

# INTRODUCING ‘THE EUROPEAN ASSOCIATION FOR CANCER RESEARCH’

With over 7,000 members, The ‘European Association for Cancer Research’ is Europe’s largest member society for cancer research and the EACR-20 conference you are attending marks and celebrates the Association’s 40th Anniversary.

Founded in 1968, the EACR offices have always been hosted by the University of Nottingham, UK, and this often comes as a surprise to those who expect to find the Association with a Brussels address. However, EACR enjoys particularly strong links with other European cancer societies: the Association was not only a founder member of the Federation of European Cancer Societies (FECS) but now maintains its central position in European activities as a founder member of the new European Cancer Organisation (ECCO).

EACR has ‘The Advancement of Cancer Research’ as its guiding aim. The Association presents educational, training and scientific meeting opportunities, and facilitates communication, interaction and collaboration between the cancer researchers who make up its membership. The membership is mainly European but presently extends to 90 countries worldwide.

The size and range of membership reflects the fact that EACR sets out to be an inclusive, multi-disciplinary organisation and maintains a low membership subscription to ensure that cost does not discourage participation. Post graduate students may obtain free membership for up to four years and the annual subscription rate for active members is just 30 Euros. Researchers who are members of EACR affiliated ‘National Societies’ in Germany (AEK), Spain (ASEICA), Britain (BACR), Hungary (MOT), France (SFC) and Italy (SIC) automatically become members of EACR as part of the wider benefits of belonging to their national society. Many senior researchers who support post graduate students, ‘post docs’ and those in the early years of their career, often recommend EACR membership as part of support for professional development.

EACR Travel Fellowships, co-funded by the Association for International Cancer Research (AICR), have become increasingly popular over the last two years and the quality of applications is particularly high, so much so that the Association will extend the programme in the very near future. Reports from fellowship winners are published in the EACR Annual Newsletter each April and can be read by visitors to the EACR website [www.eacr.org](http://www.eacr.org). The Mike Price Fellowship (co-funded by ECCO) is one of the Association’s most significant awards and reports can also be read of the longer projects that this fellowship supports. There is no doubt that a period working in a new context, in a centre of excellence, is both powerful and of great encouragement to researchers. The Association also offers support and encouragement through Meeting Bursaries and Awards. Young researchers who have difficulty in securing funding to attend the EACR bi-annual meeting are encouraged to apply for Meeting Bursaries. Attractive ‘Poster Awards’ are supported by the Pezcoller Foundation and the ‘Carcinogenesis Awards’ are presented by Oxford University Press. EACR’s most prestigious and valuable award is the Young Cancer Researcher Award Lecture which is presented annually at EACR and ECCO meetings.

EACR makes a strong contribution to the bi-annual ECCO conference with over 800 EACR members in attendance in Barcelona last year. As a sponsoring agency, EACR supports important scientific meetings and symposia organised in Europe, publicises the meetings and ultimately carries informative follow-up reports in the annual newsletter. The Association is also developing a symposia programme in response to members’ interests which will begin in 2009.

The Association’s journal, The European Journal of Cancer (EJC), will carry a detailed report of the EACR-20 Conference, as will the EACR newsletter.

To learn more about EACR and cancer research activities in Europe, please visit [www.eacr.org](http://www.eacr.org). The Association’s website is not only an excellent source of information it also carries application forms for fellowships, bursaries and other member benefits. A colourful and informative e-News bulletin is sent to members almost every week and links to the website. The bulletin carries advance notice and links ranging from focused scientific meetings to job and study opportunities.

Applications to join EACR are managed through the Association’s office in Nottingham and can be made online at any time: [www.eacr.org](http://www.eacr.org).

A special membership offer for non-members attending EACR-20 appears overleaf.

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