Message from the ESCMID President

Dear ESCMID members, Colleagues, and Friends,

This year, for the first time, we did not have a physical assembly of members due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The Executive Committee organized a “virtual” assembly that had a great rate of participation, and we thank you for being so active in the society during these difficult times. The COVID-19 pandemic is still a great problem around the World, and ESCMID is fully committed to provide answers to the questions raised by this new disease.

To this aim, the Executive Committee has organized regular teleconferences with our Affiliated Societies to discuss in real-time the most burning questions raised by the pandemic. We have also promoted new communication and education channels, in particular through the organization of weekly Webinars, to discuss the most important and controversial aspects of SARS-CoV-2 infection. Of course, the Society will continue to implement collaborative networks between scientific societies in the fields of clinical microbiology and infectious diseases from different nations, both within and outside of Europe.

Of course, in these difficult times, we must adapt our regular activities. As 2020 continues, ESCMID is committed to online delivery of educational material, to enable learning even in these times when face-to-face meetings are not possible or practical. We hope that in the future, we will be able to resume our regular schedule of conferences and educational events, but it is of utmost importance to us that we continue our mission to promote the latest science.

The ultimate goal of these ESCMID efforts will be to strengthen the role of clinical microbiologists and infectious disease specialists at the European level, particularly important to manage infections due to new or emerging pathogens.

We can look back on two very successful years, and look forward to a bright future ahead. We hope that these new initiatives will continue to improve the accessibility of the fantastic science being undertaken by our members. We are looking forward to seeing you at future ESCMID events, whether it is online or in person.

Finally, we would like to thank Evelina Tacconelli and Mario Poljak, who are leaving the Executive Committee, for the incredible and fantastic work they have done for the Society in several years, conceiving and implementing important projects that have become integral parts of the Society. A wholehearted thank you Evelina and Mario!

Maurizio Sanguinetti
ESCMID President