



With this newsletter EACTA starts a policy aimed to give a continuous update to its members. Basically, what we would like to do is to provide an overview on the present status of EACTA as a scientific organization, on the ongoing and future programs, and on the opportunities for the EACTA members to apply for the various activities of EACTA.



Marco Ranucci  
President

The year 2008 started, in February, with an important official participation of EACTA within the program of the World Congress of Anaesthesia in Cape Town, South Africa.

Immediately before the meeting, EACTA endorsed a Satellite Symposium on Cardiothoracic Anaesthesia and Intensive Care in Kapama. This Symposium was the result of a joint effort of the local organizers (Justiaan Swaneveldeer, Johan Bence, Andre Coetze and many others), EACTA and the UK ACTA.

It was really a very successful meeting, in the impressive scenario of a South African Game Reserve, with a high attendance and an excellent scientific content.

Subsequently, in June, the Annual Meeting of EACTA was held in Antalya, Turkey, with a great support of the EACTA Turkish members and under the organization of Zuhul Aykac. The Turkish members of EACTA are one of the most numerous populations within our membership, and they provided a mass-participation to this meeting, that was certainly a good scientific success. Despite being located in a place without direct flights from many European Countries, many delegates participated from many European and non-European countries.

The next, very important appointment is in Rome, at the end of September, where we will have the EACTAECHO meeting. This year, for the first time, the EACTAECHO course will be organized, for the initial part (aimed to prepare the delegates for the TOE exam and accreditation) together with our friends cardiologists of the EAE. We are already receiving many registrations, and it seems that it will be one of the most successful EACTAECHO courses.



During the year and through the continuous debate within the EACTA Directory Board and Representative Council, many things have been finalized or planned. One of the most important points is probably the link with the Journal of Cardiothoracic and Vascular Anesthesia. All the EACTA members are now entitled to a free subscription to this journal, and since the first issue of 2008, they are regularly receiving it. We are aware that we had to face some problems in the preparation of the mailing list, and some members probably did not receive the journal yet. However, it seems that now we are on the right track, and the comments of the Representative Council are very positive with respect to this opportunity.

It is a big economical effort for EACTA to guarantee this free subscription to all the EACTA members that are regularly paying their fees. For this reason, I would like to recommend every member to be punctual when renewing their EACTA registration: members not in good standing will see their subscription to the red journal stopped.

Another important achievement is the activation of the first Education Program in Cardiothoracic-Vascular Anaesthesia and Intensive Care. This is now active in Leipzig, under the responsibility of Dr Jorg Ender. It is the first activation of a program, following the EACTA-ESA agreement a couple of years ago. EACTA is endorsing the Leipzig program, and it is of course ready to evaluate any other application from European Centers (see the dedicated page in the Members Only Section). It was the decision of the Representative Council to allow the accreditation of "limited" cardiac programs, with the exclusion of the vascular and/or thoracic program. Every application will be evaluated by the EACTA educational committee.

Various subgroups are now active within EACTA: aside from the TOE subgroup, we have now active subgroups for congenitals, thoracic anaesthesia, intensive care, cardiopulmonary bypass.

Finally, EACTA is establishing and strengthening its relationship with other scientific associations in its field. The co-operation with the EAE is very well working for all the TOE programs; a co-operation with the EACTS has been established, based on an exchange of expertise and probably joint sessions within each meeting. Contacts are active with the american SCA.

So, it's a very active moment, and this newsletter will try to update the EACTA members on every new topic with a regular delivery of information.



Marco Ranucci  
EACTA President

Abstract submission for Athens 2009 is now open

