



Meet Prof. Val Lewington: Candidate for re-election as EANM Internal Groups Officer

This year, Val Lewington, the current **EANM Internal Groups Officer**, is running for a second term. She is the only candidate for this position, which is elected by the EANM Delegates' Assembly. Before casting your vote, read the interview below to learn more about her background and her involvement with EANM.

1. Could you quickly walk us through your journey into the nuclear medicine field?

I discovered nuclear medicine as a resident in internal medicine. One of my placements was in the regional nuclear medicine department where my mentor had established an innovative centre focused on molecular radiotherapy. Having qualified in general medicine, I returned to the same unit to train in nuclear medicine. I was given the freedom to develop a special interest in oncology and targeted therapy which, in turn, shaped my clinical and academic career in different centres over the next 30 years.

2. As an EANM volunteer, you have contributed to the association in different roles, including your current position on the Board. Looking back, how did it all begin, and what have been the highlights of your contribution to the EANM community so far?

I have been incredibly lucky to have been able to work with the EANM throughout my career beginning in the early 2000s as a member, secretary and eventual chair of the EANM Therapy Committee.

I was elected EANM Education Chair from 2014–2016, a time of huge change within EANM. In addition to gaining Board level experience, I worked with Committee chairs to transform the former European School of Nuclear Medicine into ESMIT. I remain proud of my contribution to such a successful, collective effort which continues to evolve as an international beacon of high quality, accessible, multimodality education in nuclear medicine.

I was a member of the EANM Ethics Council from 2017–2024, contributing to safeguarding the association's reputation for transparency and professional integrity.

In 2024, I was privileged to succeed Felix Mottaghy as EANM Internal Groups Officer. My priorities have been to communicate the Board's strategy clearly to Council and Committee chairs and to advocate strongly for open consultation and cross specialty collaboration. The association asks a lot of its volunteers who deserve recognition for their efforts on behalf of the nuclear medicine community. I have worked hard to ensure that they feel well supported, that they are heard, and that their contributions are valued. My experience in building ties with Board, Council and Committee members has been hugely rewarding both professionally and personally. If re-elected, I would do everything I could to encourage young professionals from all disciplines to engage as volunteers with EANM.

3. The EANM community is diverse, with members from different disciplines, countries, and career stages. What do you think is the most important quality of a Board member when representing such a diverse community?

Board members need to have many attributes including being adaptable, articulate, collaborative, decisive, empathetic, enthusiastic, fair, knowledgeable, open minded, patient and, where necessary, thick skinned. But if I had to choose *the* most important quality, Board members need to be effective communicators.