

Dear Manuel and other friends and colleagues of the former ECTS ICMG!

I would first of all like to congratulate Manuel on his election as President of the new organisation, the ECTS Medicine Association. The new Association will be in good hands with Manuel as President and the other officers and members of the Executive Board to help him. It is an excellent team.

Secondly, I would like to thank all members for their contributions to the life and work of the ECTS ICMG since its beginning in the far off days of 1989. It is a tribute to the interest of the Medical Schools in student exchange and its associated activities that the Group has been so active and successful over the last 15 years. I am proud to have been part of its development and to have acted as its Chairman since the meeting in Berlin. I look forward to seeing the Association grow and prosper in the coming years.

Thirdly, I would like to put on record my warmest thanks to all the Chairmen and members of the various Steering Committees since the Group's beginnings for their hard work in running the affairs of the Group, which has sometimes not been easy.

Fourthly, I would like also to record my deep gratitude to the members of the last Steering Committee of the Group for their enormous help to me during my Chairmanship. Without the contributions of Ulrike Arnold, Robert Snipes, Karel van Liempt, Maria Rosa Fenoll-Brunet, Pavel Kucera and Jorgen Hedemark Poulsen, none of what has been done for the Group over the last few years would have been possible. We worked extremely well as a team! It is great to see that both Karel and Pavel are on the Executive Board of the Association - some continuity from the previous Group is important.

I look forward to seeing you all at the next annual meeting, wherever it is, as an ordinary member!

Very best wishes

Tim Jones

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