

Dear colleagues and friends,

this year 2023, which is heading to its finish, was again a successful one for the EuGMS. The annual congress under the title "Healthy Aging the Changing World" was a full success with a new record-number of attendees, 85% being onsite. This shows that the EuGMS is vital and that we want to see one another and physically interact, as also mirrored on the dance floor during the social dinner!

Two years ago, we installed within the Executive Board the new position of a Director for Education and Training. This year, we added the position of a Research Director. While we are looking for a successor for education and training, as Tash Masud has been elected as President Elect in Helsinki, Graziano Onder successfully got the votes for the position as Research Director. I wish both of them to have interesting future years within EuGMS, and same wishes go to Nathalie van der Velde, our new Director of the Academic Board. I am sure that she will successfully shape the scientific program of our future congresses supported by her Academic Board members and with the tight cooperation with our Special Interest Groups, the backbone of our scientific society. It is to say that the elections during the General Assembly in Helsinki have succeeded to make our different boards much younger and more gender balanced, a clear aim I had during my presidency, becoming myself an "older chap". So, in a word, I thank the colleagues that leave the current Boards and that collaborated in strengthening the Society and welcome the newly elected Board members who will carry on our mission to develop geriatric medicine in Europe.

It is a pleasure to see how our younger colleagues actively shape the society. The triade EAMA, ECGI and GEI now also coordinates together

the core curriculum of the annual congress, a real success of the annual meetings. We still thrive to support the development Geriatric Medicine is countries where it is not year well established. It is great to see how the COST Action “PROGRAMMING”, that we activated 1 year ago – again with the very active contribution of younger colleagues – is progressing in a most promising manner.

Our outreach to other important organizations caring for older persons has been broaden with a recently signed memorandum of understanding (MOU) with the World Health Organization (WHO) for the next three years. Within Integrated care for older people (ICOPE), EuGMS will closely collaborate to the definition of the “geriatrician”, to the training of the care workforce, to assess availability of geriatricians across countries and ensure the prevalence of geriatric conditions across European countries.

Finally, my term as president of the EuGMS is ending in a few weeks from now. I am looking back to two active and indeed stimulating years in the round of great colleagues and friends. My close cooperation with our PCO Aristeia and especially Benedetta was indeed in a mixture of high professionalism and friendship. I wish my successor Mirko Petrovic as many good moments as I had myself. He can build on a well-established and vivid society with its different boards, SIGs and all our members in every facette which makes EuGMS a really unique one.

Now I wish you and your families a happy holiday season and fulfillment of your wishes in all of aspects of life in 2024.

Yours

Cornel Sieber