

Dear Participant, Dear Colleagues, Dear Friends

on behalf of the European Society for Molecular Imaging it is our great pleasure to welcome you to Torino, Italy for the society's 8th annual meeting: the **European Molecular Imaging Meeting**. EMIM2013 brings together top European scientists and, with our great honour, also colleagues coming from Asia, Australia, and the US.

The meeting has been organized in cooperation with our "**sister**" **imaging societies** the European Association of Nuclear Medicine - EANM, the European Society of Radiology – ESR and the European Society of Molecular and Functional Imaging in Radiology - ESMOFIR, the COST Action "Theranostics", and the EU project Imaging of Neuroinflammation in Neurodegenerative Diseases - INMiND.

We are very pleased and honored that the President of the **World Molecular Imaging Society**, prof. Zaver Bhujwala, has accepted our invitation to give a plenary lecture on "Imaging the Tumor Microenvironment". Prof. Bhujwala participation to EMIM witnesses the willingness of ESMI and WMIS to further improve their collaborative links by joining their efforts to enhance the role of the Molecular Imaging Community.

Particular thanks go to the **EMIM 2013 Steering Committee** for their dedication and commitment not only to the meeting but also to the vision of the society.

The committee decided to **limit the number of abstract categories** and to decide on the definite titles for the parallel sessions in accordance with the number of submitted abstracts per category. With this we aim to ensure a better representation of the needs and the interests of the research activities carried on in the field of Molecular Imaging. **The categories:** Chemistry/Probes, Technology/Methodology, Imaging Cancer, Imaging Cardiovascular, Imaging Neurology, and Others. As a tribute to the newly established **ESMI study groups** two categories on "Image-Guided Drug Delivery" and "Intra-Operative Imaging" were added.

We developed the 8th EMIM **scientific programme** also on the basis of the outstanding strength of submitted abstracts. All in all **279 abstracts** were submitted, reviewed, scored, and assigned to the sessions. Session co-chairs selected abstracts for oral and poster presentations based on average abstract score, session content and structure. Attention was also paid to diversity of disciplines and geographical distribution. From this effort **80 abstracts** were integrated as talks into the Parallel Sessions. **29** of these oral abstract presentations will be held by **Young Investigator Award (YIA) applicants**. The YIA selection committee is going to evaluate and select the best three YIA presentations to be held (again) during the final Plenary Session on Tuesday where then the Young Investigator Award will be assigned to an extraordinary and innovative contribution together with the presentation of the **ESMI Award**.

Furthermore, **twelve guided poster walks** have been scheduled on Monday and Tuesday with no other competing sessions in order to enhance the knowledge exchange of experienced and young researchers. Each of the guided poster walks will be chaired by two chair persons and will result in one poster award. The twelve **Poster Awards** will also be offered during the Closing Ceremony on Tuesday.

We are especially proud and excited that **prof. Stefan W. Hell** will give the inaugural keynote lecture, entitled "Nanoscopy with focused light". Aside the plenary lecture by **Zaver Bhujwala** we are looking forward to four further exciting plenary lectures by **Mark Dewhirst, Heinrich Schelbert, Frijtof Helmchen**, and by the winners of the **ESMI award for excellent PhD theses** Tessa Buckle, Lucia Crane, and Astrid van der Veldt. The lectures are covering topics on Cancer, Neurology, Cardio-Vascular diseases, Imaging-guided Drug Delivery and Surgery.

Due to the efforts of the **educational committee** the EMIM2013 offers an outstanding Educational Programme with four parallel sessions on Sunday morning that will update participants on the key-topics: Advanced Microscopy, Optoacoustic Imaging, MALDI-RAMAN-Phase Contrast Tomography, and Hybrid Imaging.

Finally, we would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the **companies for their support** and helping us to make this conference a big success and also for the continuous support of the ESMI. Special thanks to BRACCO Group for inviting us to the "Get-together" event on Monday evening.

We hope you will enjoy the conference and also will take some time to explore the beautiful city of Torino.

Sincerely,

Silvio Aime, ESMI President

on behalf of the ESMI Executive Committee
 Silvio Aime, ESMI President
 Annemie van der Linden, ESMI Vice President
 Clemens W.G.M. Löwik, ESMI Past President
 Fabian Kiessling, ESMI Secretary
 Bernd Pichler, ESMI Treasurer