

NEW YEAR 2022

GREETINGS FROM THE ICA PRESIDENT

Dear colleagues



At the start of this New Year I wish you, your relatives and your institutions good health and all success in 2022. In 2021 Covid-19 continued to challenge all our institutions' activities but we can now look forward to a return to normal business protected by vaccines and the new drugs. The ICA Board Committees and ICA's Standing Committees were once again largely forced to hold online events in 2021. We have learnt the advantages of online events with greater participation and less cost to the participants, but, of course, there is the loss of the informal but valuable opportunity to network in face to face events. With the experience of hosting online we will benefit from mixing the formats for future ICA events.

The opportunity to meet face to face was much appreciated by the participants of the ICA Rectors and Deans Forum held in October at KU Leuven, Belgium. The Forum addressed **The Role of Life Science Universities in Transitioning to Climate Neutrality and Open Science**. The Rectors and Deans present personally signed a **Communiqué** to the leaders of COP26 pledging their commitment to net zero in education, research, societal collaboration and campus operations. I presented the Communiqué at a COP26 side event, and it has been further spread via various media.

The ICA General Assembly, held on 20 October, approved the new **ICA Strategy towards 2030** developed by the ICA Board following the deliberations of the ICA Task Force. The Task Force was established in 2020 to advise the Board on the enhancement of ICA's relevance and influence in Brussels and across Europe, and so enhance ICA's relevance for you, our members. The achievement of the expectations of the new strategy requires the strengthening ICA's resources and the secretariat.

The ICA Board Committees focusing on education in the life sciences were active in 2021 although much constrained by the limitations of online events. The Committees held an online Colloquium in May focusing on **Engaging students with sustainable entrepreneurial education in your curriculum**, supported the **3rd Summer School focusing on the Circular Bioeconomy** held online in September and a series of Webinars held in November focusing on the **Status and Future of Bioeconomy Education – learning from EU projects**. The **final conference of the INTRINSIC Project** was also held in November.

I recently attended an EU Commission meeting to discuss their **Scoping Report** for the reform of research assessment to give stronger emphasis on the societal impact of research, on team work in research, and on qualitative assessment of excellence and less on metrics. This is also in line with our discussions on Open Science at the ICA Forum and I communicated our findings to the Commission.

Looking ahead – to 2022

The Board is currently planning the ICA Rectors and Deans Forum to be held on Thursday 20 and Friday 21 October 2022. The ICA Board Committees are also planning face to face Colloquia for May.

Applicants for the position of ICA Secretary General are being interviewed and an appointment will be made early this year. This appointment will accelerate the implementation of ICA's new strategy, establishing the ICA Europe Board Committee, closer collaboration with European institutions, intensify relations with the Standing Committees and strengthening business intelligence to you, our members.

The ICA Board wishes the ICA Standing Committees every success for their events during 2022, as together we support all our members in fulfilling their mission. Hubert Hasenauer (ICA Vice President, BOKU, Vienna) and I look forward to leading ICA in executing the new ICA Strategy in the coming year.

Arthur Mol

President of ICA and Rector Magnificus, Wageningen University & Research