EACR President: Richard Marais

Richard Marais invites EACR members to attend EACR-24 in his home town of Manchester in 2016 and the European Cancer Congress in Vienna in 2015, and discusses some of EACR’s most important partnerships.

After many years as Secretary General of the EACR, I was honoured to be elected as President of the Association last summer. I would like to thank my predecessor Moshe Oren for his leadership of the Association for the last two years, not least for his role as Scientific Chair of the EACR-23 Congress. The Congress was a great success scientifically and highly praised by participants. You can read more about the Congress on pp. 14-21.

EACR-24, Manchester, 9-12 July 2016

I strongly encourage you to save the date for the EACR-24 Congress which will be held in my home city of Manchester in 2016. At the time of writing, plans for the Congress are already well under way: we have identified the scientific topics and themes for plenary lectures and symposia and by the time you are reading this we will already have invited many of the world-class speakers who will ensure the congress meets everyone’s high expectations.

Manchester – European City of Science 2016 – offers many benefits for the EACR-23 Congress: it is a modern, vibrant city with a strong history of science and innovation, and a wide variety of attractions to enjoy if you decide to extend your stay beyond the Congress. On a purely practical note, the Convention Centre is located in the city centre; it is easy to reach with an international airport close to the city; and it offers cheap or free public transport alongside accommodation options to suit all budgets. EACR members will receive an early notification as soon as we launch the ‘Advance Programme and Call for Abstracts’ later this year.

European Cancer Congress 2015, Vienna, 25-29 September 2015

More immediately, I hope you are planning to attend the 2015 European Cancer Congress (ECC) in Vienna. This multidisciplinary congress will cover every aspect of cancer from research to treatment and care. 25 Fellowship Grants will be made available to assist participants to attend, and EACR is very pleased to provide an additional 5 grants to specifically support eligible EACR members.

Our partnerships

Working collaboratively is a key part of any ambitious endeavour, such as achieving EACR’s guiding aim of furthering ‘the advancement of cancer research’. EACR highly values its partnerships with other organisations engaged in the fight against cancer: we recognise that we can be stronger and more effective if we work together. To this end, we have just formed an External Partnerships Committee to ensure that we have the momentum and resources to continue to form valuable relationships and meet increasingly challenging objectives in the future.

Joint conferences provide an excellent way to pool knowledge and networks and bring scientists together to advance their research. I am one of the Scientific Chairs of the upcoming ‘EACR-AACR-SIC Special Conference: Anticancer Drug Action and Drug Resistance’ in Florence in June. With over 650 abstracts received, this promises to be one of the best attended of our focussed conferences to date. We are also working with the Organisation of European Cancer Institutes (OECI) on joint meetings in 2015: ‘Precision Medicine for Cancer’ in Luxembourg in March and the 5th training course ‘Molecular Pathology Approach to Cancer’ in Amsterdam in May.

EACR has an important and long-standing relationship with Worldwide Cancer Research, which co-funds the EACR Travel Fellowships programme. This important provision enables students and young investigators to take part in technical exchange and collaborative visits to other labs and is a special way we help more junior researchers to progress scientifically. See pp 28-35 for some exciting reports from recent winners.

We often see partnerships bearing fruit at the biennial EACR Congress, and I hope we will attract even more collaborative endeavour at the Manchester congress. At EACR-23 we were pleased to host the Pezcoller Foundation-EACR Cancer Researcher Award Lecture (see p.10) and two Carcinogenesis Award Lectures. Susan G. Komen also generously funded 7 Scholarships to assist breast cancer researchers to attend (see p.21).

Another key partnership EACR highly values is Sustaining Membership. Our Sustaining Members Affymetrix, BD, Bio-Techne, Life Technologies and QIAGEN support our vital work and provide additional means for the Association to develop. We enjoy our interaction with them and hope that Sustaining Membership will be of interest to our supporters in industry for many years to come.

I am looking forward to a challenging two years as President and the continued growth and influence of EACR.
24th Biennial Congress of the European Association for Cancer Research

From Basic Research to Precision Medicine

9 – 12 July 2016 | Manchester, UK

SAVE THE DATE

www.ecco-org.eu/EACR
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