



Promising developments at OECI's Oncology Days



This Newsletter reports on recent improvements of the OECI activities as discussed at the 2013 OECI Annual meeting and General Assembly held in Brussels. From May 13th to 16th various pursuits marked the start of new developments.

A major highlight was the handing over of the European Cancer Prize by Her Royal Highness Princess Astrid of Belgium to Professor Ulrik Ringborg for his numerous activities and merits in the European cancer field. He has decided to devote the amount of € 20,000 to young researchers aiming to attend a training course in translational research.

The OECI Board dedicated a special meeting to the developments in the Accreditation & Designation programme. We are at the stage that the first series of the Accreditation and Designation exercises have been evaluated and the Report of this evaluation was formally handed over to Tom Hudson, President of the ECPC. He appreciated both the development and the gesture, as patients are very keen on knowing what quality is provided by the cancer institutes all over Europe. In the coming months, the Report will also be presented to the European Agency of Healthcare and Consumers. Furthermore, a presentation of the A&D activities is planned at the European Parliament. With the agreement that was established with the Italian Government and interest from various institutes all over Europe, the A&D programme is steadily growing and – after years of investment - financially viable. Based on the evaluation an update of the programme is presently going on. Considered aspects are involving relevant external stakeholders in the governance and obtaining outside accreditation certification.

A special session of the Oncology Days, held in collaboration with the European School of Oncology, was dedicated to presentations and discussions on the activities of the OECI in Central and Eastern Europe. Furthermore, the Bench-Can kick off meeting focussed on the benchmarking of Comprehensive Cancer Care, sponsored by the European Agency for Healthcare and Consumers. Twelve OECI members are involved in this project and the Consortium had the first working session and launched the programme of activities.

A very interesting Forum, co-organised with INCA, ECCO and Alleanza Contro il Cancro, was dedicated to information and exchange on the various national cancer research plans. The OECI could prove to be a very useful platform for this activity. Many OECI members are involved in the Eurocan Platform Network of Excellence and a symposium was dedicated to information exchange and discussion on this coordination project.

Inspired by its active chairman, Professor Stanta from ICGEB and University of Trieste, a "Pathology Day", attracting more than 80 pathologists from all over Europe, was devoted to introduce and discuss new technologies in pathology services. The meeting has been organised in collaboration with EORTC, ESP and the Impacts Network. During the General Assembly two new Board Members were elected; Carlos Caldas from Cancer Research UK - Cambridge Institute – University of Cambridge and Emmanuel Mitry, from the Institut Curie, Paris. A decision was taken on a procedure to attract and elect the new OECI President to start his office in 2014. Unfortunately, we had to skip few Members from our membership list but, at the same time, we were very positive about the number of new Members that joined the OECI. As a President, I want to express my appreciation to all those involved in organizing the various activities of OECI, and especially to Dominique De Valeriola, Guy Storme and Jean Benoit Burrion who, together with Claudio Lombardo, organized the successful event in Brussels.

