

# ACCREDITATION AND DESIGNATION

## EDITORIAL

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# Introduction by the Chairwoman



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Dear colleagues,

In recent years the treatment of cancer has developed into a multidisciplinary approach in which specialties from many disciplines, supported by wide array of technical facilities in various services, cooperate to provide optimal treatment.

Moreover, in Comprehensive Cancer Centres (CCCs), a close cooperation with various research groups and disciplines is a condition to perform successful translational research.

Individual professional expertise, both in research and treatment, will remain the cornerstone of the work; however a strong organisational structure is necessary.



As the successful organisation of a CCC is an important ingredient for optimal performance, there is a critical need for quality assurance of the Centres and the development of systems establishing the performance of Centres qualifying for international platforms and the success of their programmes.

In this view, the 7 Framework Programme EC funded Network of Excellence Eurocan Platform has selected the OECE Accreditation and Designation (A&D) Group to perform a quality assessment research project for CCCs in work-package 12 (WP12).

As a result of combined efforts between the OECE coordinating secretariat and Liaison Office headed by Claudio Lombardo, and in the frame of EurocanPlatform WP12 (quality assessment) and WP 14 (dissemination), the OECE Accreditation and Designation (A&D) Group is proud to release the First version of the OECE A&D Manual!

The OECE A&D Manual that your Cancer Centres will receive in a few days contains all the policies and procedures designed specifically to help all types of cancer Centres fulfil accreditation requirements.

This Manual is the product of the integrated Accreditation Programme and Designation project, which is offered to OECE Cancer Centres since September 2010 after approval during the OECE General Assembly in June 2010 (Budapest).

The detailed policies are designed to be easily adaptable for use by Centres of all sizes. Our OECE A&D team is available to assist with adaptation if necessary.

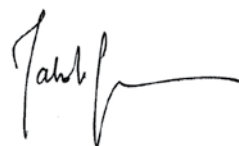
The A&D Manual tells you everything you need to know to prepare for your accreditation-designation site visit.

The OECE A&D Manual was written by the OECE A&D team who has the experience of the OECE A&D Programme for several years and over many OECE Cancer Centres.

On behalf of the group I thank our team for the huge work achieved to finalise this Manual !

We hope this Manual will support Cancer Centres in a successful A&D Programme!

Best wishes,



Mahasti Saghatichian

## OECI visits UK cancer centres in London

The 24th March 2011 saw an important meeting in London. Representatives of each of the three London Academic Health Science Centres, The Royal Marsden Hospital, The Christie NHS Foundation Trust in Manchester, Lancashire Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust and the OECI came together in a meeting to discuss how to raise awareness of the OECI by UK cancer centres. The meeting followed the explanatory visit of the Accreditation/Designation team to the Kings Health Partners Integrated Cancer Centre. Many thanks go to Prof. Richard Sullivan allowing us to use the facilities at Kings for the afternoon meeting.

There are five Academic Health Science Centres designated by the UK government, three in London, one in Oxford and one in Manchester, my own area. They bring together major hospitals and universities to integrate research, education and clinical services across the spectrum of healthcare and with the common theme of translating knowledge into real benefits for patients. Comprehensive Cancer Centres in the UK such as The Christie and The Royal Marsden of course have the same objectives with a focus on cancer care.

The coming together of senior leaders from these organisations with our immediate past OECI President Ulrik Ringborg, President elect Wim Van Harten, Chairwoman of our Accreditation and Designation Group Mahasti Saghatchian, Executive Programme Manager Henk Hummel and our Accreditation and Designation Coordinator Femke Boomsma gave a great opportunity to present the OECI to UK centres. Following excellent presentations there was a lively discussion about how the work of the OECI could be taken forward within the UK.

There was considerable interest in how the OECI could act as a platform for future collaborations and much discussion of the relationship between the OECI and the European Commission and Parliament. The need for collaboration and integration was particularly highlighted by Ulrik Ringborg with Wim van Harten setting the vision for the future of the OECI.

Special interest was generated by the Accreditation and Designation (A&D) programme presented by Mahasti Saghatchian. The additional value of the OECI accreditation over and above the national UK scheme, which is itself a comprehensive assessment at tumour group level was keenly debated. A frank discussion took place about how the UK system concentrates on comprehensive networks of care bringing together several institutions responsible for cancer care in a particular region typically covering between 1.5 and 3 million people rather than on single centres. It was shown how this sits well with the OECI approach.

A follow-up meeting later in the year is planned and it is anticipated that this will lead to an increased membership by UK centres of the OECI and participation in the A&D programme. I was pleased that there was such interest and will be working with the UK centres develop this further in the future.

**Dr Chris Harrison**

Manchester: Medical Director, The Christie NHS Foundation Trust  
London: Clinical Director (Cancer), NHS London



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## On 17 and 18 June 2011 the OEI organises the annual OEI Scientific Conference and General Assembly



The booklet including information and the programme of this events is already available on the Accreditation and Designation website: <http://oeci.selfassessment.nu/cms/node/108> and the conference website: <http://www.oeci-amsterdam2011.com/>

The NKI-AVL in Amsterdam is hosting the annual event. Therefore the President Elect and Director Organization and management in the NKI-AVL Wim van Harten has written an introduction for this newsletter:

### Welcome to the OEI Scientific Conference

The objective of the OEI is to improve the quality of oncologic care and research in Europe with the aim to reduce mortality and morbidity related to cancer. The strategic priorities of the OEI in the coming years are to include a major part of its members into the accreditation designation programme and to add outcome measurement to this schedule. Furthermore it is important that the visibility of the OEI at European level improves and that the European commission not only supports the role of comprehensive cancer centres but, in combination with national stimulation programs, is prepared to consider contributing to sustainable financing for platforms of translational research in oncologic care.

In view of the increasing importance of organization and infrastructure in oncologic care and research, organizational quality is increasingly becoming an issue. In order to strengthen the operational structure that facilitates translational research and integrated care, OEI will focus on related issues. Such as the role and integration of molecular pathology , organising translational research and developing survivorship care.

The title of the 2011 Scientific Conference is "Organising Personalised Medicine in Oncology". This emphasizes that personalised medicine is an important development. Due to the complexity of multidisciplinary care, the infrastructure and expertise needed for translational research and medicine, it is important to additionally focus on organising personalized medicine.

For the 2011 Amsterdam Scientific Conference we put together a program which is covering a wide variety of topics, ranging from tumour service related, through translational infrastructure and organizational issues. We expect an audience of not only representatives of OEI members but also from many other interested organizations.

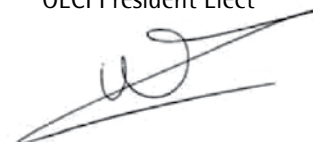
We think the offered programme is interesting and hope to meet a lot of participants in June in Amsterdam.

We are honoured to welcome you!

**Marco A. Pierotti**  
OEI President



**Wim van Harten**  
OEI President Elect



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## Handover of the first OECI Accreditation and Designation Certificates

During the General Assembly on June 18th (the day after the OECI Scientific Conference), the first institutes will receive the OECI Accreditation and Designation Certificate.

In the afternoon the different OECI Working Groups, including the Accreditation and Designation Group will present their activities and future plans.

Please find more information about the location and programme on: [www.oeci-amsterdam2011.com](http://www.oeci-amsterdam2011.com)



## E-tool workshop

The objective of the OECI is to improve the quality of oncologic care and research in Europe. On Wednesday 16 June 2011 the OECI Accreditation and Designation Group organises a workshop to demonstrate the electronic tool for self assessment and peer review. The tool contains a questionnaire related to the OECI Quality Standards for accreditation and a quantitative questionnaire.

Participation is free for OECI members and those interested from non-OECI member (cancer) institutes. Participants have a position in hospital management, scientists or quality staff.

For more information please visit our website: <http://oeci.selfassessment.nu/cms/node/109>

## Manual booklet

The new User Manual with the Accreditation and Designation Programme procedures is currently printed, as shown in the picture. OECI members will receive the binder. The Manual includes an overview and detailed description of the timelines of the programme, application criteria, overview of the costs, and the quality standards and quantitative items for designation and peer review.



## Become an OECI auditor: register now for the next training in October 2011

On Monday 3 and Tuesday 4 October a training for new auditors and chairman/woman of the audit team will be organised by the OECI A&D Group and Kerteza <<http://www.kerteza.com/>> in Brussels.

To strengthen our pool of auditors we are especially looking for: directors (chair of audit team) <<http://oeci.selfassessment.nu/cms/node/85>>, medical oncologists, surgeons and clinical research specialists. However, other disciplines are also very welcome to register. For more information about the current professionals/disciplines involved, the OECI auditors profile and chairman/woman's profile, and the registration form: go to our website <<http://oeci.selfassessment.nu/cms/node/11>>.

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## Introduction Georgette van Velzen

As of January 2011 I reinforce for three days a week, the team of secretaries supporting Wim van Harten, member of the Executive Board of NKI-AVL and member of the OECI Working Group Accreditation & Designation. Wim is an extremely busy and inspired man and has accepted the challenging task of being OECI President for the next three years and that is where I come in. My main focus is with his OECI Presidency and as such I suppose we all will meet and greet regularly.



My name is Georgette van Velzen, 45 years old, mother of two teenage boys (12 and 14). After high school, instead of going to university, I started working at a bank and at the time I enjoyed working more than studying, so I stayed and from counter-girl I became a secretary on an international level, ending up as secretary to the Executive Board. After a while I swapped the tough business of the bank for the opposite world of an umbrella organization in education. In the meanwhile I studied to become a medical secretary but ended up in the travelling business.

But life provides a turning point every now and then and when I crossed this turning point I stumbled on this job. Perfect, in every way! I find the line of business fascinating – the research, the translation of research into care and treatment. Dedication to cure and prevent cancer but at the same time a business that has to be managed. The achievements that are already made and the on-going developments taking place in oncology are astonishing! Until recently I had no idea! Combined with the objective to improve and expand the cooperation of European cancer centres and research institutes as OECI does, it is a complex setting and I feel very much at home in it! At the moment I am mainly busy organising the annual OECI General Assembly and Scientific Conference. I am very pleased that the website is on air since a few weeks [www.oeci-amsterdam2011.com](http://www.oeci-amsterdam2011.com).

Being in the office for three days a week leaves me time for the necessary leisure; my family and my passion: painting!! ([www.georgettevanvelzen.nl](http://www.georgettevanvelzen.nl))

I am looking forward to my time with NKI-AVL and OECI and hope that I can make a small contribution to a successful Presidency period in which OECI will expand and advance on their objectives!!

**Georgette van Velzen**

Secretary to the OECI President Elect

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## OECE Accreditation: Performing the self assessment in Institute of Oncology of Vilnius University (IOVU)

The experience of the Institute of in the self assessment period of the OECE accreditation process.

Yes, it is an experience! The process is very simple. You just have to get a good team, collect data and documents, and the job is done! Just do it. But in every step you are meeting some small problems. You really need some arrangements in advance.

First of all – a team! This is the most important thing in all our duties. You have to invest in that. Nothing is coming by doing nothing. To get a good team; it's easy! We have almost 900 workers. So, to find a few people, who are available and willing seems easy. In reality it is different. The first reaction of some people is resistance because they find it difficult to admit that there is an opportunity for improvement or even change, and everyone is busy. After the Directors command, we have a team.

Then you are meeting with this team explaining the expectations. The usual answer to all the questions is: "We have it! We are organizing the working very well!" But supporting documents are not directly available. Then, you are going to each Department to gather document by document, in cooperation with the professionals. According to our goals, most documents are available. However, it takes a lot of time and nerves to find everything and to put it into order. Also answering the questionnaires was sometimes confusing. You are getting different data from different Departments asking the same question. Again – going from one to another for information and checking.

That is our experience. I am absolutely sure that the situation is more or less the same everywhere. As I said – it is really a simple step-by-step procedure but reality is sometimes different. It is very comfortable to think that everything is perfect. However, after a while the people realized that these changes are necessary and they are telling: "It was good idea!"

Currently, we have finished the self assessment and we are waiting for the "go-no go" decision. We hope that our efforts will help, first of all, for ourselves. We got more organized. We are adding documents to the whole system, which works well, but still needs improvements. And we want to be strong and recognized institution. The OECE accreditation process definitely helps in that.

Very important was long term experience of participating in European science projects, like EURAQA, EROPAQ, CoCanCPG, EuroNanoMed. Some of these requirements were employed in OECE accreditation process.

**Dr. Ernestas Janulionis**  
Scientific Director IOVU

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## Overview of participating institutes IB

### Centres in self assessment period:

- Institute of Oncology Vilnius university (Lithuania)	Waiting for go/ no go decision
- Helsinki University Central Hospital Helsinki (Finland)	Expected deadline June 2011
- Institute Jules Bordet Brussels (Belgium)	Expecting deadline June 2011
- King's Health Partners - Integrated Cancer Centre London (United Kingdom)	Starting

### Centres after peer review:

- IPO Porto (Portugal): 1 and 2 March 2010	Action plan approved
- IPO Coimbra (Portugal): 15 and 16 March 2010	Action plan approved
- Fundación IVO Valencia (Spain): 1 and 2 June 2010	Action plan approved
- The Christie NHS Foundation Trust Manchester (United Kingdom): 23 and 24 June 2010	Action plan approved
- NKI-AVL, Amsterdam (The Netherlands): 19 and 20 October 2010	Working on action plan

### Next centres

- Institute Gustave Roussy Villejuif (France)
- Rikshospitalet University Oslo (Norway)
- University Hospital UZ Brussels (Belgium)



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Auditors team IPO Lisbon ( H. Hummel, R. Otter, P. Elsacker, M. Bogusz), 15 and 16 March 2011