



I am honored to have been elected by the Board of the ECTS as President-Elect.

I have been a member of the ECTS for my entire career and this is the society where I first presented my research to an international audience. In the recent past ECTS has undergone some organisational changes while remaining at its core the open and friendly collaborative scientific society that we know and trust. ECTS now has a new domicile in Belgium and is set up as an International Charity to better serve and represent our diverse membership. ECTS will continue to be a society for the whole of Europe irrespective of borders. We shall actively work for equal opportunities and for the removal of barriers to research and to research careers.

ECTS has a clearly defined and meaningful mission and niche. We are very strong on the translational side because we have a unique combination of clinical and basic science members, but retention of members can be difficult. We should thus continue to be cautious about our brand and keep the focus on the skeleton and calcified tissue area but doing so within close collaborations with related societies.

Good governance for the ECTS includes clear and transparent working practices and guidelines and an open, frank dialogue with respect for the minority view. Diversity in the workings of the ECTS is something we must strive to achieve, if at all possible. Hence, we need to have a good representation of both the clinical/public health side, Allied Health Professionals and the basic as well as translational areas in order to ensure that we remain a scientific society strongly committed to the study of calcified tissues across disciplines. We still have some areas of Europe with fewer ECTS members than we would like but we will strive to provide as much balance as we can and make our decisions as a society openly.

To my mind, the annual ECTS Conference is our core activity and it was a huge pleasure to see the 2019 Budapest Conference so well attended and so scientifically productive. We shall integrate the best of Budapest into the next conference to strike the right balance between networking opportunities, opportunities to present early stage research and the opportunity to be updated about state-of-the-art methodology and pathophysiology.

ECTS has a strong focus on supporting the next generation of scientists with the ECTS Academy and the ECTS PhD training and the Mellanby courses. I would like ECTS to always be the natural home for calcified tissue researchers, the obvious place to travel for those beginning their research careers but also allied health professionals and research staff. We must facilitate this by making it easy and affordable for PhD students, early career researchers, including junior clinicians, to attend. I would like that ECTS continues to be the place where one gets first experiences in presenting to an international audience in a friendly environment.

As an organisational slim society, ECTS builds very much on the activities between the congresses undertaken by ECTS committees and action groups. These can absolutely serve as a career building platform and we would strongly encourage younger members to let the committee chairs know of any interest they may have in serving on action groups and committees. On top of our successful webinar series, we are now building our new e-learning platform, providing new ways in which members can engage on a daily basis. We will continue to build our media and social media presence and need your feedback to tailor these to the needs of our members.

ECTS has good and strong links to other international societies in the calcified tissue area. It is important for our shared scientific aims and for the educational opportunities offered to our members that ECTS continues to build and strengthen these collaboration, sometimes on an ad hoc basis and at other times as more long-term collaborations.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your support of the ECTS and look forward to working with you in the ECTS family.

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