



President's address EANS2023

Dear colleagues, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen,

I address you today with a profound sense of commitment and a personal investment in the future of our EANS. Throughout my career, the EANS has held a significance that extends far beyond being just an organization; it has been a cornerstone of my professional life.

I consider it an enormous privilege to work with colleagues who share a common passion for advancing the field of neurosurgery. In my address, I would like to briefly reflect on my past and then share with you my vision for the EANS in the years that lie ahead.

1. My story

The EANS has meant a lot to me personally, and I have witnessed its evolution over the past two decades. In 2003, I became individual member number 27. Today our vibrant community is nearly 3000 strong and our annual congress is one of the best out there, both in terms of scientific content, as well as social interactions.

This year's congress in Barcelona has been a great success, with a programme consisting of 10 plenary and 34 parallel sessions, 9 masterclasses, and 9 symposia and was attended by 2000 registrations from 90 countries.

Since 2009, I have had the privilege of serving on the EANS Training Courses, contributing to the development of our educational initiatives. This journey has been a labor of love, fueled by a belief in the paramount importance of education in shaping our future neurosurgical colleagues.

Furthermore, I have seen how the Training Committee has served as a nurturing ground for many of our most exceptional teachers. Over the years, I have witnessed the transformation of many educators into true masters of the teaching craft. This experience has not only elevated the standards of our educational landscape, but also allowed me to refine my own skills as a teacher.

The collective dedication of our teachers within the EANS has consistently raised the bar in neurosurgical training, ensuring that our neurosurgeons are well-equipped with the skills and knowledge essential for excelling in their careers. The EANS has rightfully earned its reputation as a bastion of excellence in teaching, and I am deeply proud to have contributed to this legacy of educational distinction.

I also had the privilege of serving as the Training Committee Chair. During my tenure, I undertook the responsibility of initiating a wide range of hands-on courses. It has been immensely gratifying to witness the flourishing and growth of these courses over time, as they have evolved into indispensable learning experiences for our members.

In my unwavering belief that the strength of the EANS resides in its bottom-up approach, I have invested significant time and energy in training and education. It is my steadfast conviction that the participants

in our Training Committee programs represent not only the learners of today, but also our future colleagues and, hopefully, fellow EANS members who will play pivotal roles in shaping the neurosurgical landscape in the years to come. Our dedication to cultivating the next generation of neurosurgeons is a testament to the enduring values of our EANS and our commitment to excellence in both education and practice.

2. My vision for the EANS

Neurosurgical patients deserve excellence and this excellence is not dictated from the top - it comes from your dedication and hard work, every single day, 24/7, at your own neurosurgical departments. However, the EANS has always been at the forefront of promoting excellence in neurosurgery and our expertise has allowed us to make significant strides in the field.

Close collaboration and unity between our various subspecialties are not only essential for the overall success, but also imperative for the continuous growth of the EANS. It is vital to recognize that the peril of fragmentation looms in subspecialties such as vascular, pediatric, spinal, and functional neurosurgery, where differing perspectives and priorities may arise. Acknowledging these potential areas of stress and proactively addressing them is crucial to maintaining the cohesion and our strength. By fostering open dialogue, mutual respect, and a commitment to shared goals, we can ensure that we work together.

Three pillars underpin the EANS: training, education, and research. Education, being the cornerstone of progress, remains central to our mission. Investment in the development of our neurosurgeons and healthcare professionals is essential to keep our field at the cutting edge of science and technology. We are committed to establishing a comprehensive framework for lifelong learning, offering a range of training opportunities, workshops, and resources that cater to the diverse needs of our members.

To achieve this vision, collaborative efforts with our member societies are paramount. We should consolidate our resources and expertise to develop standardized, high-quality educational programs accessible to all members, ranging from trainees to seasoned professionals. A holistic educational approach equips our neurosurgeons not only for clinical excellence, but also for pioneering research in our field.

Over the past two decades, our focus centered on individual members, as we became a hybrid organization. During my tenure, we will recalibrate our focus toward the synergy and cohesion of our member societies. By fostering collaboration, promoting exchange of knowledge, and championing joint initiatives among our societies, we can amplify our influence and expand our reach. Our dialogue meeting with all the national society presidents, marked my inaugural step in a direction to

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strengthen our connections with member societies.

Prioritizing the growth and vitality of our member societies will enhance our capacity to address the unique challenges faced by neurosurgical communities throughout Europe. Your input and collaboration are pivotal as we shape the future of the EANS and neurosurgery together. I therefore look forward to actively engage with our member societies, to understand their needs and concerns, to get ideas and inspiration, and I am eager to visit your annual meetings to listen to your insights and facilitate a stronger connection between us.

3. My promise

As President, I am committed to nurturing continued growth of our organization's initiatives. This includes the ongoing development and enhancement of our training courses, hands-on courses, congresses, and scientific meetings. I will ensure that these platforms remain at the forefront of neurosurgical education.

Additionally, our scientific journal, *Brain and Spine*, will continue to be a valuable resource for the dissemination of research.

I am dedicated to further integrating research and formal scholarly pursuits into our organization's activities, with the goal of fostering the development of master's programs in neurosurgery. These programs will not only elevate the caliber of neurosurgical education, but also empower our members to be leaders in research and innovation within our field.

I am also committed to continue our initiative of developing guidelines, zooming in on two or three of the most promising projects.

These standards set the bar for excellence in neurosurgery, ensuring top-quality care. By advancing comprehensive, evidence-based guidelines, these resources benefit our members, showcasing our commitment to advancing neurosurgery for patients.

However, the development of guidelines should be a collaborative endeavor, undertaken in partnership with our European neuroscience counterparts. In recognition of the complexity and interdisciplinary nature of neurological care, it is essential that we work hand in hand with organizations such as the European Academy of Neurology (EAN) on stroke management. Similarly, our collaboration with the European Society of Neuroradiology (ESNR) in the context of neuroradiological follow-up after brain aneurysm treatments and meningioma surgery, as well as our engagement with the European Association of Neuro-Oncology (EANO) following brain tumor surgery, will enable guidelines that are both comprehensive and impactful.

4. Cooperation

In line with this commitment, I am dedicated to cultivating deeper and more substantial collaborations with esteemed European neuroscience organizations, to amplify our collective impact in the neurosurgical field. Embracing strategic partnerships and alliances enhances our collective influence, drawing more attention to the field of neuroscience, thus bolstering our capacity to secure substantial research resources. These resources are fundamental for advancing our understanding of neurosurgery and elevating the quality of patient care.

Through ongoing communication and collaborative initiatives with these organizations, we aim to unlock opportunities for synergy, knowledge exchange, and collective progress. It is my earnest hope that these efforts will create a more interconnected and robust neuroscience community in Europe.

5. Virtues

Lastly, in our unwavering pursuit of excellence as neurosurgeons, we must also uphold some virtues — honesty, justice, resilience, courage, and prudence. These virtues serve as our guiding principles in providing the highest standard of care.

Honesty compels us to be transparent and forthright in our interactions with patients and our colleagues.

Justice reminds us to ensure fair and equitable access to neurosurgical care for all, irrespective of circumstances, both in our clinical practice and in our personal relationships, where fairness and personal integrity are paramount.

Resilience empowers us to persevere in the face of challenges, adapting and evolving to meet the ever-changing demands of our field.

Courage emboldens us to embrace innovative techniques and approaches, pushing the boundaries of what is possible in neurosurgery.

Prudence, in turn, reminds us to exercise wisdom and sound judgment, carefully considering the risks and benefits of each decision we make in the operating room and beyond, demonstrating our commitment to competence, honesty and personal integrity.

6. Thanks

Before ending my speech, I would like to express my gratitude to both the EANS president, Andreas Demetriades, and to the congress president, Jesus Lafuente. Equally deserving of our appreciation is our Executive Committee and the Board for their dedication to our organization's mission, a commitment that has been instrumental in shaping our path forward.

I extend my heartfelt thanks to our Executive Director, Valentini, whose professionalism and tireless efforts have played a pivotal role in driving our initiatives, as well as to our dedicated EANS office team, comprising Visi, Martina, Anna, Thierry, Maria, Kelly, Maria, Prodromos, and Despina. Your relentless dedication behind the scenes has been indispensable to our organization. Your unwavering support and commitment to advancing the field of neurosurgery are deeply valued.

In addition, I offer my sincere congratulations to the newly elected board members, committee chairs and section chairs, whose willingness to take on these significant roles underscores their dedication to the advancement of neurosurgery and the ongoing success of the EANS.

A special note of congratulations is reserved for our President-elect, Professor Sala. I eagerly anticipate our collaboration in the coming years as we jointly shape the future of the EANS.

7. Closing

In closing, I would like to emphasize that the EANS plays a vital role in shaping the future of neurosurgery. By prioritizing training, education, and research, and by having a collective approach through our member societies, we ensure that our field continues to evolve, innovate, and provide the best possible patient care.

Thank you, and I look forward to working closely with all of you to realize this vision for our EANS and the future of neurosurgery.

I also look forward to welcoming you all to EANS2024 in Sofia and I wish you safe travels back home.

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