



Meet Prof. Dr. Bernhard Sattler: Candidate for EANM Scientific Liaison Officer

This year, EANM is electing the **EANM Scientific Liaison Officer 2027–2028**. Two highly qualified candidates are standing for this important position. Only one of them will be elected by the EANM Members' Assembly. Read their interviews below to get to know their motivations and perspectives before casting your vote.

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

I am from Leipzig, a city in the middle of Germany with a long lasting scientific and musical history. Here is where I work and where, despite a number of very attractive offers both from industry and academia and apart from short leaves, I never really left for long. Here, I found and find everything I need, both professionally and privately.

I studied electrical and biomedical engineering at the renowned Technical University of Ilmenau and graduated to become a biomedical engineer 32 years ago. Right thereafter, at the former Department of Medical Physics of the University of Leipzig Medical Center (ULMC), I started my postgraduate training to become a medical physicist, and finished this as a board-certified Medical Physicist in Nuclear Medicine, Radiology and Radiation Protection including cyclotron operation. So my first contact with Nuclear Medicine dates back to about 30 years and ever since, I haven't been able to let go of the field, captivated by its multidisciplinary nature.

Consequently I pursued my PhD in biomedical engineering that got me involved with quantitative imaging for radionuclide therapy dosimetry. In the Department of Nuclear Medicine and at the ULMC under the Director and Chairmanship of Prof. Osama Sabri, I found what interested and excited me most: technical and natural sciences inextricably linked to medical science in maximum patient care, as well as renowned research opportunities at a national and international level. As a son of a surgeon mother and a biologist, I always wanted to work in healthcare and had to combine this with my primary interest in engineering, technology and physics. In nuclear medicine, I found exactly what I was searching for: being able to see patients and making a difference for individuals using cutting edge physics and engineering methodology.

My particular scientific interests are in internal dosimetry, radiation protection as well as in hybrid quantitative imaging in nuclear medicine, particularly but not limited to the quantitative analysis and optimisation of PET/CT, PET/MRI and SPECT/CT, and I was and am instrumental for the implementation and further development of the respective programmes at ULMC where we belong to the early adopters of all these imaging modalities including long axial field of view PET/CT recently.

We here in Leipzig continuously contribute to the identification of key applications of molecular imaging techniques and resolving of remaining technical issues, as well as to the preparation of respective procedural and clinical guidelines. Until I became head of the medical physics section in 2010, I worked as a post doc. In 2010, I got appointed as an associate professor of medical engineering and physics fulfilling teaching obligations in medicine, medical engineering and physics at ULMC, and collaborating with national and international universities. Since 2023, I have been vice department chair for natural and technical sciences and radiation protection. Moreover, since 1997, I have coordinated and run radiation protection courses for healthcare professionals as a member of the board of a non-profit organisation.

2. Before running for a Board position, you have been involved with EANM.

Could you share how you first became aware of EANM and the ways you have contributed to our community so far?

Very early on I got interested in topics related to professional policy, and I joined the national and international professional organisations in medical physics and nuclear medicine. I joined EANM in 2008, became a member of the EANM Physics Committee, chaired this committee from 2014 until 2016 and served another two years as senior advisor. Alongside my continued EANM involvement, I engaged at the national level co-organising several nuclear medicine and medical physics conferences, including chairing the first online annual meeting of the German Society of Medical Physics in 2020.

I am a member of the Medical Physics and Dosimetry Committees of the German Society of Nuclear Medicine, and I have been chairing the latter committee since 2020. Moreover, and triggered by my EANM medical physics involvement and my teaching experience, I got involved in the writing of early and recent versions of the core curricula of medical physics in nuclear medicine and the European Nuclear Medicine Guide as well as in the European Examination Board (EEB) of the European Federation of Organizations of Physics in Medicine (EFOMP).

From 2010 to 2014, I was involved in several IAEA-missions representing EANM, designing and conducting the medical physics and radiation protection parts in educational courses, mainly in South Africa but also in the Middle East. Since 2022, I have been a full member of the EANM Policy and Regulatory Affairs Council (PRAC), which gives me great and ever-growing insights into European policy making and stakeholder involvement and engagement. Filling that role on behalf of EANM, I serve in several expert panels that advise international research and consulting organisations advising the public sector and the European Commission on science, technology, innovation, and public policy. Current examples are the further shaping of the European medical device regulation and its compliance with the European BSSD as well as defining key performance indicators for quality and safety in radiation medicine.

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?

A Board member of EANM should have a lot of insights into the structure and function of EANM as well as the different and varying interests of the membership of the association, and should show compassion, understanding and dignity for all the different interests of this community and represent its diversity for the sake of combining and integrating all the various areas of expertise in medical, technical and natural science topics in the interest of the best possible patient care using safe and efficient as well as individually tailored cutting edge methodology and technology.

Knowing them well and having worked with both predecessors in the role of the EANM Scientific Liaison Officer for a long time and based on my expertise, communicational competence on an international level, and structural and contextual knowledge of EANM, I feel ready to take on the challenge to fill the SLO position on the EANM Board.