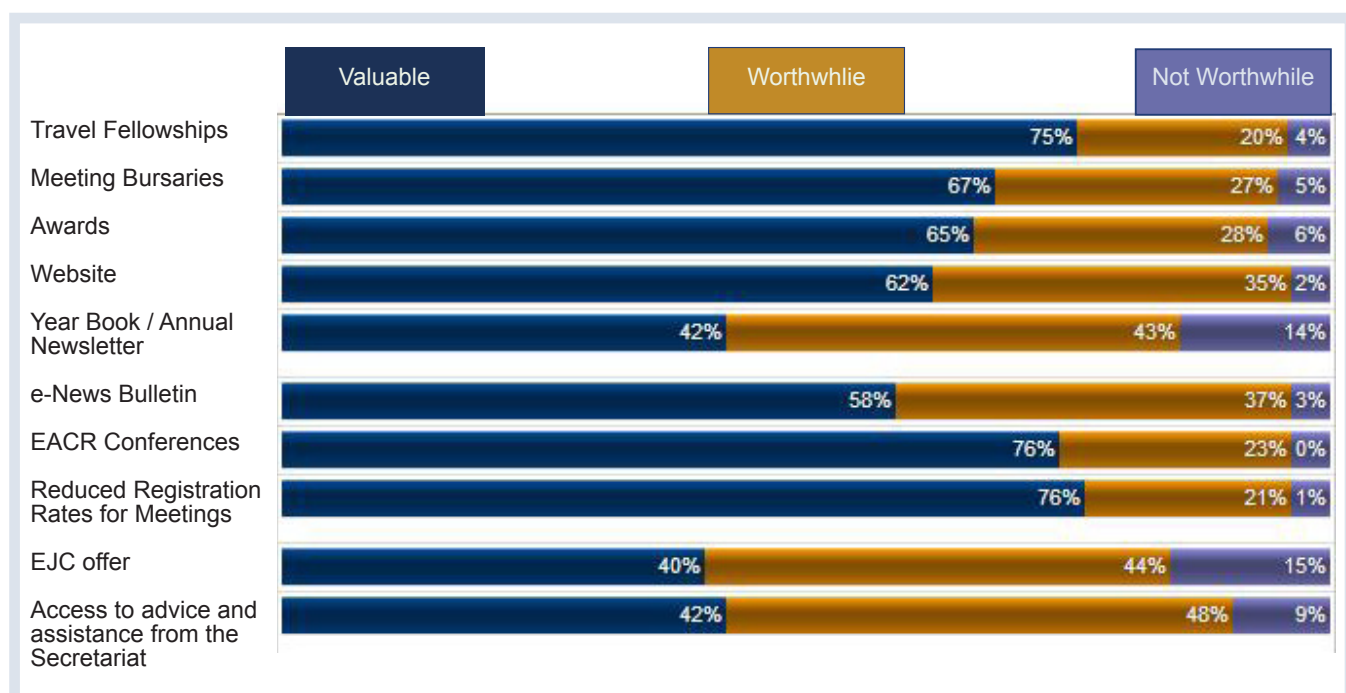
Valued features of membership

Over 90% of respondents view the majority of the present features of membership to be valuable or worthwhile.

EACR conferences and reduced registration rates were the most valued features, and were seen as valuable or worthwhile by 99% and 98% respectively.

It is worth noting that despite the perceived value of reduced registration rates, a significant number of members attending EACR meetings do not claim their member discount when registering.

The EACR website, e-News bulletin, Travel Fellowships and Meeting Bursaries were all seen as valuable or worthwhile by over 95% of respondents. Awards and assistance from the Secretariat were seen as valuable or worthwhile by 94% and



91% respectively.

There were lower scores for the Year Book and the members' EJC subscription offer. But with 86% and 85% respectively seeing them as valuable or worthwhile, these features are clearly valued by the majority of members

Communications

The Website, Year Book and e-News bulletin each received a satisfaction rating of at least 99%, with 'Very Good' or 'Good' ratings of 90%, 87% and 86% respectively. All of these ratings have improved since last year's survey.

There were also many useful comments to help EACR guide changes and developments over time.

Focussed meetings

68% of respondents consider focussed meetings such as the 2009 EACR symposia programme to be a high priority for the Association. Only 3% feel that their needs are already met.

This shows a continued appetite for focussed meetings, previously indicated in the 2008 member survey, and has influenced EACR's policy for the development of the meetings programme.

Secretariat

The service received from the EACR Secretariat was rated as 'friendly, prompt, efficient or helpful' by 98% of members who chose to respond. A number of members commented that they have never needed assistance from the secretariat and would have benefited from a 'No experience of this service' or 'Not applicable' option on the questionnaire.

Membership Satisfaction

Overall, less than 1% of members were dissatisfied with their membership of EACR with 55% indicating the highest rating of 'Very Satisfied' with EACR membership. This is an increase of over 10% since the 2008 membership satisfaction survey. Members also made valuable

suggestions for improving the service EACR offers to its members.

I would like to thank everyone who took part in the 2009 membership survey. The information provided will continue to be discussed and will help to inform future planning.

We continue to maintain low fees for individual membership and society affiliation alongside free student membership. This is so we can remain an inclusive organisation which is equally attractive to senior researchers and those early in their careers, as well as students preparing to work in cancer research. Please

continue to encourage colleagues to join and contribute to the Association. Additional attention to informing students about the benefits of membership has been very successful with a steep rise in applications. Thank you in particular for your continued assistance with this area of recruitment.

I am greatly looking forward to EACR-21. The meeting has attracted great interest from members, reflected in a record number of abstracts being submitted. I hope I can look forward to seeing you in Oslo.



AICR, the Association for International Cancer Research, is working towards saving lives that are being lost to cancer. In future, those lives will be saved by improvements in prevention, diagnosis and treatment, but those advances can only be made tomorrow by investing in research today. That's why AICR funds the very best cancer research proposals we receive, wherever in the world the projects will take place.

Over the last 30 years AICR has invested over £134 million into cancer research; supporting over 1750 projects in 32 different countries. Each year we award approximately £8.5 million to new research projects around the world.

Research Projects

- 2 grant rounds per year – April & October
- Support for a project grant is typically 3 years, but 2 year, and 1 year pilot studies are also considered
- Proposals must be on basic or translational cancer research
- Specific funds available for prostate and bowel cancer projects

Please visit our website for further information
www.aicr.org.uk/research.stm

AICR

**Cancer knows no boundaries.
Fortunately, neither do we.**

Tel: +44 (0)1334 477910 Fax: +44 (0)1334 478667
www.aicr.org.uk

Madras House, St Andrews, Fife KY16 9EH, Scotland
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