



EACS Newsletter - January 2021

Happy New Year !



Dear EACS members, dear friends,

2020 was an 'annus horribilis' for all of us; many have lost family members and dear friends to the COVID-19 pandemic; our working lives and personal lives have changed immeasurably.

But 2021 is the dawn of new era. The Sars-Cov2 vaccines are on the horizon; there is hope that this year we can return to 'normality' whatever that will mean for a world that has changed so much.

At EACS, we give a warm welcome to the new Governing Board and a huge thanks to the outgoing team. Firstly, a huge thanks to Professor Jürgen Rockstroh for steering us through troubled times and ensuring that we continued to deliver the best Education Programme, a new vision in Standards of Care, annually updated EACS Guidelines, and together with Professor Manuel Battegay, an amazing 17th European AIDS Conference (EACS 2019) in Basel.

Our thanks and much gratitude also go to our outgoing Governing Board members and Regional Representatives Professors Andrea Antinori, Manuel Battegay, Georg Behrens, Antonella d'Aminio Monforte, Stéphane De Wit, Hansjakob Furrer, M. John Gill, Andrzej Horban, Christine Katlama, Mariana Mardarescu, Fiona Mulcahy, Anton Pozniak, Peter Reiss, Sharon Walmsley, and Dr Annemarie Wensing. You have each contributed immensely to get us to where we are, and I know that many of you will be continuing in other roles to support the vision of EACS.

My thanks also to the small, but perfectly formed team at the EACS Office, under the leadership of Joëlle Verluyten in Brussels. They have made all of this possible despite many hardships of 'lockdown'.

We extend a warm welcome to the returning Governing Board members and a number of new, dare I say 'young', members of the Board team. We hope that together we will be able to continue to deliver the mission of EACS over the next couple of years and set a stage for the future.

We have many new and exciting plans for 2021 and beyond. As promised, we will hold the 18th European AIDS Conference in London from 27-30 October 2021. Whilst because of the uncertainty of the travel situation, this is currently planned as a 'hybrid' meeting; if all goes to plan, this may well be the first face-to-face meeting for over a year. Watch out for further details in due course. Our new 'online platform' will enable us to continue to deliver exciting and an innovative online Education Programme, and we hope to re-institute the annual Summer School as soon as feasible. The Medical Exchange Programme which offers both a Short Clinical Exchange and a Career Development Fellowship programme will also continue. We hope to have some new and exciting innovations from YING and the Education Committee. Watch out for these! Together with our partners at ECDC and WHO European Regional office, we will deliver the Standard of Care for HIV and Co-infections in Europe. The EACS Guidelines for the management of people living with HIV (PLWH) will continue to

evolve and be updated. We will continue to forge partnerships with Governments, NGOs, Community organisations, national and international associations across Europe and globally to ensure that care for PLWH remains at the forefront.

We hope that each and everyone of you will play an active role in delivering our mission, and ensuring better lives for PLWH.

Here's wishing you all a very happy and healthy 2021. Stay safe.

Sanjay Bhagani
President

EACS Secretariat

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