

EANM during my presidency

2019 and 2020, the 2 years of my EANM Presidency could not have been more different.

2019 can be characterized as a year of sparkling activity where EANM was active on many fronts, strengthening its position as the world-leading nuclear medicine society. Many projects on science, education, multidisciplinary guideline development and policies were started and extended. Existing relations were strengthened, and new ones were forged. Supported by a magnificent EANM Executive Office, EANM Board and Committee members voiced the importance of nuclear medicine in European organizations and deepened the collaborations with sister clinical and academic societies. Although EANM Focus is still a very young initiative, together we drove the Focus meetings from an attractive concept to foster intensive collaboration with our referring clinical colleagues into a sustainable tradition that promotes nuclear medicine and its unique contribution to medicine for the benefit of our patients. In 2019, the EANM family worked towards the EANM Annual Meeting in Barcelona, the greatest nuclear meeting ever, at least when face-to-face meetings were still the norm.

Early 2020 looked as business as usual, but how different things would evolve. Who could have imagined in early February that the tremendously successful EANM Focus 3 meeting in Athens on neuroendocrine tumors would be the last live EANM event for 2020 and thereafter? Covid-19 raged around the globe affecting the lives of everybody. The European nuclear medicine family was not spared. Many of us got sick, fortunately most recovered, but we also lost colleagues and friends. Traveling around Europe and the world to meet, discuss, promote and enjoy all that nuclear medicine has to offer shifted to the new normal of numerous on-line meetings. Nevertheless, EANM remained very much alive. We were able to continue many of our planned activities, although in an adapted format. Like all scientific meetings, we had to convert our Annual Meeting in Vienna in October into a virtual event. I am very grateful to all who turned that meeting into a resonating success, showing that having a surrogate on-line meeting is not only delivering on high scientific and educational standards, but can be actually great fun to participate in. EANM again has set some standards what can be achieved when so many join forces to promote a common cause.

EANM now and in the future.

EANM is in good shape and ready to meet new challenges ahead. It is well-positioned within the nuclear medicine community and within the broader context of medicine and other stakeholders. The fruit of continuous high-level scientific developments, originating mainly from Europe, will further grow and translate from research into clinical reality, helping our patients with better diagnostic tools and improved therapeutic options. EANM has a tradition to keep those who contributed to the success of nuclear medicine in high regard and to welcome young professionals from all disciplines to join and collaborate. I am confident that nuclear medicine will continue to thrive when we keep up the standards of our profession as a strong and independent asset for clinical and scientific development.

What is EANM for me.

For me, EANM is the example of what open-minded friends and colleagues can achieve when pursuing common goals. In the end, the sometimes vigorous discussions and heated temperaments resulted in the contributions of so many coming together to what is so much more than the sum of the parts. Over the decades, thanks to the efforts of many EANM has made a footprint that counts, and we are not done yet. EANM made it possible for me to meet and become friends with many people across the globe, inside and outside of nuclear medicine, for which I am very grateful. The EANM and nuclear medicine family continue to be a motivation to continue the work, also after the conclusion of my EANM Presidency 2019-2020.