EDITORIAL COMMENT

A new chapter for Central European Urology. The foundation and mission of the Central European Urological Society

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For the Austrian Urological Society, the Polish Urological Association, the Czech Urological Society, the Hungarian Society of Urology, the Slovak Urological Society, the Romanian Association of Urology, the Slovenian Urological Association, and the Croatian Society of Urology

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Great regions are defined not only by geography, but by what they choose to build together. Central Europe has always been such a region: intellectually vibrant, historically rich, culturally diverse, and scientifically ambitious. In urology, it is home to proud traditions, remarkable talent, and a shared commitment to improving patient care. For many years, this strength has been evident in leading institutions, national societies, and the many professional bonds connecting colleagues across borders. What has been missing was not excellence, but a common institutional home: a structure capable of uniting this energy, sustaining it, and transforming it into a lasting force.

With the founding of the Central European Urological Society (CEUS), that home now exists.

The creation of CEUS marks more than the establishment of a new professional society. It reflects a moment of confidence, maturity, and shared ambition. It gives institutional form to an idea that has grown steadily over time: that urologists who share a region, face similar challenges, and strive toward better care are stronger when they come together – not sporadically, but purposefully; not only for a meeting, but around a mission.

That spirit has long found expression in the Central European Meeting (CEM). What began as a scientific gathering gradually evolved into something

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far more meaningful. The CEM became a forum where rigorous debate is matched by openness, where ideas can be challenged without hierarchy, and where collaboration grows through repeated encounter, trust, and mutual respect. It became a place where national pride and regional solidarity do not compete, but enrich one another. It became a meeting in which a resident presenting a first poster could stand beside a senior professor and feel not distance, but opportunity. In time, it became more than a congress. It became a community.

And, like every genuine community shaped by trust, continuity, and common purpose, it came to feel like a family.

CEUS was founded to give that family permanence, direction, and ambition equal to its promise. Its mission is clear: to serve as the leading transnational platform for state-of-the-art education, training, and research in urology across Central Europe, while actively empowering the next generation of urological leaders. This is not ceremonial language. It is a statement of intent. It affirms a future in which excellence in our region is not fragmented, occasional, or dependent on isolated effort, but connected, visible, sustainable, and shared.

The future of urology in Central Europe will not be shaped by individual distinction alone. It will be shaped by our ability to connect talent across borders, to learn from one another openly, to raise standards collectively, and to create structures within which younger colleagues can flourish. Strong academic cultures do more than celebrate achievement: they cultivate it. They do more than preserve tradition: they renew it. Above all, they understand that investment in the next generation is not merely generous, but essential.

This conviction lies at the heart of CEUS.

The CEM remains its beating heart – the place where vision is translated into action. Its purpose extends far beyond the transfer of knowledge in the narrow sense. It is a platform for exchange of experience, continuous learning, capacity building, and leadership development. These aims are not abstract. They are present in every session, every debate, every question from the audience, every moment of mentorship, and every conversation that continues after the formal programme has ended. The value of a great meeting is measured not only by what is presented from the podium, but by what it sets in motion afterward: a collaboration, a study, a friendship, a new sense of direction for a younger colleague.

One of the clearest expressions of this vision is the role of the eight Young Innovators, one from each member country. Their presence is not symbolic, nor is it decorative. It is foundational. As co-architects of the CEM programme, they embody one of the defining principles of CEUS: that leadership must be fostered early, entrusted sincerely, and shared meaningfully. In this sense, CEUS is building more than a society for the present. It is building continuity for the future. It is creating a culture in which younger colleagues are not asked merely to participate, but invited to shape what comes next.

From this vision emerge the strategic goals of CEUS: to provide a vibrant platform for regional exchange and postgraduate education; to improve urological healthcare across Central Europe; to promote brain gain and help counter brain drain; to establish mentorship structures that cultivate future leaders; and to stimulate collaborative research driven by the energy and creativity of young members of our community. These are ambitious goals, but ambition is precisely what this moment requires. Our region deserves it. Our trainees deserve it. Our patients deserve it.

At the same time, the life of a scientific community cannot end when a meeting concludes. Ideas must travel further. They must be refined, challenged, recorded, and shared with the wider academic world. This is why the Central European Journal of Urology (CEJU) holds such an important place in the future of CEUS. CEJU is more than a peer-reviewed journal. It is one of the intellectual pillars of urology in our region. Over the years, it has provided a respected and credible platform through which important scientific work from Central Europe can reach an international readership. In doing so, it has given our region not only visibility, but voice. That contribution deserves explicit recognition. CEJU has become an essential bridge between scientific exchange and scientific legacy. It ensures that the ideas, debates, and discoveries presented at the Central European Meeting do not remain confined to the immediacy of the congress, but enter the enduring academic conversation. In this sense, the relationship between CEUS and CEJU is not merely institutional. It is deeply mission-driven. The meeting generates dialogue, debate, and discovery; the journal gives those efforts durability, reach, and scholarly impact. Together, they create a continuum linking bedside observation, scientific encounter, and published evidence. That partnership is both natural and indispensable.

The founding of CEUS therefore asks something of all of us. It asks us to think beyond borders without losing the richness of our national identities. It asks us to compete with pride, yet collaborate with generosity. It asks senior colleagues to mentor with intention, and younger colleagues to step

forward with confidence. Above all, it asks us to recognise that belonging matters. Science advances through evidence, but communities advance through trust. Careers grow through opportunity, but leadership grows through responsibility. Meetings create moments; societies create identity.

When that identity is built on excellence, collegiality, loyalty, and shared purpose, it becomes something greater than a professional network. It becomes a true academic family.

That is what CEUS can be – and what we believe it should become: a home for talent, a platform for progress, a school for leadership, a network for discovery, and a family for Central European urology.

The creation of CEUS is therefore also an invitation. It is an invitation to every urologist in our region who believes that progress is greater when it is shared. It is an invitation to every trainee seeking not only education, but also mentorship, purpose, and belonging. It is an invitation to every senior colleague who understands that true leadership is measured not only by personal accomplishment, but by the communities we strengthen and the people we elevate.

Let us build this society with courage, generosity, and conviction. Let us fill it with scientific rigour, fresh ideas, trust, mentorship, and ambition worthy of our region. Let us create a culture in which talented young colleagues do not feel they must leave in order to grow, but feel inspired to stay, to lead, and to shape the future from within. Let us show that Central Europe is not simply a region with a distinguished past, but one with a powerful future – a future it is ready to claim.

If we succeed, future generations will not look back on this moment as the formal creation of yet another society. They will see it as the moment Central European urology recognised its collective strength, embraced its shared responsibility, and chose to move forward together.

That is the opportunity before us.

That is the responsibility we share.

And that is the promise of CEUS.