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The Great Challenge



Five years ago, during the Zagreb Euroson, the EFSUMB's Board of Directors decided that, in 2008, the European Annual Meeting of Ultrasound Specialists would be hosted in Timişoara, Romania. At that time, the event seemed far away, not to mention the fact that Timişoara's Congress Center was still only a virtual project.

Our concerns started back then, regarding both organizing the scientific and social sections, but also making a good impression on our guests.

At the same time, we tried to increase numbers in the Romanian Society of Ultrasound in Medicine and Biology (SRUMB), which is member of EFSUMB, so that in 2007 we reached a total of 550 members, compared to 300 in 2005. Also, the number of Romanian participants at the Annual Euroson meetings increased. In both the 2006 Euroson in Bologna, as well as in the 2007 Euroson in Leipzig, in addition to a consistent group of Romanian ultrasound specialists, several members from the Timişoara Organizing Committee participated in an attempt to learn from and be inspired by such events.

The seven months following the 2007 Euroson in Leipzig were filled with efforts, worries, questions and searches for the best answers. Finding an attractive Scientific Program was the main concern of the organizing team, who, with SRUMB's Board and EFSUMB's Executive Bureau constant support, tried to combine the requirements of top scientific research, with the experience of ultrasound specialists and the needs of clinicians. We invited more than 100 European experts, some of the best in the field of ultrasonography, together with the best Romanian ultrasound specialists. We decided that 6-7 parallel sessions are optimal for combining diversity with the opportunity to view as many interesting sessions as possible. The numerous post-graduate courses, with a variety of themes, aim not only to refresh knowledge, but also to improve in some ultrasound sub-domains, giving each participant at the 2008 Euroson in Timişoara the opportunity to be part of a top scientific meeting.

The social program, we hope, gives the opportunity to offer unforgettable memories and the chance to establish international friendships.

It is the first time that the Romanian Medical field has had the chance to organize such a European Congress, and the fact that it is about ultrasonography may not be a random choice. Our country has approximately 3000-4000 ultrasound specialists due to a constant teaching programme in this particular field.

Regarding 2008 Euroson in Timişoara, we have done our bes; we have been working towards this for months and years, but now is "the moment of truth". We hope we have succeeded in organizing a successful scientific meeting, providing many useful scientific updates, as well as memories of unforgettable evenings spent together with colleagues and friends. Those days that I have dreamt about for years, May 31st- June 3rd 2008, will prove if the hard work will be interesting to our European and Romanian participants or not. Of course, there will be some problems but our intentions are clear…to please as many participants as possible, possibly even all of them.

The *great challenge* for Romanian ultrasonography has arrived. We hope we shall achieve in organizing a scientific meeting at least at the same level as those before us and, maybe even surpass one or two. You, the participants, will be our judges!

We want to give special thanks to all those who helped organize this meeting. We hope that we can succeed in fulfilling everybody's expectations.

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