



Meet Prof. Dr. Wim Oyen: 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?

My name is Wim Oyen, and I am a nuclear medicine physician from The Netherlands. Right after medical school, I started my career in nuclear medicine at the Department of Nuclear Medicine of the Radboud University Medical Center in Nijmegen. After finishing my residency and PhD, I stayed at Radboud UMC as member of the medical staff, was appointed Professor of Nuclear Medicine in 2000 and then Head of Department in 2008. My clinical and research interests are quite broad, with an emphasis on theranostics and imaging infection and inflammation. In 2015, it was time for a change, and I was appointed Professor of Nuclear Medicine at The Institute of Cancer Research and Head of the Department of Nuclear Medicine at The Royal Marsden Hospital. In 2018, we moved back to The Netherlands. Now I am working as a nuclear medicine physician in a great team at Rijnstate Hospital, a large training hospital in Arnhem. I am combining my clinical work with academic appointments at Humanitas University in Milan, Italy and at Radboud University Medical Center.

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?

Throughout the years, I have been quite heavily involved with EANM. My first congresses back in the 1990s were quite an experience for a young resident and PhD student. The congress was still quite small and compact, compared to the current EANM Annual Congress. What struck me was the pleasant atmosphere. For a junior doctor, it was quite easy to approach people, even very senior ones, and discuss research with them. Over the years, I became involved in the EANM Therapy Committee and later the EANM Oncology Committee, which I chaired until I was elected to the EANM Board in 2014. It was a great pleasure to act as EANM Congress Chair for the congresses in Gothenburg 2014, Hamburg 2015 and Barcelona 2016. With the help of many, many people in the European nuclear medicine community, we started reshaping the EANM congress to allow it to grow to where we are today. My EANM presidency in 2019/2020 started with a highly ambitious Board agenda, which was largely overshadowed in 2020 by the Covid-19 pandemic, which had such a big impact on people as well as organisations. So many of the plans came to an abrupt and complete standstill, while in a great team effort we were making the best of it to keep the EANM ship afloat. Fortunately, that worked out pretty well. After finishing my term of office in the EANM Board, I remained active for EANM to build on the many contacts in and around the nuclear medicine community by working on the policy agenda, aiming at promoting and bringing more recognition to nuclear medicine and EANM at the EU level. In 2021, this resulted in the formation of the EANM Policy and Regulatory Affairs Council (PRAC), which is very active and effective in Brussels. I feel very fortunate to chair a Council of outstanding experts, supported by an amazing EANM Office staff. I would be very grateful to be allowed a second term in the EANM Board to actually work on a wide portfolio of topics to further advance nuclear medicine. I sincerely hope that this time we do this without interruptions by disasters like the Covid-19 pandemic 7 years ago.

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?

This is actually the easiest question of all: the diversity in training, background, geography and career stage is one of the biggest assets we have at EANM. We are in this together, the things that really matter cannot be achieved alone. If you consider the Board as the conductor of a symphony orchestra, you need every single professional musician on all the different instruments to work together to produce that extraordinary music that we can deliver to medical community at large for the benefit of our patients. We are so fortunate at EANM that we have so many engaged volunteers with us, a whole spectrum from established experts to young people who have just entered the field of nuclear medicine.