

## **Interview with Dr Robert Klamroth, new EAHAD President**

**For the few who may not know you, could you tell us a bit about yourself?**

My name is Robert Klamroth and I am working at the at the Vivantes Klinikum im Friedrichshain in Berlin, Germany. I started in coagulation disorders and haemophilia 25 years ago, in 1996. It was not love at first sight, but I got more and more familiar with the scientific aspects and I grew to love the field over the time. I eventually became Head of the Department of Internal Medicine Angiology and Coagulation disorders and Director of the Comprehensive Care Haemophilia Treatment Centre and the Haemostasis and Thrombosis Unit.

**Prior to becoming President, you were a member of the EAHAD Executive Committee for a number of years. What motivated you to get involved in the beginning?**

I had always a lot of friends and colleagues in Europe, with whom I was involved in scientific projects and publications. I felt it was natural to collaborate with people from all over Europe and that's why I joined EAHAD and its Executive Committee.

**What do you hope to achieve during your two-year tenure as President?**

EAHAD has a lot of projects initiated by the past presidents, which I plan to continue. Currently, the main ones are on gene therapy, and the certification and audit project. Nevertheless, I want EAHAD to have more educational projects, besides our Annual Congress. I will start to implement a webinar series on diverse educational topics with lectures given by renowned scientists and colleagues from all over Europe.

**What do you think are the main challenges for the haemophilia and bleeding disorders healthcare community going forward?**

In Europe, we are more or less in a golden age of haemophilia treatment, with a lot of new therapeutic options. Our task is to educate and make these options applicable for all countries in Europe. Secondly, we have to support education in the whole world. Many patients are still not treated very well,

mainly due to financial reasons. We need to focus on the patients with rare bleeding disorders.

### **What would EAHAD's role be to address those challenges?**

EAHAD has a close cooperation with the European Haemophilia Consortium. Together, we can support the members of our community by producing new educational content, working on the development of guidelines, supporting with regulatory issues (for example, centre certification, gene therapy) and making sure their voices are heard. I hope EAHAD will play a major role in tackling many of these tasks in the future.

### **You were part of the EAHAD 2021 and EAHAD 2022 Organising Committees. Both congresses were virtual due to the Covid-19 pandemic. With EAHAD 2023 hopefully having once again a face-to-face component, what is your advice to Prof. Michael Makris, President of our EAHAD 2023 Congress, taking place in Manchester, UK next February?**

Mike Makris was a member of the Organising Committee for both events as well and he's very experienced with organising an EAHAD Congress. I think the main challenge will be the "hybrid" aspect of future meetings, how to combine online access and face to face interaction. I hope a lot of people will come to Manchester for surely a very interesting scientific programme. But we should already think about content accessibility for delegates who would not be able to travel. It'll be a challenge but I'm quite sure that under the guidance of Mike Makris and thanks to other distinguished colleagues involved, we will have another great EAHAD Congress.

### **Finally, for a more light-hearted question: What do you like to do in your free time? Do you have any hobbies?**

I like to travel and I like to write. I also like classical music very much. I play the piano and the violin - unfortunately I don't have enough time to practice anymore! But I think it's the traveling that I like most. I have four children. They live all over Europe and I love to go and visit them.