

Letter from the President



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Dear EAHIL Colleagues,

Many sad events took place after my last letter, published in the *JEAHIL* first issue of 2020. Most European countries were affected by the Covid-19 pandemic, and many of you had to face the challenge imposed by lockdown and by having your libraries closed and working from home. By the time I am writing this letter the situation is improving, at least in Europe, and we are slowly coming back to our normal lives. Our association has been active during this period and the Board met online to carry on our usual tasks.

As you know 2020 is an election year and I wish to provide you with some news about this process.

Elections for President and Board

Voting for the EAHIL President and Executive Board positions from 2021 will take place from **8-19 June 2020**. There is one candidate standing for President and ten candidates standing for four executive positions in the EAHIL Board. The candidates with the highest numbers of votes will be elected to an executive position. The EAHIL Board normally has two non-executive co-opted members, so the two unelected candidates with the highest numbers of votes will be invited to take on these non-executive positions.

The candidates and their election statements may be seen on the EAHIL website at the following URL: <http://eahil.eu/board-candidates-election-statements/>

It is particularly important to participate in the elections, since EAHIL is a democratic organisation, relying on active participation by members. In order to vote in this year's elections, your membership record must be active. So, please, update your membership record and your e-mail address at the following URL: <https://fd8.formdesk.com/EAHIL/membership> .

Thank you for your participation in the voting process.

Elections for Council members

The nominations and voting for Council members for each country where there are vacancies will be in late Summer and Autumn. The new Councillors will begin their terms in January 2021. You are strongly encouraged to consider becoming a Councillor for your country or suggesting possible candidates among your colleagues.

17th EAHIL 2020 Conference in Lodz, Poland

All of you are probably aware, from the EAHIL website and from EAHIL social media, that the Local Organising Committee for the 17th EAHIL Conference in Lodz, Poland, decided to deliver the Conference as **an online event**. The virtual EAHIL 2020 Conference will take place on **16-18 November 2020** and will replace the Conference that was going to be held by the Information and Library Center of the Medical University of Lodz in Vienna House Andel's Lodz conference hotel. Both EAHIL Board and Council meetings will be online, while remote participation and voting for the General Assembly will be organized, at the same time of the Conference in November.

All the information about the virtual Conference can be found here:

- <https://eahil2020.wordpress.com/2020/06/09/eahil2020-online>
- https://twitter.com/EAHIL_2020/status/1237722899852734466

As you will remember, the main theme of the 17th Conference was and will remain Open Science, with a focus on topics such as **open access, professional collaboration, and innovation**.

Open science was also the theme of an interesting workshop, that took place on December 3, 2019 in Rome, in the Italian Ministry of Health auditorium. It was organised by Bibliosan, a network collecting the libraries of the main biomedical Italian agencies. The title of the Bibliosan workshop was: “**Open science and Data Treatment: possible models, good practices, critical issues**”. Librarians, publishers and scientists were involved in the discussion. Among the participants, several active Italian EAHIL members. At this link, you can find the program and the presentations, just in case you want to get inspired for the next EAHIL conference: http://www.bibliosan.it/ftp/ws2019/ws_03_12_2019.html .



Fig. 1. Mauro Mazzocut and Valeria Scotti (Italian EAHIL Council members) with the EAHIL President Maurella Della Seta, attending the Bibliosan Workshop “Open Science and data treatment”, 3 December 2019, Rome, Italy.

Unfortunately, all the presentations were given in Italian, except from one, given by a publisher, I hereby translate the titles for you:

- 1) What is the purpose of Open Science?
- 2) How to define and implement a research data management policy
- 3) The Open Science world and the Librarian role
- 4) Research data in Padua University: sharing and reusing research data
- 5) Open research: a view from *BMJ*
- 6) Open Science in action
- 7) Repository and Medical Research Hospitals: an experience
- 8) Open data: a scientist perspective

I take this opportunity to send my best wishes for the upcoming Summer holidays to all EAHIL members.

Maurella