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Stahel, R A

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Introduction

Dear Colleagues,

The organization of educational activities is one of the main aims of any scientific society and a fundamental priority of ESMO. Education maximizes professional potential and provides the foundation for decisions and actions. Educational activities offer a platform to exchange information and test theories with peers. Medical education is an integral part of a physician's career, and continued medical education is the only guarantee to regular updates on new techniques and practices which will lead to medical advances.

Once again, we are proud to publish an Educational Book containing the articles written in support of presentations given during the Congress educational sessions. Designed by the ESMO Educational Committee, these 14 Educational and 8 Challenge Your Expert sessions cover a wide range of important topics of the moment. Every effort has been made not only to maintain, but also to improve, the quality of the ESMO educational program and this book, a supplement to *Annals of Oncology*, will be a valuable reference source.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the invited speakers, the members of the ESMO Educational Committee and the staff at the ESMO Head Office for their contribution and dedication to this program. In particular, I thank Dirk Schrijvers, Jan Vermorken and Branko Zakotnik for their meticulous editing of this Educational Book.

On behalf of ESMO, I wish all participants at the 33rd ESMO Congress an enriching and successful meeting.

Rolf A. Stahel
Chair, ESMO Educational Committee