

Madrid, January 10th, 2023

Dear Members,

I am delighted to write to you on behalf of the new Board of Directors of ASEICA for the next two years. I am particularly excited to start this journey as President of the Association, precisely when ASEICA is going to celebrate no less than its 40th anniversary!

Our starting point is really exciting. ASEICA has become a reference in the promotion and defense of research in cancer, and in general, of R&D in this country. This has been possible thanks to your support and the voluntary efforts of the Boards of Directors that have preceded us. In this context, let me thank the previous president, **Luis-Paz Ares**, for his determination in generating synergies between clinical and basic areas, especially via the creation of **ASEICA-Med** and **ASEICA-Aprende/Learning**. I fully share this integrative vision of ASEICA, and am lucky to continue counting on Luis Paz-Ares as Past-President.

In this journey, I am also fortunate to be accompanied by **Rafael López** as the new Vicepresident/President-Elect. The team is completed by **Toni Celià Terrasa**, **Ana Cuenda**, **Ignacio Durán**, **Gema Moreno-Bueno**, **Aleix Prat**, **Susana Puig**, **Patricia Sancho** and **Miguel Sanmamed**, as well as **Ana Monfort-Vengut** (the latter elected as an independent representative of young investigators). Thanks to the recently approved bylaws, we will also have a Senate as a consulting body. This Senate will be composed of former presidents such as **Xosé Bustelo**, one of the great promoters of ASEICA with whom I have had the privilege of working in the last six years.

Perhaps the most direct way to summarize our future action plans is to answer a fundamental question: **Why is ASEICA necessary?** Primarily, because our professional career as cancer researchers in this country continues to be a hurdles race (of financing, infrastructure and bureaucracy, among others). ASEICA will strive to propose alternatives to the corresponding stakeholders. A fundamental objective will continue to be to improve the competitiveness of research personnel in the initial stages of their career. It has been a pleasure to witness the development of teams for the support of pre-doctoral, post-doctoral and young principal investigators in **ASEICA-Joven/Youth**. Their meeting at our last International ASEICA Congress in Santiago de Compostela was an example of enthusiasm and commitment that we all must follow. I encourage you to participate in the multiple workshops, mentoring actions, *Meet-the-Expert* interactive talks and other training activities of this important area of ASEICA.

The **ASEICA-Women** team continues in its irreducible commitment to "step into action" to contribute to breaking glass ceilings that still limit us in the field. The events around #CONÓCELAS are inspiring other collectives on how to promote new scientific vocations and how to get society to discover and appreciate the relevance of our female researchers. Participate in the leadership workshops, discussion panels and collaborative networks, regardless of whether you are women or men, since gender barriers can only be overcome if we work together.

Regarding **ASEICA-Med**, it is being a pleasure to see how this new area is attracting professionals who are already, or will be, leaders in very different fields of clinical research in oncology. Its recent Retreat, held also at the ASEICA congress, showed also energy and enthusiasm. A report with concrete proposals on how to protect, value and promote research in the context of a busy clinics will be made public soon. Growth plans through this group also include collaborations with the

recently formed **ASEICA-Aprende/Learning**. This area has a Specialization Diploma in Translational Oncology underway for professionals interested in the molecular bases of cancer and its treatment.

A consideration that affects all ASEICA areas is that science advances in multidisciplinary teams. In this new period we will reinforce **interactions with national collaborative groups**, including, but not limited to, CIBERONC, Conexión Cáncer (CSIC), SEOM, FESEO and others. We will also pay particular attention to **strengthening ASEICA's international presence**, through associations of researchers abroad and European and American entities such as EACR, AACR and ASPIC, with whom we already collaborate. We will also emphasize new memberships. **ASEICA-Communication** will participate in all these areas, further internationalizing its field of action through our Newsletter and actions in different media and social networks. We will also promote communication to make accessible and understandable advances in cancer research to patients and the general public.

ASEICA is a non-profit organization. Therefore, we will intensify contacts with individuals, entities and companies that allow us to develop our activities in an independent way. In this sense, our sincerest gratitude to the solidarity initiatives MasQueUnTrail-Alcoi and the FERO Foundation, which for several years have allowed us to award research grants to promising early researchers in oncology.

This letter is getting lengthy, because as you can see, ASEICA is in full swing. Just two more messages before closing. The first is for colleagues who leaving us from the past Board of Directors. **María Caffarel** and **Veronica Torrano** for their relentless effort to launch ASEICA-Young and for always being generously willing to participate in ASEICA-Women and other ASEICA actions. Also, of course, to **Roger Gomis** for contributing to ASEICA from the General Secretary and, previously, in ASEICA-Communication. My final message is, again, to you: we are already 1400 members, but we believe we can/should be useful to many more. We encourage you to act as ambassadors of an "ASEICA around the world".

We will keep you informed of our progress and of the events around the anniversary of the constitution of ASEICA. The final closing act, to which we already invite you, will be the Extraordinary International Congress that we will organize in Madrid from November 14-16. We would like to celebrate this "40 and counting" with the whole ASEICA family.

For any suggestions, do not hesitate to contact me at Presidencia@aseica.es

Best regards

Marisol Soengas
President, ASEICA