

Dear Colleague,

It gives me great pleasure to announce the dates of MEN 2012, the XIII International Workshop on Multiple Endocrine Neoplasia, which will be held over September 5th-8th, 2012 in Liège, Belgium. This bi-annual meeting is now a major established event on the calendar for all those interested in research and treatment of multiple endocrine neoplasias. As Chairman of the Local Organising Committee, I want to invite you to the MEN 2012 Workshop and ask that you note this important date in your calendar. Interest is growing world-wide in the diagnosis and treatment of rare/orphan conditions, which has added ever-greater impetus to our International Workshops, as these conditions exemplify the challenges of recognition, diagnosis and management of rare diseases.

For MEN 2012 in Liège, we are currently designing a program that is enlightening and informative, thereby providing attendees with a comprehensive update on medical consensus and controversy in the field of multiple endocrine neoplasias. We will consider in depth the molecular genetics and clinical impacts of MEN1 and MEN2, in addition to providing new insights into MEN4 and other emerging syndromes. In particular the MEN 2012 Workshop will include a symposium on appropriate genetic testing in patients with pituitary tumours, an area that is developing rapidly due to the multitude of clinical conditions (MEN1, Carney complex, FIPA) that must be considered and knowledge derived in recent years from testing programs for the *MEN1* and *AIP* genes. Also we will be putting the spotlight on some of the more unusual and aggressive features of MEN syndromes, with a featured mini-symposium on parathyroid carcinoma, among others to be announced. To particularly encourage the attendance of young investigators, we will be supporting submission of abstracts/posters in both the basic sciences and those that are clinical in nature, which can also include difficult and challenging cases/kindreds.

Liège is a well connected and friendly city that is easily reached by road, rail and air, and the facilities of the Palais de Congres are well tailored to the requirements of our specialised Workshop. As a city, Liège is warm and welcoming, with ample and increasing hotel space, local and international food and culture and serves as a relaxed backdrop against which to renew acquaintances and develop new collaborations.

I will be in contact in the near future with the first official preliminary program for MEN 2012 and to open registration. In the meantime, however, I would like to give you the opportunity of now making suggestions for the program, so that the content can best reflect the needs and interests of attendees.

Albert

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