

Renewal of the OECl Board

At the 2013 General Assembly, upon proposal of the OECl President and of the Board, two new Members have been elected to the OECl Board.

The OECl is honoured to welcome Professor Carlos Caldas and Professor Emmanuel Mitry, who will cover the positions of Elected Members for the period 2013-2016.

Carlos Caldas heads the Breast Cancer Functional Genomics Laboratory at the Cancer Research UK Cambridge Research Institute. He is an Honorary Consultant Medical Oncologist at Addenbrooke's Hospital, Lead of the Cambridge Experimental Cancer Medicine Centre and Director of the Cambridge Breast Cancer Research Unit which opened at Addenbrooke's Hospital in 2008. He is Fellow of the American College of Physicians, the Royal College of Physicians and the Royal College of Pathologists.



Professor Caldas holds the Chair of Cancer Medicine at the University of Cambridge since 2002.

Emmanuel Mitry covers the position of Medical Director for Gastro-intestinal, gynaecological and urologic tumors at the Institut Curie in Paris.



He is the President of French Group for the endocrine cancer studies and member of the Scientific and Steering Committee of the Federation of the French Digestive Oncology.

Professor Mitry collaborates with several European and International Organisation such as EORTC, ASCO, SIOG, ESMO and is also Professor of hepato-gastroenterology.

The OECl thanks Professor **Julio Celis** and Professor **Alexander Eggermont** who left the OECl Board at the last General Assembly. In the past years, their contribution played a central role to the definition of the OECl international dimension and helped to better address the OECl mandate. Julio and Lex will continue to support the Organisation and to give their advices for the positions covered in international bodies to which the task to define the politics supporting the coordination of cancer research and the sustainability of quality approach to cancer care is assigned.

The OECl welcomes six new members

The OECl General Assembly unanimously approved the candidacies of 4 new Full Members and of 2 New Associated Members.

The UK is strengthen its participation to the OECl taking, after Italy, the second position together with France as number of cancer centres participating to the membership. UK is also demonstrating a particular interest to the OECl approach to the accreditation.

We notice an increase in the membership from Central and Eastern European Countries and, therefore, the OECl is called to evaluate with particular emphasis the building of specific programmes and activities addressed to meet the expectations from those Countries.

Following, a brief introduction to the six New Members.

Cancer Research UK Beatson Institute Glasgow, UK

Full Member

The mission of the CR-UK Beatson Institute (BI) is to deliver cancer discovery for patient benefit. It aims to carry out world-class research and translate this knowledge to new anti-cancer therapies. Core-funded by Cancer Research UK, the BI is one of the UK's leading cancer research institutes, providing outstanding facilities and support services for its scientists. It has invested heavily in the development of cutting-edge technologies – imaging, transgenic models of cancer, proteomics/metabolomics and drug discovery - to underpin its two key research themes that focus on the regulation of invasion and metastasis, and cancer metabolism, growth and survival. Currently, there are 14 research groups and around 220 scientists at the BI working on these important aspects of cancer cell behaviour in areas spanning basic research programmes to translational projects that encompass drug discovery and preclinical studies. Details of these can be found at www.beatson.gla.ac.uk. The BI has open plan laboratories and modern social spaces to maximise interaction between researchers, creating a highly collaborative environment as well as an excellent training one for junior scientists. Collaborations extend beyond the BI to include both local and international research groups, and the BI is a key partner in the Cancer Research UK Glasgow Centre (known as WeCAN) along with the Universities of Glasgow and Strathclyde, the Beatson West of Scotland Cancer Centre (the major treatment centre for cancer patients in the region) and the National Health Service. This virtual Centre aims to integrate Glasgow's considerable strengths in cancer research.



Imperial College Healthcare NHS Trust - London, UK

Full Member

Imperial College Healthcare NHS Trust is one of the largest acute trusts in the UK and in partnership with Imperial College London was the UK's first academic health science centres (AHSCs). The creation of the AHSC is a major advance for patient care, clinical teaching and scientific invention and innovation. The Trust consists of Charing Cross, Hammersmith, Queen Charlotte's & Chelsea, St Mary's and Western Eye hospitals.

The organisations within Imperial have a long history of medical breakthroughs including the discovery of penicillin by Alexander Fleming at St Mary's Hospital in 1928. Excellence in translational medicine continues and The Trust is now one of five generic biomedical research centres (BRCs) in the UK. The Imperial was awarded this status by the National Institute of Health Research (NIHR) in recognition of its excellence in translational and clinical research.

Cancer care at Imperial is organised as a separate entity with services provided across the three main hospital sites. The Institute is the provider of a range of national and internationally recognised cancer services as well as providing comprehensive cancer care to our local communities in north west London. It works as part of the London Cancer Alliance - the network of cancer services - covering the south and west of London.



Chris Harrison

Comprehensive Cancer Center - Graz, Austria

Full Member

In May 2013, the Medical University of Graz, together with the University Hospital Graz, founded Austria's second CCC, focusing on research, education and training as well as on patient care. Apart from education of health professionals and first class patient care the Medical University and the University Hospital of Graz aim at gaining knowledge on cancer diseases and their origin as well as on prevention and therapies. The scientific research, which is carried out at the Medical University of Graz by way of investigation of physiological processes, decoding of genes and their functions, development of new surgery techniques and the development and testing of pharmaceuticals for new drugs, contributes to progress in cancer medicine. The CCC Graz is working together with Biobank Graz, a facility of the Medical University of Graz which supports investigations of the causes of diseases and the development of improvements in disease diagnosis and treatment. The goal of Biobank Graz is to contribute to the provision of improved healthcare for the general population. The CCC Graz works on current topics with state-of-the-art methods and thus contributes to medical and biotechnological progress every day.

Facts:

- 11 tumor boards - more than 3000 patients with new cases of cancer p.a.
- More than 10 operative facilities specialized in cancer disease
- State-of-the-art radiotherapy, cancer drug therapy and supportive care
- 17 University Departments certified in Pain Management
- Palliative care unit and psycho-oncological expertise
- More than 120 clinical trials p.a.
- Center for Medical Research - University facility providing a first class biomedical research infrastructure for both clinicians and basic research scientists
- Center for Knowledge and Technology Transfer in Medicine which aims to enable the seamless cooperation between scientific research at the Medical University of Graz and economic realization in cooperation with specific enterprises.



Head of the CCC Graz: f.i.t.r.: Assoc. Prof. PD Dr. Dr. J. Haybaeck, DKKS Ch. Tax Msc., Mag. G. Falzberger, Univ. Prof. Dr. K. Kapp, Univ. Prof. Dr. H. Samonigg, ao.Univ. Prof. Dr. A. Langmann, Univ. Prof. Dr. J. Smolle, ao.Univ.-Prof. Dr. G. Brunner

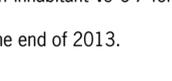
Amethyst Radiotherapy Center - Bucharest, Romania

Full Member

Opened since September 2012 in Bucharest, Amethyst Radiotherapy Center offers to Romanian oncological patients high tech radiation treatments. Professor I.C. Chiricuta, Amethyst Medical Director and his team, operate 100% of the cases with IMRT technology.

Romanian radiotherapy is very undeveloped: we estimate that less than 25% of the 70,000 new cancer cases diagnosed yearly will benefit radiotherapy treatment. Indeed with only 15 LINACs installed for 21,5 million inhabitants, Romania has one of the lowest equipment rate in Europe (<1 LINAC/ million inhabitant vs 6-7 for France or Germany).

Amethyst intends to open 2 more centers in Romania by the end of 2013.



Institute of Biostatistics and Analyses, Masaryk University, Brno, Czech Republic (IBA MU)

Associate Member

IBA MU was established in 2002 and since 2006 it works as university research institute focused on computational biology and health care informatics. Its research activities attempt to bridge the gap between informatics and mathematics on one side and biology and medicine on the other side. The institute develops in-house software solutions for health care programmes and provides comprehensive IT support optimized for all types of clinical trials and registries. The system of service quality and information security is certified according to the following standards: ISO 9001:2009, ISO/IEC 20000-1:2006 and ISO/IEC 27001:2006. IBA MU participates in more than one hundred clinical projects and forms information base of the Czech National Cancer Control Programme including The Czech National Cancer Registry and all cancer screening programmes. Within the network of all the Czech and Slovak medical facilities (www.mefanet.cz), IBA MU coordinates professional e-learning in the cancer-related health care study disciplines. More information about IBA MU is available at www.iba.muni.cz.



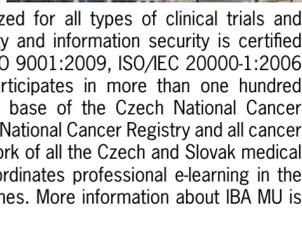
Ladislav Dusek



P.A. Herten Moscow Cancer Research Institute - Russia

Associate Member

The Moscow Herten Cancer Research Institute, one of the oldest oncologic scientific organisations in Europe, was founded in 1898. The Institute is the head oncologic organisation of the Russian Federation since 1935. The organisational structure of the Institute includes 4 epidemiological and statistic departments, 20 clinical departments, 9 diagnostic and 7 basic research and translational departments. The medical staff of the Institute includes more than 300 specialists. Up to 410 patients can be simultaneously treated in the Institute. The main directions of the clinical scientific work consist of development of organ-sparing and function-preserving methods of treatment of patients with malignant tumors including reconstructive and plastic surgery applying microsurgical technologies and biotechnology, photodynamic factors (such as laser, cryodestruction, hyperthermia), extended and cytoreductive surgery, photodynamic diagnostics and therapy. Basic research and translational units develop cell technologies, new biological markers, modifiers and protectors of anticancer therapy, predictive methods of treatment efficacy, and evaluate genetic and protein models.



Four OECl Comprehensive Cancer Centres received the accreditation certificate

During the OECl 2013 General Assembly, the OECl accreditation certificate has been assigned to four OECl Members.

Actually, 15% of the OECl Members passed the accreditation procedure and 25% (15 Institutes) of the remaining Members entered already the process.

We foresee that in the next three years, about 60% of our centres will receive the accreditation certificate becoming the starting point of a formal recognized European Cancer Network of Quality based on cancer related and verified criteria of excellence which have been defined by the OECl with a 10 years of scientific work done on voluntary basis by qualified Members of the Organisation.

The OECl thanks the Chairperson of the WG Accreditation and Designation, Mahasti Saghatian, and the Accreditation Board for the outstanding job they did.

Following, few pictures related to the award of the OECl Accreditation Certificates to:



The certificate awarded to the Scientific Director of the Institute of Oncology of Vilnius University, Lithuania, Professor Narimantas Evaldas Samalavicius



The certificate awarded to Dr. Mahasti Saghatian, representing the Institut Gustav Roussy, Villejuif, France



The certificate awarded to the Medical Director of the Institut Jules Bordet, Brussels, Belgium, Dr. Dominique De Valeria



The certificate awarded to Professor Carlos Caldas, representing the Cambridge Cancer Centre, United Kingdom

2014 OECl Oncology Days and General Assembly Cluj Napoca, Romania



The 2014 OECl Oncology Days, and General Assembly will take place in Cluj Napoca, Romania, on June 11th – 14th, hosted by the Oncology Institute Ion Chiricuta. The scientific programme will include the Pathology Day 2014, and two Scientific Sessions on Basic Clinical Care and Delivering Cancer Care in 2014.

The General Assembly will be held in the morning of June 14th.

A sightseen tour will follow the 2014 Event. It will include trips around the most popular places such as Sighisoara in Transylvanian Alps where the Bran Castle (Dracula's Castle) is located and to the Turda Salt mine.

Cluj is the second city in Romania, after Bucharest, first in number of students. Its history is very rich, particularly in light of the fact that it has always been a meeting place of different cultures, languages and religions, Hungarians, Saxons, Jews, Romanians, Armenians, Slavs and other. The name Cluj probably derives from the Latin Castrum used for the first time in the twelfth century. The term Clus means "closed" and refers to the hills that enclose the city.



The Oncology Institute "Ion Chiricuta"



The Dracula's Castle in Transylvania