



President's Message

Review of Activities of the Executive Committee, 2009

Dear Colleague,

The short period "between the years" when all activities have calmed down offers a good opportunity to take a look back on what has been achieved or should have been achieved with respect to strategic goals over the past 12 months. Last January the strategy of the Executive Committee was defined as follows:

1. Intensification of interactions with national societies
2. Initiation and support in validation of nuclear medicine methods (in particular PET) by multicentre studies
3. Intensification of networking with other scientific societies
4. Ensuring the supply of radionuclides
5. Improvement of regulations for the production and application of radiopharmaceuticals
6. Further development of the specialty
7. Increase in attractiveness for members, in particular for research-oriented young colleagues

In the following paragraphs I give some examples of the measures that were undertaken during the year in pursuit of these goals.

- Ad 1: The modification of bylaws in 2008 led to an upgrade of the role of national delegates. Each nation is now represented by only a single delegate, but for a period as long as 4 years. A deputy delegate is nominated for the same period. These modifications have strengthened the continuity of cooperation between EANM and the national societies and improved the information flow between the members of national societies and the EANM (in both directions). Examples of this cooperation during 2009 were:
- A successful statistical survey of installations and services
 - Adaptation of the "Technopolis Report" on the supply of radionuclides by the national societies
 - Review of nine new or revised guideline manuscripts
 - Nomination of national representatives for the "Young Investigators' Meeting" for 2009 and 2010
 - Evaluation of databases of national institutions

- Ad 2: The pilot study "EANM/European Network of Excellence for Brain Imaging: European database of [¹²³I]FP-CIT (DaTSCAN) SPECT scans of healthy controls (ENC-DAT)", undertaken by EANM Research Ltd. (EARL), was completed.

A multicentre study was initiated to evaluate the role of PET in prostate carcinoma (cooperation with EORTC). Furthermore, health technology assessment of PET is envisaged.

Ad 3: a) Cooperation with the European Society of Radiology (ESR)

- Results of the Joint Survey on Multimodality Imaging are being published in January 2010.
- Both societies agree that qualification for all components of multimodality imaging should be accessible on the basis of full qualification in either nuclear medicine or radiology. The precondition should be 2 years' training in the complementary specialty. According to national regulations, 1 year of complementary training might be integrated in the primary specialisation. The two societies also agree that the complementary training should only be acknowledged if it is received in a fully accredited institution for the complementary specialty.
- A joint working group for the development of a syllabus for nuclear physicians and for radiologists continued its work throughout 2009. The results will hopefully be approved at the next EANM:ESR Leadership Meeting in March 2010.

b) Cooperation with the European Society of Cardiology (ESC)

There is continuity in the joint platform of the European Council of Nuclear Cardiology (ECNC), which focussed on surveying nuclear cardiology in Europe and on drafting guidelines on radionuclide imaging in cardiology.

c) Cooperation with the European Society of Therapeutic Radiology and Oncology (ESTRO)

- Joint training courses for PET in radiation therapy were firmly established.
- The first joint international congress of nuclear medicine and radiation therapy has been set up (MIRO = Molecular Imaging in Radiation Oncology).
- Joint guidelines for the use of PET in radiation oncology are being developed; publication is expected after the MIRO Congress.
- Cooperation of technicians from both societies has been initiated.

d) Cooperation with the European Organisation for Research and Treatment of Cancer (EORTC)

- In March 2009 a memorandum of understanding was signed by both organisations
- Joint recommendations on sentinel node diagnostics in melanoma were developed (published in EJNMMI).
- A multicentre study on the use of PET in prostate carcinoma is being planned. Therefore, a pertinent survey has been conducted among EANM members.
- Participation in the EORTC Imaging Group Meeting: the first meeting will be held in January 2010. An IMI (Innovative Medicines Initiative) application is under discussion.

e) Cooperation with the European CanCer Organisation (ECCO)

The EANM participated as an advisory member on the ECCO advisory board during 2009. Our organisation has become an official partner at the joint ECCO and ESMO congresses to be held in 2009 in Berlin and 2011 in Stockholm.

f) Cooperation with the European Society of Molecular Imaging (ESMI)

The relationships between the societies were formalised in April 2009. Potential closer cooperation has been negotiated with the new president of ESMI. The EANM was an official partner at the ESMI congress in Barcelona in May 2009 with the branding "from bench to bedside in cancer and neuroscience".

Ad 4: A variety of activities have been undertaken together with international organisations in order to raise awareness of the supply problem. The most important of these activities were

- Participation of EANM at an OECD meeting in Paris in January 2009
- Support of the Ad Hoc Interservice Group on Sufficiency in Supply of Radioisotopes for Medical Use, set up by the European Commission. Report was published in November 2009.
- Input to EMEA (European Medicines Evaluation Agency) report to the European Commission on the topic "Supply Shortage of Radiopharmaceuticals" in March 2009

- Participation at AIPES General Meeting in Brussels in September 2009, resulting in agreement between reactor operators on an operating plan for 2010 to minimise shortages.

Ad 5: Various position papers were forwarded in order to influence EU regulations, e.g. Annex 3, Good Manufacturing Practice for Health Care Establishments (June 2009), and a contribution to the "Chapter on Compounding of Radiopharmaceuticals" (draft of September 2009). In addition, the EANM applied for clarification of a directive of the European Commission ("Advanced Therapy") with the aim of ensuring the exemption of labelling of blood cells from this directive, which has since been confirmed.

Ad 6: In order to raise the awareness of nuclear medicine, different actions have been taken, such as:

- Enlisting of the EANM in the NGO Health Directory
- Publicity in the "Members of European Parliament Photo Guide"
- Article in a special edition of the Parliament Magazine for the European Health Forum
- Article about nuclear medicine in the "European Hospital Post"

In October 2009 an application for membership of the EU Health Forum was submitted.

With a view to facilitating membership in NGOs and political organisations, the EANM has become probably the first scientific society to draw up comprehensive ethical guidelines: "EANM Guiding Principles with Regard to Transparency". The guidelines were approved by the Executive Committee in October 2009 and can be found on the EANM Website https://www.eanm.org/abouteanm/transparency_policy.php?navId=638.

Ad 7: In order to increase the attractiveness of the EANM for young scientists, the first "EANM Young Investigators Meeting (YIM)" was held in April 2009 in Vienna. These meetings will continue to be held every year. The topic in 2009 was oncology; in 2010 it will be cardiology. For the participants (1 per country for each meeting) a forum has been established during the annual congress to support sustainable development of a network of young members who are active in research.

All these achievements were only possible because of the great commitment of the members of the executive committee, the committees and the task groups as well as the support provided by individual members, national delegates and deputies and the Executive Secretariat. I wish to thank all colleagues for this great cooperation during 2009. In 2010 we shall continue to operate along the strategic lines defined above. We expect a number of highlights, including the MIRO Congress in Brussels, approval of Guidelines for Qualification for Hybrid Imaging developed jointly with the ESR, the YIM on cardiovascular nuclear medicine in Vienna, the European Medicines Agency (EMA) workshop on the future role of radionuclides in medicine in London and – last but not least – our next annual congress in Vienna under the presidency of Werner Langsteger. At the end of 2010 I am going to hand over the EANM Presidency to Patrick Bourguet, who has already been successful in his role of promoting the strategic development of our association.

I wish all members of the EANM a happy and successful New Year and hope that we shall witness continuing progress of nuclear medicine for the benefit of the patients.



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