

available at www.sciencedirect.comjournal homepage: www.eu-openscience.europeanurology.com

European Association of Urology



Editorial

Editorial for the Abstracts of the 20th Meeting of the Association of Academic European Urologists [European Urology Open Science 2023;48(Suppl 1):S1–48] ☆

John Heesakkers^{a,†,*}, Frans Debruyne^{b,‡}, Per-Anders Abrahamsson^{c,¼}

^a Department of Urology, Maastricht UMC, Maastricht, The Netherlands; ^b Andros Clinics, Amsterdam, The Netherlands; ^c Skåne University Hospital, Malmö, Sweden

For the second time in history, we present abstracts from the annual meeting of the Association of Academic European Urologists (AAEU), this time from the 20th meeting, which was held in Malmö in December 2022. The AAEU is an association of leading academic urologists from Europe (and the world) dedicated to research on the pathophysiology, epidemiology, diagnosis, and treatment of all aspects of disorders of the urogenital tract. The objectives of the AAEU are to promote the role, position, and activities of academic urologists in Europe. The AAEU tries to achieve this by:

Promoting clinical and fundamental science programs in urology and achievements in academic urological departments;

Providing a forum for presentation and discussion of academic achievements in the field of urology and related areas; and

Communicating these various goals via the annual meeting, select journals, and communication papers.

Every year a 2-d meeting is organized at which AAEU members and guests present their own research in one of the many fields of urology. This research is original and new. All AAEU members and guests discuss the findings presented in a plenary setting. Thus, urologists who are not experts in the topics addressed can contribute to the discussion from their own perspective. This results in lively, high-quality discussions in which all aspects of the issue being considered are highlighted. This is an integrative

approach to urological problems that gives direction for future follow-on research and clinical excellence. This strategy is well perceived by all participants.

Many topics were presented at the 20th meeting in Malmö. The AAEU tries to balance the annual meeting with respect to urological topics and the geographic spread, sex, and race of participants. This has resulted in doubling of the number of female active members over a period of 2 yr. However, only six women are currently an active member out of a total of 84. Nevertheless, it must be stressed that female representation is not an aim in itself, as scientific value is the key focus. Readers can judge to what extent the aims were achieved by looking at the results from the scientific meeting.

In total, presentations were made for 36 out of the 57 abstracts that were submitted, for which 26 authors gave permission to publish their abstract in *European Urology Open Science* [1]. Of the 36 presentations, 23 (62%) were on an oncological topic, five (14%) were on functional urology, three were on urolithiasis, three were on andrology, and three were on general urological issues such as training, big data, and artificial intelligence. Perhaps this reflects the academic situation in Europe, but the AAEU should strive to do better with respect to multiangled balance.

The supplement offers an insight into the dynamics of the AAEU and we hope to welcome readers one day as our guest.

Conflicts of interest: The authors have nothing to disclose.

☆ [https://www.eu-openscience.europeanurology.com/issue/S2666-1683\(23\)X0003-2](https://www.eu-openscience.europeanurology.com/issue/S2666-1683(23)X0003-2).

† Secretary General of the Association of Academic European Urologists.

‡ Honorary Communications Officer of the Association of Academic European Urologists.

¼ President of the 20th Meeting of the Association of Academic European Urologists.

* Corresponding author. Department of Urology, Maastricht UMC, Maastricht, The Netherlands.
E-mail address: john.heesakkers@mumc.nl (J. Heesakker).



References

- [1] Abstracts of the 20th Meeting of the Association of Academic European Urologists (AAEU) 1–4 December 2022. Eur Urol Open Sci 2023;48(Suppl1):S1–48. [https://www.eu-openscience.europeanurology.com/issue/S2666-1683\(23\)X0003-2](https://www.eu-openscience.europeanurology.com/issue/S2666-1683(23)X0003-2).