

Milan, 13th November 2017

Dear all,

Over the last few years EUGA has grown and changed its structure. Almost three years ago we started the activity of the first EUGA committees. At that time the Educational and Scientific committees were a unique entity, chaired by Jan-Paul Roovers. This committee had to design the scientific program of our annual meeting, organize educational activities throughout Europe, and contribute to the ambition of EUGA to be one of the leading international societies.

One year ago the board of EUGA decided to split the educational and scientific committee in a scientific committee and an educational committee. The main reason was to engage with more members in an active role, but another important reason was that collaboration between EUGA and industry in educational activities would be more transparent, and thus constructive, if scientific committee members would not be involved.

JP Roovers was asked to chair the scientific committee and Montserrat Espunas was asked to chair the education committee. Because of his scientific interest in the development and safe introduction of new surgical techniques, JP Roovers has a constructive working relationship with industrial partners, which may be beneficial to EUGA's ambition related to education. However, as chair of the scientific committee, involvement in educational programs in collaboration with industry may be interpreted as a conflict of interest, which would be undesirable both for JP Roovers personally and for EUGA.

For this reason, in complete agreement and harmony, the board of EUGA feels that JP Roovers would be a great member of the educational committee, where he could cooperate with Montserrat Espuna in promoting our educational activities. The board has also asked JP Roovers, to candidate himself as the new Educational committee chair for the next term.

We both thought that it was important to clarify this situation, and avoid misinterpretation of the move from scientific to education committee. JP Roovers has led the scientific committee with great passion and we are convinced that the new situation will bring more dynamic to our Society.

Best Regards,

Stefano Salvatore
EUGA President



Jan-Paul Roovers
Chair of EUGA Scientific Committee



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