

Colleagues

At the start of this New Year I wish you, your relatives and your institutions all success in 2018. In 2018 we celebrate the 30th Anniversary of ICA and it gives me great pleasure as President to take ICA forward for the benefit of all ICA members to share experience and cooperate in new ventures within a wider Europe, and globally through ICA's engagement in [GCHERA](#). The ICA Board is currently leading two significant initiatives in this endeavour through two Board Committees, the ICA Bioeconomy Committee (ICA-Bio) and the Network for Innovation in Higher Education in the Life Sciences (ICA-Edu).



The most notable event of last year was our **7th ICA Rectors and Deans Forum** held in October and hosted by Université Catholique de Louvain with the theme ***Life Science Universities Deliver Impact in Addressing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)***. The [Keynote speakers](#) and panel members considered how life science universities should respond to the global drivers for change exemplified by the United Nations' SDGs. The interactive roundtable discussions considered how our curricula should change so that our graduates are active transformative agents for a more sustainable society. Secondly, how our Life Science Universities should provide leadership in the delivery of the SDGs through the governance of the university and engagement in policy development at national, regional and global levels. See the [Summary](#) of these discussions prepared by Alex Evans, our Vice President

The 3rd ICA-Edu Colloquium 2017 ***Delivering graduates to meet the challenges of the sustainable development goals – embedding the development of ethical and sustainable values in the curriculum*** was held at the University of Zagreb from 13 to 14 June. The topics were introduced by keynote speakers followed by interactive roundtable discussions – see the [Colloquium presentations](#). ICA also joined with CEDIA in leading a conference in May ***Defining Agronomists' Professional Profiles and Agricultural and Life Science Degree Programmes***.

Looking ahead – events in 2018

The ICA Board is currently planning the **2018 ICA Rectors and Deans Forum** with the theme ***High Tech to Feed the World*** to be held on 25 and 26 October at Wageningen University and Research. I invite you to join us in celebrating the 30th Anniversary of ICA, a significant milestone, as we look forward during the Forum to the future role of Life Sciences Universities.

The **ICA Bioeconomy Committee (ICA-Bio)** is led by Josef Glössl, Vice Rector from BOKU. A Workshop, ***International Cooperation in Education and Training for Bioeconomy***, will be led with other contributors at the next ***Global Bioeconomy Summit*** to be held in Berlin from 18 to 20 April 2018 (www.gbs2018.com). Other activities are being planned for both ICA-Bio and ICA-Edu.

Full details of all these events and those of the ICA Standing Committees will be circulated to members and announced at www.ica-europe.info. The ICA Board wishes the ICA Standing Committees all success for their events during 2018, as together we support all our members in fulfilling their roles in education, research, innovation and outreach.

Marek S Szyndel

President of ICA and Warsaw University of Life Sciences

