Message from the Secretary General

Richard Marais examines the findings from the most recent EACR Member Satisfaction Survey, how far EACR meets members’ expectations and how this affects the work of the Association.

What have we learned from EACR members?

As EACR continues to grow, both in individual members and members from affiliated National Societies, it is important that we regularly ask for members’ feedback.

To this end, we complete biennial Member Satisfaction surveys, asking our members about all aspects of their membership and the work the Association does.

I’d like to thank everyone who took the time to complete the latest survey in December 2011: as a membership association the views of our members are crucial to help determine the future direction we take.

The value of EACR membership

As the number of EACR members increases, it is good to know that our members continue to find their membership valuable. We have also received many helpful and insightful comments and suggestions for how we can improve still further in 2012.

The most popular member benefits offered by EACR reflect members’ main priorities. Almost everyone highlighted EACR’s programme of focussed meetings and courses, reduced registration for EACR and ECCO main congresses, the EACR website and the email news bulletin as valuable or very valuable.

Communication with members

It is gratifying to note that our members found the advice and support from the EACR Secretariat to be friendly and efficient and we are delighted that our new website, launched in April 2011, was welcomed as a worthwhile and significant improvement. The regular email news bulletin continues to be seen as a valuable service.

We note that members find the meeting and conference listing pages, the job/study listing pages, and news items very useful and we are pleased at how well the new EACR RSS feeds have been received. Twitter users can also now follow EACR’s Twitter feed, @EACRnews, for short and timely updates.

EACR provides our members with a voice in Europe through ECCO, the European Cancer Organisation, and European projects such as Eurocancercoms and this activity is seen to be increasingly important.

EACR Educational Programme

I wrote in last year’s Yearbook about the remit of the new EACR Educational and Meetings Committee, and I am pleased to report that EACR’s Educational Programme of focussed meetings and courses got off to an excellent start in 2011 with the 1st EACR-OECI Molecular Pathology Training Course in Amsterdam, March 2011. The 2nd Training Course will go ahead this year on 7th-9th May.

Another success was the EACR Conference on Cell Death in Cancer in January 2012, a well-attended meeting that received very positive feedback from delegates. For more details please see pages 35-36.

Responses to the member survey showed a strong level of support for the Educational Programme, with almost everyone supporting the development of small focussed meetings as a priority. There was particularly strong support for the suggestion of a ‘Young Scientist’ meeting focussing on a more general topic such as tumour biology or cancer cell signalling & therapeutic targets. Such a meeting would support EACR’s rapidly increasing number of postgraduate student members and this suggestion, along with all topic recommendations put forward by members, is being considered by the Educational Committee.

And finally...

I am greatly looking forward to EACR-22 in Barcelona in July this year. With a fantastic programme and a high level of interest from EACR members resulting in a record number of submitted abstracts, the Association’s 22nd biennial congress promises to be the best yet. For a full report of the results from the 2011 Member Survey, log in to the Members Area of the EACR website and click on the link in the left-hand menu: ‘Programme Books, Publications and Surveys.’