



NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Colleagues,

First of all, let me express my deepest gratitude to all of you who gave me the opportunity to become the president of EAA during our last meeting in Barcelona. I am honoured and flattered to serve our community in this important position and I am confident that with your help and that of the excellent Executive Council composed by **Dimitrios Goulis** (secretary), **Hermann Behre** (treasurer), **Jorma Toppari** (Past President), **Ewa Rajpert de Meyts** (Editor-in-chief of Andrology), **Gert Dohle**, **Andrea Isidori**, **Oswaldo Rajmil** and **Wolfgang Weidner**, our discipline can reach important achievements.

Before starting this very first newsletter of mine I would like to thank our Past-President, Jorma Toppari, and the EC members who left their appointment (Mario Maggi, Emmanuele Jannini and Fred Wu) for their work during the last 4 years.

Our congress in Barcelona (15th -17th October, 2014) had a remarkable success with over 400 participants from over 40 different countries worldwide. This noteworthy outcome is utterly in line with one of the EAA main goals as detailed in our Statute: “2.6 To encourage a dialogue between scientists and clinicians active in the field of andrology and to organize scientific meetings in Europe”. The relevant presence of non-European delegates provided a significant and pronounced international flavour, opening new panoramas for future collaborations and interaction for EAA. A sincere gratitude is due to the chairman of the LOC, **Oswaldo Rajmil**, to the LOC members (**Eduard Ruiz-Castané**, **Lluís Bassas**, **Pedro Gutiérrez**) together with those of the POC (**Stevan Arver**, **Jacques Auger**, **Andrea Isidori**, **Niels Joergensen**, **Rafael Oliva**, **Wolfgang Weidner**). In occasion of ECA 2014 we have further strengthened our collaboration with the ESAU and ESU by organizing 3 joint EAA/ESAU/ESU courses. In this regard, I would like to thank the chairman of ESU, **Joan Palou** and the chairman of ESAU, **Wolfgang Weidner** for their support. In association with ECA 2014, the “EAA Clinical Andrologist” exam has been attended by 11 candidates (for further details see the “Examination” page). A summarized activity of the congress with the photos we took during the congress will shortly be available on our website in order to inform also those who were not able to attend this outstanding scientific event. The ECA in 2016 will be held in Rotterdam and the chairman of the LOC is **Gert Dohle**.

This newsletter is also aimed to share with you some of my thoughts about future EAA activities and priorities, giving special focus on those issues that were already discussed with the EC members during the first EC skype meeting we had last November:

- 1) EAA has to maintain its leading academic role in the field of Andrology - thus “Academicians” should strictly be selected through the currently adopted selection criteria -, nevertheless EAA should also be accessible to all scientists and clinicians who have a clear interest in Andrology. There is an urgent need for a significant increase of the number of Affiliated Members. This task can be achieved by offering more benefits to the Affiliated Andrologists (for example, providing

research fellow grants, a higher number of travel grants for specific congresses, the possibility to participate to multicentre trials and EAA financed projects, and so forth). Consequently, EAA should promote an intense “campaign” for the recruitment of new Affiliated Members by interacting with national societies and organizing joint courses with ESU/ESAU and ESHRE. For this purpose, last November a novel Committee named “International Liaison and Publicity” was established and it is co-chaired by **Frank Tuettelmann** (Germany) and **Zsolt Kopa** (Hungary). Planning of common activities with ESHRE, EAU/ESAU and national societies are ongoing and more information will be provided about this issue in the next few months.

2) One of the aims stated in our Statute is *“To take all measures required to raise the scientific standards of andrology in Europe by encouraging basic research in all fields of andrology and focusing this work on areas of clinical importance and need, including male contraception”*. In this respect, I asked the EC to authorize me to establish sponsorships with Pharmaceutical companies/Foundations for joint “Young researcher” grants to EAA Affiliated members or Young Academicians upon application and after a peer-review selection process managed by both an *ad hoc* commission and the Executive Council. The topics are expected to change every year, alternating basic and clinical projects. In parallel, I am also exploring the possibility to offer “Travel grants” and I can already anticipate that IBSA Foundation, Besins Healthcare, Bayer, Menarini are interested in this joint venture. Hopefully, by the end of January a comprehensive list of “travel grants” is going to be published on our website and the selection process will start afterwards.

Multicentre studies, based on EAA training Centres, should also be encouraged on a number of emerging and debated topics (as it is for an ongoing study on *“Standardization of the male genital tract colour-Doppler ultrasound parameters in healthy, fertile men”*, headed by **Francesco Lotti** from Florence). EAA multicentre studies could partially be supported by the EAA or entirely financed if other parties would be involved. The details of this specific objective will be defined during the next EC meeting in January 2015.

A potential financial source for travel grants/ESR and multicentre studies are the EU projects in the framework of Horizon 2020 (including Marie Curie Network in Andrology with the involvement of EAA Centres). In December we established a specific **“EU project task force”** guided by **Rafael Oliva** (Spain) with the contribution of **Niels Erik Skakkebaek** (Denmark), **Andrea Isidori** (Italy) and **myself**.

- 3) In order to accomplish one of our major *objectives, that is “To frame guidelines for national and European commissions”* we have appointed a novel Guidelines Committee, co-chaired by **Ewa Rajpert-de Meyts** (Denmark) and **Giovanni Corona** (Italy). There is already a good number of interesting proposals for 2015-2016 and I am sure that many Academicians will be asked for contribution.
- 4) Since all “EAA training centres” (alone or jointly) should organize one EAA accredited post-graduate course or workshop every 5 years, it is important to prepare the list of courses for the next five years (2015-2020). I strongly recommend the **EAA Centre’s directors to provide** the Educational Committee with a **yearly calendar**, which could be uploaded on the EAA website at the beginning of every year so that any interested fellow can make their choice in advance.

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- 5) Although we have already 22 Training Centres in Europe, we should further promote the establishment of novel centres, for instance in the Eastern countries (e.g. Croatia, Czech Republic, Latvia, Russia) and France. I am glad to communicate that a few days ago (December 11 and 12) **Dimitrios Goulis** and **myself** had the first site visit at the Cairo centre (directed by **Kamal Zaki Mahmoud Shaeer** and **Osama Shaeer**). Egypt has a long-lasting tradition of excellent education in Andrology and the Cairo centre will be our second extra-European EAA accredited Training Centre.

Finally, I would like to inform you about our “renovated” efforts in establishing the European “Subspecialisation” in Andrology. As you all know, the EAA/ESAU joint Curriculum has been redacted and accepted by the EC of the EAA and the ESAU in 2008. An official “**task force**”, constituted by the **President** of the EAA, **Emmanuele Jannini** (chairman of the Educational Committee), **Manuela Simoni** (ESE executive council member) and **Wolfgang Weidner** (ESAU representative) will deal with this issue. In this respect, I have recently sent an official letter to the ESE President (Philippe Bouchard), asking for the official recognition of the joint curriculum by the ESE. Further strategies will be defined during our forthcoming EC meeting and I truly hope that this important issue will positively be finalized in 2015.

It is my intention to keep you updated every 2-3 months on our ongoing activities and on other future plans. In the meantime, please do not hesitate to contact me or other EC members with your ideas and proposals. You are **all welcome** to give your precious inputs.

I do take this opportunity to wish to **all of you a Merry Christmas and a Successful, Peaceful and Happy New Year.**



Csilla Krausz