EACR President: Moshe Oren

Moshe Oren explains EACR’s role in cancer policy, introduces the 2015 EACR-AACR-SIC Special Conference and invites EACR members to attend EACR-23 in July.

EACR and Cancer Policy
The oncology community brings together many different groups: laboratory researchers, clinicians, surgeons, radiologists, nurses and patients. Collaborative cancer policy is needed to give a voice to each of these groups and to help us work together towards our common goal of improving outcomes for cancer patients.

Last year EACR members Yosef Yarden (Israel) and Carlos Caldas (UK) published a position paper on the behalf of EACR, highlighting the role of basic cancer research in personalised cancer medicine. This is reprinted in full on pp. 20-21.

We know from the 2013 EACR Members’ Survey that our activity in the field of cancer policy is important to you. EACR’s contribution to cancer policy is through the European CanCer Organisation (ECCO), of which EACR is a Founding Member. ECCO’s mission is to act as an impartial, inclusive and collaborative force at the centre of the oncology community, with the end goal of improving the outcome for each patient.

EACR contributes to the scientific programme of the ECCO biennial multidisciplinary cancer congress, and we were pleased to see a marked increase in the number of basic and translational researchers attending the ECCO-17 congress in Amsterdam in 2013. We will strive to increase the visibility and weight of basic and translational research in upcoming congresses, and I am very pleased to be part of the ECCO task force appointed to develop the preliminary programme of ECCO-18.

2015 EACR-AACR-SIC Special Conference
I am very pleased to announce that we are collaborating with the American Association for Cancer Research (AACR) and Società Italiana di Cancerologia (SIC) to organise a special conference on Anti-cancer Drug Action and Drug Resistance in Florence, Italy, 20-23 June 2015 (see p. 12 for a ‘Save the Date’ announcement). We aim for the conference to attract a global audience encompassing cancer researchers from basic and translational through to clinical research. This conference will be the first such collaboration between our societies and I hope that, with your help and active participation, we will see many more in the future.

EACR-23
As Congress and Scientific Chair for EACR-23 in Munich, 5-8 July 2014, I am delighted to share with you the news that we have received a record number of abstracts for the Congress. We have also received the highest ever number of applications for Meeting Bursaries, and thanks to the Meeting Bursaries scheme we will be able to support full attendance for at least 40 younger researchers who would not otherwise be able to attend. We hope that the increased visibility and excellent programme for Munich will result in the biggest attendance received at an EACR Congress to date.

The EACR Congress aims to meet the needs of researchers at all levels with a rich and varied scientific programme (see pp. 14-17). New to the 2014 Congress are three Plenary Symposia on Epigenetics, Cancer Genomics and Stem Cells, where two world-renowned experts will speak on complementary topics, followed by an in-depth discussion between the speakers and participants.

Several award lectures will be presented at the Congress. I would especially like to draw your attention to the prestigious Mike Price Gold Medal Award Lecture, which will be presented by Harald zur Hausen in the closing session. For further details about all of the award lectures at EACR-23, see pp. 10-11.

At the time when you will be reading this, registrations for EACR-23 will still be open. I sincerely hope to see you at the Congress. Whether or not you are able to attend personally, I invite you to share the details of this important congress with colleagues and encourage them to attend.

I wish you every success in 2014 and I hope to see you in Munich in July.