

**WELCOME!**

*Dear Participant, Dear Colleagues,*

under the auspices of the European Society for Molecular Imaging, contributing associate societies and collaborative partner organisations, we offer you a very warm welcome to the 6th European Molecular Imaging Meeting – EMIM that is to be held in the beautiful city of Leiden, The Netherlands.

EMIM 2011 brings together top European scientists from various disciplines, working in diverse fields of Molecular Imaging, to discuss their latest research and on the progress of translation into the clinic. We are pleased that your fellow attendees are represented, not only from within Europe, but also outside of Europe giving this meeting an international flavour.

As in previous years, our intention is that this high-level meeting will foster the strong network of the European Molecular Imaging Community with a common goal to translate fundamental research discoveries into medical applications with global health benefits.

We also gratefully acknowledge the contribution from the following participating organisations, societies, actions and projects:

- European Network for Cell Imaging and Tracking Expertise– ENCITE
- European Cooperation in Science and Technology – COST Actions 06, D38 and BM0607
- European Society of Radiology – ESR
- European Association of Nuclear Medicine – EANM
- Euro-Biolmaging
- the Dutch IOP Photonics Devices – IOP PD

All these organisations worked together, directed by a steering committee, to develop a strong scientific programme which integrates developments in imaging technologies and molecular imaging agents with applications for drug development, basic scientific investigations and clinical translation. A special emphasis was placed on the main disease burdens of our society such as cancer, cardiovascular disease and neuro-degeneration.

This year's scientific program starts on Sunday morning with an Educational Session, organised by ENCITE in close collaboration with ESMI, based on cell tracking by optical imaging and MRI. The Educational Session will be followed by the Official Opening and Inaugural Lecture. We express our gratitude and thanks that Sir George Radda will give the inaugural lecture, entitled, "Metabolic Imaging in Health and Disease". In addition, we have planned five exciting plenary lectures, covering topics on photo-acoustic molecular imaging with nanogold particles, upconversion fluorescence and its application in bioimaging and photodynamic therapy, optogenetics in neurology and brain research, imaging and targeting tumor hypoxia and acidosis, imaging inflammation and imaging (sub)cellular events in living embryo's.

The 6th EMIM scientific programme was further refined taking into account the outstanding strength of submitted abstracts. A record 266 abstracts were submitted, reviewed and scored followed by each of the session co-chairs reviewing the abstracts that were considered relevant to their particular sessions. Session co-chairs selected abstracts for oral presentation based on average abstract score, session content and structure. Attention was also paid to the diversity of disciplines and geographic distribution of speakers. The results were 72 abstracts that were integrated into the Parallel Sessions. Attendees from different disciplines were brought together to discuss the role of molecular imaging in solving biomedical problems.

42 of these oral abstract presentations will be held by Young Investigator Award (YIA) applicants. The YIA selection committee will select the best six YIA presentations to be held during the final Plenary Session on Tuesday, where the winner of the Young Investigator Award will then be announced.

Special attention has again been placed on the guided poster walks, which have been scheduled for Monday and Tuesday afternoon with no other competing sessions. The success of this event from previous years has shown that, in particular, knowledge exchange between experienced and young researchers is enhanced. Each of the guided poster walks will be accompanied by two chairpersons and will result in one poster award. The Poster Awards will also be offered during the Closing Ceremony on Tuesday.

On Monday afternoon, we have a special session organised in collaboration with Euro-Biolmaging entitled: "How should we develop the European infrastructure in the field of Molecular Imaging?" In addition, we also have a special session on Tuesday consisting of industry round tables where scientists can meet with industry representatives and researchers to learn about new developments and to discuss their personal molecular imaging needs.

We would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the sponsors for their support and helping us to make this conference a big success. Finally, we would like to THANK YOU for participating in this year's EMIM.

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

Yours faithfully,



Clemens W.G.M. Löwik – ESMI president