Reflections on the EANM Marathon Weekend

Last March, we hosted our so-called ‘EANM Marathon Weekend’ in Vienna. As usual, it took place over three days, with a Board Meeting on Friday, the Advisory Council Meeting on Saturday, and the Delegates’ Assembly on Sunday. In the Advisory Council Meeting, it was nice seeing many fruitful exchanges, especially based on the input shared by the Committee and Council Chairs. It was also very encouraging to see the positive results of the new EANM internal structure and its acceptance by all our EANM Committees and Councils.

Moreover, I truly enjoyed the interactions with and among the National Delegates at the Delegates’ Assembly. It was insightful to hear from them about the best practices in their respective country. Thank you all for coming and for sharing your input, which is crucial to bring the EANM forward!

New Initiatives for Young Professionals and the Nuclear Medicine Workforce

Dear EANM community,
Dear colleagues and friends,
Following the launch of the Young Professionals Council (YPC), led by Tim van den Wyngaert, we are happy to launch several new initiatives dedicated to the empowerment of young nuclear medicine professionals and the development of the future workforce, such as:

- **The EANM’24 Next-Gen Programme**: A brand-new programme which offers 100 young nuclear medicine professionals under the age of 38 a golden opportunity to attend and explore the EANM’24 Congress – with free registration and accommodation for 3 nights offered by the EANM. Launched for the first time this year, the initiative was met with outstanding interest, with 576 applicants from 95 countries.

- **Theatre Play on Radioactivity**: Back in May, Tim van den Wyngaert (Chair of the EANM Young Professionals Council) and myself had the pleasure to represent the EANM at a theatre play in Lier, Belgium, which aimed at teaching radioactivity and its uses to the general public and especially to schools. For those with more questions, there was an interactive exhibition. Seeing the students’ rising interest in learning more about radioactivity and its peaceful uses was a fun and rewarding experience. This event also provided us with input for further initiatives.

**Updates on our Policy Activities**

The Policy and Regulatory Affairs Council (PRAC), led by Wim Oyen, is running at full speed to continue raising awareness about the added value of Nuclear Medicine among all stakeholders, especially EU institutions and policy-makers.

Some of our major achievements so far include the EANM’s involvement in the European Radioisotopes Valley Initiative (ERVI), and the EANM’s membership in the Critical Medicines Alliance. This enables us to participate in high-level discussions on the security of the supply of medical radioisotopes. PRAC is also facilitating the EANM’s participation and representation in several EU tenders and EU projects representing the Nuclear Medicine community’s perspective at the benefit of the patients.

Although PRAC has achieved great milestones, there was a recent setback on the revision of the EU Pharmaceutical Legislation. Despite the dedicated efforts made by the EANM and its partners, especially Nuclear Medicine Europe, to advocate for the inclusion of radiopharmaceuticals and their specificities in the legislation, the European Parliament has recently rejected the proposed amendments. Now that the focus has shifted to the Council of the EU, PRAC will intensify its outreaching efforts at the national level, to urge policymakers to reconsider this negative decision.

For further updates on the EANM’s policy activities, please subscribe to the EANM Policy Bulletin here!

**Upcoming Board Elections**

Valentina Garibotto (EANM Congress Chair 2023-2025), together with the EANM volunteers and the Executive Office, are working hard to prepare everything ahead of this year’s Annual Congress in Hamburg.

With that in mind, I would like to remind you of the Board positions that are open for election this year:

- President Elect (2025-2026)
Internal Groups Officer (2025-2026)
Scientific Liaison Officer (2025-2026)

The results will be announced at the EANM’24 Congress. I would like to encourage everyone who fulfills the requirements set by § 6.5 of the EANM Statutes to apply for the open Board positions. Your vote also matters. To vote, please follow the steps outlined here.

If you have any questions related to the tasks, scope of work, or time commitment required for each position, please do not hesitate to reach out to the Executive Office or the current Board member.

Wishing each of you already a wonderful upcoming summer and time for relaxation!

Sincerely,
Rudi Dierckx,