

Statement of the Austrian Breast and Colorectal Cancer Study Group (ABCSG) Vice Presidents concerning Prof. Gnant's decision to temporarily put to rest his position as the President of the ABCSG.

Due to labour law related conflicts between Prof. Gnant and the Medical University of Vienna, Prof. Gnant on November 9th, 2018 has asked the Board of Directors / General Assembly of the ABCSG to accept the temporarily resting of his position as President of the ABCSG. The Board of Directors and the General Assembly have unanimously accepted this unforced suggestion and decision of Prof. Gnant and it was decided that the four Vice Presidents of ABCSG will temporary cover all functions related to the role of the ABCSG President.

The Board of Directors of the ABCSG has uniformly expressed special recognition of the outstanding merits that Prof. Gnant has achieved for the ABCSG, its members, physicians and scientists as well as medical research during more than a decade of successful leadership.

In addition, the ABCSG Vice Presidents feel obliged to state that the legal conflicts of Prof. Gnant exclusively refer to his professional employment position at the Medical University of Vienna. There is no evidence whatsoever for any inconsistency concerning Prof. Gnant's role as President of the ABCSG, neither in regulatory affairs, nor concerning scientific integrity or economic aspects. The temporary hand-over of functions related to the ABCSG President does in no way affect the legal entity of ABCSG as a registered non-profit association. ABCSG will keep its members and partners in academia and science as well as industry informed about any developments related to the temporary assignment of the ABCSG President role. Meanwhile we will undertake all necessary efforts to successfully continue the more than 30 years of dedicated work of this research organization for the sake of our patients and science.

Assoc. Prof. Priv.-Doz. Dr. Marija Balic, MBA // Prim. Univ.-Prof. Dr. Richard Greil // Univ.-Prof. Dr. Raimund Jakesz // Univ.-Prof. Dr. Christian Marth