

## **EACS Newsletter- January 2022**

## **Happy New Year!**



Dear Colleagues and Friends,

As we move into a New Year, we remain in the shadow of COVID-19. This is a virus that keeps on giving and a pandemic that keeps on going. Most of you have had a difficult couple of years both on a personal and a professional level, and unfortunately things may not get easier this winter. However, we need to remain resolute in our fight to keep humanity safe and healthy; together we are stronger. Let's get the world vaccinated against Covid-19; to coin a well-used phrase 'no-one is safe until we are all safe'.

Despite the hardships our work at EACS must continue. We delivered the 18th European AIDS Conference as a first truly hybrid meeting in London in October 2021. This was a hugely successful event bringing together over 3000 of us online and in-person to keep HIV in focus and share ideas. Much gratitude to the multitude of people involved in organising and seamlessly delivering this event. I particularly need to thank our sponsors for trusting us to deliver this, K.I.T our Conference Organisation team for the immaculate interface between online and on-site content and logistics, and to my cochairs Dr Annemarie Wensing and Mr Matthew Hodson for their leadership.

We now realise that some form of online content will be important for future conferences, but that face-to-face contact and networking opportunities are hugely important for personal and professional development. Team Warsaw 2023 have already started working through how we ensure that we deliver this at the next conference. Watch this space.

2022 will be a busy year; we really do need ensure that we don't take our eyes off the HIV pandemic. The Education programme will deliver a revamped online Management of HIV and co-infections course in partnership with CHIP, the WHO European Office and Eurotest, which went online on the 1st of December 2021 (freely accessible on the EACS Website). The annual HIV Summer School will, hopefully, go back to a face-to-face meeting in Bordeaux in September 2022; watch out for the online applications opening in early 2022. The clinical exchange programme and the career development fellowships will continue to enrol, and we are on track to getting the HIV curriculum published and start preparations for the Diploma in HIV Medicine.

The Standard of Care Meeting, in conjunction with our partners at ECDC and WHO, will take place in Tbilisi from the 12-14th of October 2022, with an ambitious programme of work, including pan-European audits and re-audits being planned. There will be an update of the HIV treatment guidelines towards the end of 2022.

Our WAVE group will continue to deliver a high-quality programme around identifying gaps in care and services for women living with HIV, and access to prevention services. YING are actively planning their monthly online HIV Live! Journal Club. Please attend these, they are extremely topical and a good way to keep up to date with current literature. Dates for the monthly meetings will be announced on the EACS homepage. The YING Conference will take place in Brussels later in 2022.If you haven't joined-up already, please feel free to join the WAVE and YING groups via the EACS website where you will also be able to view the details of all our current and upcoming programmes. Please also make sure you renew your membership on time.

So, as we welcome in 2022, it remains for me to say thank you to Joelle and the team at the EACS office in Brussels, the Governing Board, all of whom have given up their valuable time freely to keep us on track, and of course to ALL of you for remaining active members. Please feel free to contact us (info@eacssociety.org) with ideas for new initiatives, or if you want to be more involved in any of our ongoing/upcoming initiatives. We are also active on social media, so please follow us on Twitter, LinkedIn, Facebook and Instagram.

Here's wishing you all a happy, healthy 2022. Stay safe.

Sanjay Bhagani, President, EACS

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