

Welcome address

Dear colleagues,

Welcome to Geneva, welcome to the 16th EORTC–NCI–AACR Symposium on “Molecular Targets and Cancer Therapeutics”.

After a successful meeting in Frankfurt in 2002, the organisers have selected Geneva because of the atmosphere of this wonderful city, its easy access from all over the world, but most importantly because the facilities available enable us to continue a set up similar to the one you were used to in previous meetings, i.e. ample space along the posters to have extensive individual discussion.

We also kept the format with mainly plenary sessions for the oral presentations and only a limited number of parallel sessions.

The exciting changes we are currently witnessing in drug development are reflected in the content of the programme. The large poster session on new drug targets indicates that we still benefit from the achievements of molecular biology and other types of fundamental research.

The scientific committee, 45 members from around the world, succeeded in pulling together a very balanced programme. We are very pleased that with their help we have been able to attract leading researchers to come and lecture on their most recent achievements. We were very pleased to note that we even had a further increase in abstract submission as compared to the previous meetings. This enabled us to select the very best for poster presentation.

We are extremely grateful to our partners from the Organizing Committee (A.D. Barker and J.E. Dancey from NCI and K.S.H. Antman and E.K. Rowinsky from AACR) for their commitment and dedication to this meeting. We also wish to express our gratitude to the sponsors of this symposium as well as to outstanding faculty.

We are welcoming attendants from all over the world, and highly appreciate your interest in this symposium. We sincerely hope that it will meet your expectations and we are looking forward to a very successful meeting.

Jaap Verweij
Chairman Scientific Committee

Alexander M.M. Eggermont
President EORTC