



Meet Prof. Dr. Tim Van den Wyngaert: Candidate for EANM President Elect

This year, EANM is electing the **EANM President Elect 2027–2028**. Two highly qualified candidates are standing for this important position. Only one of them will be elected by the EANM Delegates' 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?

If I'm honest, I never planned to end up here. I went to medical school in Antwerp (Belgium) aspiring to become a surgeon, and serendipity decided otherwise! Early in my studies, a thesis assignment brought me into contact with nuclear medicine, just as hybrid imaging was arriving. The technology, and everything it suddenly made possible, amazed me, and that curiosity remained.

With hindsight, it was the crossroads of medicine and technology that drew me in: caring equally about the patient and the system behind the image. But the most important thing those early years gave me had little to do with technology. I met the right mentor at the right moment, and I embraced the opportunities that pushed me well past my own boundaries, combining my clinical training with a PhD in oncology. It was very hard work: there is no easy road to the stars. Yet it is how I learned the importance of people, of mentoring, and of what it means to believe in someone.

Today, I am a nuclear medicine physician and professor at the University of Antwerp, Deputy Head of the department of nuclear medicine at the Antwerp University Hospital, and principal investigator at CREANT, our radiopharmaceutical research centre. My work centres on molecular imaging and radiopharmaceutical development, and increasingly on the move from diagnosis to therapy and personalised medicine that will define our field's next decade.

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?

My first experience with EANM was through the European School of Nuclear Medicine PET/CT oncology course as a resident in 2009; my first congress was Birmingham in 2011. I remember it the way many young colleagues will recognise: slightly lost, a little in awe, and wondering how I might become part of it. A year later, just after finishing my training and PhD, I joined EANM through the young committee member programme, looking for mentorship and a place to contribute, meeting some remarkably talented and driven people.

Almost everything I have done at EANM since then has been about completing that circle: turning the welcome I was given into structures that offer it to others. That runs from the EANM Bone & Joint Committee, through relaunching the EANM Young Investigators Meeting (YIM), to founding the EANM Young Professionals Council (YPC) and designing INSPIRE by EANM, EANM's workforce programme. To me, these are the same idea repeated: build the room you once hoped to be invited into.

Those years also taught me that leadership sometimes requires difficult decisions. In those moments I worked for what I believed served the whole of our community rather than any narrower interest. That belief has never left me.

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?

If I have to name one quality, it is the understanding that this office is bigger than any of us who hold it. EANM Board members and the EANM President serve the community, not the reverse, which means recognising that you are rarely the person who best understands someone else's context.

My roles at EANM and as President of the Belgian Association of Nuclear Medicine (BELNUC) have taught me that lesson clearly. A shared European vision only becomes meaningful when local communities and individual journeys make it their own. I saw this at the pilot EANM Nexus student event, organised by BELNUC in Durbuy last year, where students from different disciplines moved past their backgrounds and began proposing ways to make nuclear medicine more visible in Belgium. The framework came from EANM, but the ideas and impact were entirely local. Since then, national societies have adapted Nexus to their own priorities. At the same time, the EANM Mentorship Programme continues to connect colleagues across disciplines and career stages. Together, those experiences have only strengthened that conviction. That is the approach I would bring to the Board: European in ambition, local in implementation.

Ultimately, the strength of EANM has always been its ability to bring together different disciplines, countries, and generations, each contributing perspectives the others lack. Of all those connections, the one across generations matters most to me. The extraordinary progress we are making in theranostics will only fulfil its promise if we inspire and prepare the people who will carry it forward. Building bridges between those who have shaped nuclear medicine and those who will shape it next is, to my mind, the most important work a Board member can do.