

EANM during my presidency?

During my presidency (but also during the previous presidency of Patrick Bourguet) the work of the board was dominated by our struggle with the ESR. Their point on the horizon was to merge with the EANM into one large imaging society, which was rejected by most EANM member states and the relation with the radiologists rapidly deteriorated. It all started with the introduction of the CT-scan in PET/CT imaging and the denial of the ESR to train nuclear physicians in reading the CT. Unfortunately, our relation also obstructed any form of collaboration in many European bodies. Even, the ESR threatened to establish a ESR sub-society for nuclear medicine.

During meetings with our national delegates the discussion about collaboration with the radiologists was a recurring issue. Personally, the 'fight' with the ESR was somewhat surrealistic because the president of the ESR was working in the same hospital in Rotterdam as I did. When it became clear that most EANM countries were opposing to share the aforementioned point on the horizon things became somewhat easier.

During these years the Annual Meeting further improved and became the most successful and most visited of the large nuclear medicine meetings. Apart from well-chosen speakers, integrated presentations from the scientific committees resulted in highly appreciated sessions!

EANM, now and in the future?

Currently, the EANM is less visible than it was in the last 10 years. Is that caused by COVID-19? Maybe. On the other hand, a lockdown like we encounter right now opens new opportunities, different ways of meeting and teaching.

These and future days will demonstrate that more and more medical specialties and organisations will merge into multi-disciplinary bubbles centered around different medical themes. For example: specialists from many different directions (including physicists, IT-scientists, optical specialists etc.) will gather around prostate cancer and develop new and extremely sensitive diagnostic algorithms, highly personalized combination treatments etc. Patients will play a major role in these bubbles!

Organizations like the EANM need to be pro-active and find the most suitable 'friends' to create these bubbles, don't wait or you will be too late! That means that the board needs to select the right ambassadors to approach other specialties/ (technical)universities/ patient bodies etc. Board: don't waste time by doing it yourself, the brilliant people are already present in your organisation!

What is EANM for me?

A lot of memories. But always an organisation with a vision, with very kind people. But also with strange creatures, funny stories. But also regret, because during my term I also became head of the department of nuclear medicine in a difficult academic environment and one of my daughters became ill. The feeling remains that I could have had more impact under different circumstances.