As a membership association all of EACR’s activities are geared towards best serving our membership; having a strong base of committed EACR members is the foundation of our success as a society. EACR has long recognised that junior researchers need support and encouragement to maintain professional memberships like EACR, which is why we offer special membership rates to student members. To further support younger members after they complete their PhD, we have introduced a new membership category for ‘Young Investigators’, designed for researchers who finished their PhD less than 4 years ago. A Young Investigator membership lasts for a fixed term of 4 years and costs half the regular 4 year membership fee.

The EACR Ambassador scheme

In January 2013 we launched a new scheme that aims to recognise and thank our members for their loyalty and enthusiasm for the work of the Association. Under the EACR Ambassador scheme, EACR members who have joined for, or maintain, a 4-year term of membership are invited to become EACR Ambassadors. EACR Ambassadors act as advocates for the Association and encourage colleagues to join and contribute to its success. With over 200 members already enrolled as Ambassadors, we hope that the scheme will prove as beneficial to members as it is to the Association. Successful Ambassadors will have the opportunity to take up a free registration at the EACR congress in Munich 2014 or at another EACR meeting of their choice.

Reduced registration fees

In addition to the existing spectrum of membership benefits, we have extended the range of reduced registration rates available for EACR members at our own meetings. As an EACR member you can enjoy significant registration discounts at the main EACR Congress, EACR-23 in Munich in 2014. In addition to this, EACR members will now benefit from similar savings for registration at EACR’s rapidly developing Educational Programme of meetings and courses.

EACR Travel Fellowships

For many years the EACR has granted junior researchers funding to develop their research abroad at a centre of excellence through the Travel Fellowship scheme, co-sponsored by the Association for International Cancer Research. In order to meet the growing needs of our members, the application process has changed: eligible applicants will now be able to apply at any time for a Travel Fellowship, without having to adhere to a series of application deadlines. We encourage younger EACR members to consider applying for a Travel Fellowship: visit pages 22-37 to read the interesting and enthusiastic reports from recent recipients of our awards.

EACR Educational Programme

EACR’s Educational Programme of focussed meetings and courses has been an area of growth for the Association in recent years. Delegates at EACR meetings and courses have written to us to say that these smaller focussed meetings provide an optimum environment for learning, discussion and making valuable contacts in their specific field. We always apply for CME accreditation from ACOE- EACCME (the Accreditation Council of Oncology in Europe and the European Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education) for all of our educational meetings. This is a stringently evaluated international accreditation that recognises a meeting’s high educational quality, lack of bias, and strong emphasis on participants’ learning.

Finally... EACR Conference on Cancer Genomics

I’d like to draw your attention to the next meeting in EACR’s Educational Programme, the EACR Summer Conference on Cancer Genomics at Churchill College, Cambridge, UK, 25-28 June 2013. Chaired by Carlos Caldas, the conference will bring together scientists from different disciplines such as cancer biology, translational research, bioinformatics, and epigenomics, and will cover exciting new developments in Cancer Genomics as well as a general overview of the field. Importantly, it will also provide ample opportunities for early stage researchers to present their work to the international community. Visit www.eacr.org/cancergenomics2013 to register. I hope that we will see many EACR members there.

Message from the Secretary General

Richard Marais talks about how EACR continues to support its membership through reduced registration rates, a new membership category for Young Investigators and the brand new EACR Ambassador Scheme.