The European Neuroendocrine Tumor Society (ENETS)

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Letter from the Chairman

In opening this letter, I would like to wish each of you a pleasant
and restful holiday season.

This issue of the ENETS Newsletter follows our Society’s first
Advisory Board meeting, which was held in Palma de Mallorca
6–8 November. You can read more about the meeting inside, but
I can also tell you here that the meeting was significant and suc-
cessful: The aim was to accumulate ex-
pert opinions and recommendations on
ENETS projects and, with 47 participants
from 22 countries, we look forward to
moving ahead with the ENETS Patient
Registry, Educational Syllabus and Cen-
ters of Excellence.

Other news from the Society this season
is something many of you probably al-
ready know: the relaunch of the ENETS
website. We hope you will fi nd it more
up-to-date and user-friendly. All ENETS members received an
e-mail prompt to register themselves with a username and pass-
word; if you haven’t done so already, please do visit the site. On
the back of the newsletter, too, we off er some helpful tips for
navigating the site.

In visiting the ENETS website, you will notice, as well, that reg-
istration for the 6th Annual ENETS Conference, to be held 5–7
March in Granada, Spain, is underway. We look forward to set-
ting another record in attendance, as well as in the number of
submitted abstracts. The deadline to send in your work is 7 Jan-
uary 2009. The preliminary conference program can be viewed
on the site and there is information on lodging and travel. On
behalf of the scientifi c organizing committee, I look forward to
seeing you in Spain.

In the previous issue of the Newsletter, I mentioned that my fo-
cus as ENETS chairman will be on science and networking. After
recent discussions with the ENETS Executive Committee, we are
in the process of establishing young investigator awards, as well
as travel grants. More information on this initiative will be made
public soon.

Guido Rindi, MD, Chairman ENETS
ENETS Advisory Board Conference
6–8 November 2008, Palma de Mallorca, Spain

By Wouter de Herder and Elizabeth Zach

How will ENETS best develop its European-wide patient registry? What is the estimated incidence of metastases to peritoneal, bone and the lungs in NETs? Is a hereditary predisposition to NET likely to influence the development of distant metastases? What can e-learning bring to NET diagnosis and treatment in the future? What will ENETS Centers of Excellence look like?

These were some of the questions put to the participants of the first ENETS Advisory Board conference in early November. Of the 39 Advisory Board members, 23 were able to attend and offer their expertise and recommendations as the Society moves toward greater structure.

Ursula Plöckinger, a member of the Board, chaired a session to review her work in establishing the ENETS Patient Registry. A team of ENETS experts in this field (Ursula Plöckinger, Beata Kos Kudla, Barbro Eriksson and Rocio Garcia Carbonero), supported by a professional database company, has worked hard to establish an ENETS European Neuroendocrine Tumor Registry and has defined all its specifications.

A separate session, prepared by Bertram Wiedenmann, Dermot O’Toole and Marianne Pavel, dealt with establishing quality criteria for a European network of centers of excellence/expertise. The various criteria for accreditation as a center of excellence were discussed in breakout workgroups using questionnaires addressing specific issues.

In addition, Martyn Caplin discussed the value of Internet-based NET instruction. He aims at developing an accredited system with core material which can be downloaded from the Internet, as well as podcasts with interactive case discussions and multiple-choice questions.

A more academic session on peritoneal, bone, lung, brain and other rare metastatic sites was well-received. Presented by Dermot O’Toole, the session sought to compare expert opinions and experiences with respect to functionality, classification, prevalence, survival rates, diagnosis, and therapy. Reza Kianmanesh started by approaching the problem of peritoneal metastases. Beata Kos Kudla reviewed the available information on bone and lung metastases and Marianne Pavel addressed the issues of brain and other rare metastatic sites.

The participants could look back at two days of hard but rewarding work. ENETS members can expect feedback of the advisory board shortly on all the issues discussed in Mallorca.

An image from the monastery at Valldemossa, where conference participants enjoyed a short excursion. The image is not to be confused with the Advisory Board members themselves.
Of the 39 ENETS Advisory Board members, 22 were able to attend the Mallorca conference:

Front row, left to right: Jose M. Lopes; Paul Komminoth; Günter Klöppel; Beata Kos-Kudla; Anders Sundin; Ashley Grossman; Hirohito Sasano; David Gross

Next row back, left to right: Rudolf Arnold; Ola Nilsson; Jean-Yves Scoazec; Ursula Pöckinger; Greg Kaltsas; Mohandes Mallath; Massimo Falconi; Juan O’Connor

Back row, left to right: Dik Kwekkeboom; John Ramage; Ulrich-Frank Pape; Matthew Kulke; Kjell Öberg; Reza Kianmanesh
The ENETS website relaunched in October 2008. Here you will find tips for navigating the site, all of which are based on your frequently asked questions to the ENETS Office.