

Candidate for the ESMRMB Board 2026

President-Elect

PD Dr. Francesco Santini, PhD, MRSE

University of Basel (Switzerland)
Basel Muscle MRI (BaMM)



Vision and Motivation for the role of President Elect of the ESMRMB

I'm proud to call the ESMRMB my scientific home, as a welcoming society that is dedicated to its members and open to innovative ideas. No other society has felt as open and inclusive as the ESMRMB. My vision for the future is one of a dynamic society, not dedicated to preserving the *status quo*, but to always bring innovation and fresh ideas, with particular attention to early career researchers. This will be based on three pillars.

The first pillar is scientific excellence in Europe. This is achieved by providing top-level education for physicists, radiographers, and clinicians, and also by providing exchange opportunities for the community, centered around our meetings, in-person workshops, and working group initiatives. Virtually, the ESMRMB is already an **open space for idea exchange** through the wiki, which has been one of my proudest personal projects.

The second pillar is support for new ideas. We will always be open to the input of our community, supporting **grassroot initiatives** such as member-organized workshops, community sessions in our Annual Meeting. These new ideas extend to the support of **Open and Reproducible Science**, a field that has far matured since our first initiatives and it's now more important than ever before.

The third pillar is collaboration with the other professions in the European radiological and medical space, through our sister societies: the ESR for radiologists, the EFRS for radiographers, the EFOMP, the EuSOMII. Strengthening the representation of these societies in our Congress Planning Committee has been one of my missions as Program Chair in 2025, and it's vastly reciprocated. I have strong ties with these societies, having served in multiple committees and subcommittees.

But, most importantly, I will continue putting **you, the ESMRMB members, front and center** in the decisions of the Society. This is our community, and the ESMRMB is here to help us all achieve our goals, **together**.

Biosketch

PD Dr. Francesco Santini is currently a **Research Group Leader** at the University of Basel (Switzerland), leading the **Basel Muscle MRI (BaMM)** research group. His main focus is **functional and quantitative muscle imaging** and **deep-learning-based image processing**, with a strong vision of translating advanced methods into clinical practice. A strong **open science** and **reproducible research** advocate, he develops open hardware and software solutions, from acquisition to analysis. He graduated in electrical engineering at the University of Florence in 2005, before moving to Switzerland for his

PhD in Biophysics at the University of Basel in 2009 with focus on MR pulse sequence design and applications for angiography and 4D flow imaging. He then worked on quantitative cardiac imaging with an appointment at the Cardiocentro Lugano (Switzerland). Between 2023 and 2025 he held the appointment of **Advanced Visiting Fellow** at the **University of Sheffield** (UK) with special focus on federated deep learning. Since 2015 he is a certified **MR Safety Expert** by the American Board of MR Safety (among the first in Europe).

Roles within the ESMRMB

Teaching

Since 2008, he has participated as faculty in multiple ESMRMB and ESCR courses on **cardiac MR imaging**, and he has been part of the faculty of the **ESMRMB Practical MR Physics** online course between 2020 and 2024.

ESMRMB Board

In 2023, he joined the Board of the ESMRMB as **Membership, Media, and Marketing Officer**. As Officer, he created the **ESMRMB Wiki**, and extended the criteria of trainee membership to include all students, regardless of age.

He is currently serving his third year in the ESMRMB Board as **Education officer**. In this role, he is supervising the running courses, strengthening the ties with ESOR to offer basic MR education to clinicians and MR Safety, and planning in-person and virtual courses for the ESMRMB members.

ESMRMB events

The strongest involvement in the ESMRMB society started in **2021**, when he co-founded and co-chaired the first **MRI Together** workshop on Open, Reproducible, and Inclusive Science, organized within the ESMRMB.

He has served in the **Congress Planning Committee** of the ESMRMB Annual Meeting for the 2023 and 2024 meetings, and he organized the **2025 Annual Meeting in Marseille as Program Chair**. Under his leadership, many innovative ideas were introduced: **Member Sessions, Registered Reports and Project Abstracts, Poster Voting**, and the **ESMRMB Escape Room**.

He is currently in the CPC for the 2026 meeting, as Past Chair and Education Officer.

MAGMA

He is currently Associate Editor for MAGMA, the official journal of the Society.

Representation of the ESMRMB in other societies

In 2022 until 2025, he joined the **ESR Quality, Safety, and Standards Committee** representing the ESMRMB, and, from there, he **founded and chaired** the **MR Safety and Quality Subcommittee**, which has since become a permanent organ of the ESR society. He is currently representing the ESMRMB in the Education Committee of the ESR and in the ESOR steering committee.

Roles outside the ESMRMB

He has been in the leadership of the **Open and Reproducible Research** Study Group of the **ISMRM** from 2019 to 2023, and he is currently (since 2024) in the leadership of the **Musculoskeletal** Study Group of the **ISMRM**.