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**Dear EABCT representatives**

**Submission options**

The pandemic continues to impact on our personal and our professional lives and since March 2020 we have seen the cancellation of most if not all national and international conferences and Congresses. Many congresses that were also scheduled to take place during the first half of 2021 have also decided to postpone to 2022 or switch to an online only format.

We have made the decision to run the EABCT2021 Congress in Belfast as a hybrid congress and this will allow delegates to choose to attend in person or register to participate in the congress online. We are fortunate that the venue for the congress, the International Congress Centre in Belfast, Northern Ireland has already developed an online platform that will enable delegates to feel part of the congress even if they can't attend in person

However, after a year in which we have had almost no opportunity to meet colleagues from within our own countries and from across Europe many of you are looking forward to the time that we can return to a proper congress. Teaching, presenting and learning online has been important to us all over the last nine months but it is our hope that as many people as possible will to be able to meet in Belfast next September and experience everything that a live congress has to offer both academically and socially.

We appreciate that many people will remain unsure about the future given the uncertainty about the course of the pandemic over the next few months and this may impact on delegates making a decision about whether to submit and attend the Congress.

For these reasons we are inviting delegates to submit their presentations to be delivered either in person or remotely. When we open registration early in 2021 delegates will also be able to choose if they want to register to attend in person or as remote attendees. As the course of the pandemic becomes clearer delegates will also be able to switch between presenting and/or attending in person or remotely.

We will work flexibly with presenters and delegates to ensure that we deliver an excellent EABCT Congress and one that is fitting for the celebration of EABCT's 50th anniversary in 2021.

The EABCT2021 Scientific Committee

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