

Application for Chairman of the ETPN Working Group Nanotherapeutics & Targeted Delivery

Dear ETPN members,

I am running for the position as the Chairman of the Working Group Nanotherapeutics and Targeted Delivery, in which I have been Vice Chair since 2019, and I do this with a future vision for ETPN that is coordinated with Team Ray Schiffelers (Team RS).

In 2019 Ruth Schmid recommended me to apply to the WG Nanotherapeutics group as a Vice Chair as she would run as the EXBO Chair and would not be as involved in the Nanotherapeutics WG as she had previously been. Thus, I came to the Nanomedicine Europe and ETPN General assembly in 2019 with relatively little knowledge of ETPN. However, I shortly discovered that this was not a regular conference, this was a very open community, short of a family, where everyone knows everyone. It was evident that the agenda of most members was to network, find new collaborators and expand the nanomedicine community and realize its potential. I met many new fascinating and brilliant people and ended up writing an application together with one of the scientists I met.

As the general assembly was over and the WG gathered, I met with Matthieu Germain (Chair), Su Metcalfe (Vice Chair) and Giovanni Tosi (Vice Chair) for the first time. We had a larger meeting with the members of the Nanotherapeutics WG and collected information and opinions from them. We found that we need to increase member benefits, preferably by utilizing our online platform for dissemination of results from the WG.

One major discussion point during the conference was an opinion paper by Prof. Kinam Park (editor of Chief for Journal of Controlled Release at the time) titled "The beginning of the end of the nanomedicine hype". We felt that Prof. Park's pessimistic view of the future of nanomedicine needed an official rebuttal from ETPN and WG Nanotherapeutics and WG Characterization started to collect data and assemble an answer. The opinion paper "Delivering the power of nanomedicine to patients today" was an important output of the WG Nanotherapeutics and ETPN and was published in October 2020 in the Journal of Controlled Release. It has in relatively short time been cited 50 times and its publication coincided with the imminent approval of the first two SARS-CoV-2 vaccines that also happened to be nanoparticle based. I believe that we are currently living in a time when the true breakthrough of nanomedicine will occur, and it is extremely exciting to be part of the nanomedicine and ETPN community during this time.

Another large breaking point currently occurring is the shift from Horizon 2020 to Horizon Europe. This shift is transforming the funding landscape for transnational European research and exploration projects, and it is still not fully clear how it will affect, what in Horizon 2020 was considered Key Enabling Technologies, such as nanomedicine. We already know that big collaborative projects in the future should be cross-KET based, but how to best utilize the funding mechanisms remains to be seen. During the next two years we in Team RS believe that guiding our members through Horizon Europe and maximizing its members success rate will be one of our most important contribution to the platform. In WG Nanotherapeutics we will focus on providing our members with the most relevant information and to broker events that will enable the formation of strong collaborations to be formed with high success rate of its applications.

ETPN has had a huge impact on the EU funding mechanisms, and we have seen our suggestions being adopted almost word by word by the European Commission (EC). During the coming years, lobbying for its members, and promoting solutions to medical challenges based on nanomedicine together with other key enabling technologies to the EC will be one of our most important activities as Horizon Europe takes shape.

I sincerely hope that you will consider my application and the joint effort of Team RS to pursue ETPN and its members interests.

Yours Sincerely



Andreas Åslund