ROLE IN THE FUTURE OF CANCER SCIENCES, AS THE BEST ENVIRONMENT TO DESIGN NEW AND FRUITFUL INTEGRATION AND COLLABORATIONS.

In a scenario where most therapies require a multidisciplinary approach and contributions by specialists such as surgeons, molecular biologists and molecular anatomopathologists for clinical trials. This huge potential can be fully exploited if OECI works in synergy with the main key players of the health scenario in Europe such as ECCO/ESMO, EORTC and the Patients’ Associations, which are the only capable of addressing the public’s real needs.

The OECI represents many European cancer research and care centres – both large and small – from a number of EU countries, many of which have only recently become EU members. The diversity among the OECI members is an asset on the Organisation based on the understanding that larger centres may well use the net worth to become more competitive, taking again dramatically the responsibility to be the best to close their expertise with the best research of their kind.

The OECI’s aim is twofold: first, to maintain the high training quality standards of treatment, it is a sort of a medical guidance; and second, an accreditation system which proposes a consensual definition of quality criteria and standards, foster their dissemination and evaluate the adequacy of the practices in order to help optimise resources.

The establishment of a European network of cancer bio-banks allowing easier access to congregate and appropriate data collections.

Evaluating the current status of member’s organisations, the OECI is an important step in terms of research capacity, trained personnel, research and medical staff, and participations in the majority of leading-edge European cancer trials. The next step is to improve the level of training and to compete more with the main players of the European cancer organisation. The OECI is the only actor able to do this, as the only agent capable of addressing the public’s real needs.

To find new and better treatments, provide more comprehensive care and improve patients’ quality of life through an evidence-based medicine with a holistic approach.

To pursue knowledge, reduce fragmentation, increase competitiveness.

To find new and better treatments, provide more comprehensive care and improve patients’ quality of life through an evidence-based medicine with a holistic approach.

Belgium
- Institut Jules Bordet, Centre des Tumeurs de l’Université Libre de Bruxelles, Brussels (www.ijsb.org)
- Oncologische Zentrum, UZ Brussels, Brussels (www.uz.brussels)
- Clinique Universitaire Saint-Luc - Centre du Cancer, Brussels (www.cancerst luc.org)

Bulgaria
- National Oncological Hospital, Sofia (www.onco.sofia.bg)

Czech Republic
- Masaryk Memorial Cancer Institute, Brno (www.mcmi.cz)

Denmark
- Danish Cancer Society, Institute of Cancer Biology, Copenhagen (www.dks.dk)

Estonia
- North Estonia Medical Centre, Tallinn (www.nero.ee)

France
- Université Hospital, Turgot (www.ahlb.charite.de)
- Hopital Bichat, Paris (www.bichat.aphp.fr)
- Hopitaux Universitaires de Strasbourg, Strasbourg (www.hus.fr)
- Hopital Pitie-Salpétrière, Paris (www.pitiisalpetriere.fr)
- Centre Antoine Lacassagne, Nice (www.lacassagne.org)
- Centre Henri Bouchard, Rennes (www.hb.fr)
- Centre Paul Paquin CRCCL, Angers (www.crccl.f-angers.fr)
- Centre Sainte Catherine, Avignon (www.centre-sainte-catherine.fr)
- Centre Claudius Regaud, Toulouse (www.centre-regaud.fr)

Germany
- Krebsforschungszentrum, Heidelberg (www.kfo-heidelberg.de)
- University Cancer Centre Dresden Carl Gustav Carus, Dresden (www.ukd.de)
- Charité Comprehensive Cancer Centre, Berlin (www.charite.de)

Greece
- Agio Asori General Oncological Hospital of Kifissia, Athens (www.agao.gr)
- National Oncological Hospital, Athens (www.oncolab.gr)
- Metaxa Cancer Hospital of Piraeus, Athens (www.metaxaconcancerhospital.gr)
- National Institute of Oncology, Athens (www.niob.gr)

Ireland
- Centre de Ricerche Oncologiche (IROS), Milan (www.iroslm.it)

Italy
- Istituto Italiano di Onco logia, Milan (www.ioncologia.it)
- Istituto Nazionale Tumori, Milan (www.ist.it)
- Institute of Oncology, Padova (www.iopadova.it)
- Istituto Oncologico Veneto (IOV), Padua (www.iov.it)
- Istituto Pitagora Pediatrico, Parma (www.ipitagora.it)
- Istituto di Ricerca e Trattamento della Malattia del Polmone (IRP), Pisa (www.irp.pisa.it)
- Istituto di Ricerca di Biochimica e Biologia Molecolare (IRBMB), Pisa (www.irbmb.pisa.it)
- Istituto di Ricerche Farmacologiche Mario Negri IRCCS, Milan (www.mnn.it)
- Istituto di Ricerca e Studio del Tumore, Ferrara (www.irst.it)
- Istituto di Oncologia, Verona (www.iomv.it)
- Istituto Oncologico della Rete (IOR), Udine (www.ior.it)
- Istituto Oncologico Lombardo (IOL), Milan (www.iol.it)
- Istituto Oncologico S. Raffaele, Milan (www.orsr.it)
- Istituto Oncologico Veneto (IOV), Padua (www.iov.it)
- Istituto Nazionale Tumori, Milan (www.ist.it)
- Istituti Ortopedici Rizzoli, Bologna (www.iobologna.it)
- Istituto Oncologico Veneto (IOV), Padua (www.iov.it)
- Istituto Nazionale Tumori, Milan (www.ist.it)
- Istituto di Oncologia, Verona (www.iomv.it)
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- Istituto Oncologico Lombardo (IOL), Milan (www.iol.it)
- Istituto Oncologico S. Raffaele, Milan (www.orsr.it)
- Istituto Nationalle per lo Studio e la Cura dei Tumori (IST, Milan), Modena
- Istituto di Oncologia, Verona (www.iomv.it)
- Istituto di Ricerche Farmacologiche Mario Negri IRCCS, Milan (www.mnn.it)
- Istituto di Ricerca di Biochimica e Biologia Molecolare (IRBMB), Pisa (www.irbmb.pisa.it)
- Istituto di Ricerche Farmacologiche Mario Negri IRCCS, Milan (www.mnn.it)
- Istituto Nazionale Tumori, Milan (www.ist.it)

Netherlands
- Netherlands Cancer Institute - Antoni van Leeuwenhoek Hospital, Amsterdam (www.nlci.knaw.nl)
- Dutch Cancer Society, Institute of Cancer Biology, Amsterdam (www.knaw.nl)

Poland
- European Institute of Oncology (IEO), Milan (www.ivo.es)

Portugal
- Instituto Portugues de Oncologia (IPO), Lisbon (www.ipo.ulisboa.pt)

Russia
- Blokhin Russian Cancer Research Centre, Moscow, Russia (www.ibr.ru)
- Clinical Cancer Centre, Kazan (www.macc.ru)
- Institute of Oncology G. Pascale, Naples (www.igp.it)

Spain
- Spanish Cooperative Network of Cancer Centres, Madrid (www.escnn.org)
- Instituto de Oncologia, Valencia (www.ivo.es)
- Instituto Nacional de Investigaciones Oncologicas, Madrid (www.cnio.es)
- Institut Catala d’Oncologia, Barcelona (www.icol.cat)
- Instituto Nacional de Cancerologia (NIO), Madrid (www.inc.es)
- Instituto de Medicina Preventiva y Sanitaria del Cancer (IMPPC), Barcelona

Turkey
- Istituto Nazionale per lo Studio e la Cura dei Tumori (IST, Milan), Modena
- Istituto di Oncologia, Verona (www.iomv.it)
- Istituto di Ricerche Farmacologiche Mario Negri IRCCS, Milan (www.mnn.it)
- Istituto Nazionale Tumori, Milan (www.ist.it)
- Istituto di Oncologia, Verona (www.iomv.it)
- Istituto di Ricerche Farmacologiche Mario Negri IRCCS, Milan (www.mnn.it)
- Istituto Nazionale Tumori, Milan (www.ist.it)
- Istituto di Oncologia, Verona (www.iomv.it)

United Kingdom
- King’s Health Partners Integrated Cancer Centre, London, UK (www.kingshealthpartners.nhs.uk)
- King’s College Hospital NHS Foundation Trust, Manchester (www.shdt.nhs.uk)
- Royal’s Hospital Integrated Cancer Centre, London, UK (www.guyandstthoma.bhs.nhs.uk)
Established in 1977 to promote greater cooperation among European cancer centres and institutes in the field of cancer collaborative research, the Organisation of European Cancer Institutes (OECI) is a continuously growing and developing network, presently regrouping 73 cancer centres and institutions across Europe. OECI is dynamically working in crosscut expertise projects organised mainly within Working Groups and Activities. Currently, there are four main Working Groups and three Activities financed through membership fees and also supported by external funding bodies.

The Accreditation/Designation WG aims at defining consensus quality criteria for European oncology, and developing a tool for professionals enabling the performances of the cancer institutions to be assessed both internally and externally. In order to increase the efficacy of cancer research and to strengthen joint public/private research in Europe for more competitive cancer research, a database of cancer centres describing in detail the available infrastructures and human resources will be developed, so as to allow the identification of the optimal cancer centre for the development of innovative treatments or of high-quality clinical research is feasible. The concept of Comprehensive Cancer Centre with Integration of care, research and education is fundamental. The establishment of criteria for the European Comprehensive Cancer Centres and the harmonisation of their resources in order to reach a critical mass for research are important goals. Recently, the project to develop the Designation system has been launched so as to complete the original plan of this WG.

OECI Cancer Centres integrated biobanks, to request samples a tool available to all cancer centres within the Organization. For multi-center research adopting agreed rules for access and patients for translational and clinical research for cooperative providing request options for samples collected from cancer efficiently infrastructures for OECI multi-centre research platforms, the WG focuses on education, training and the unification activities combine criteria from traditional histology with the new developments in histopathology, cytology and molecular technologies such as molecular testing is in greater demand by pathologists as well as providing support for staff members in less developed areas, which need to become up to date with these new approaches in cancer diagnosis, (biosamples, data storage and transfer, immunohistochemistry, and FISH among others). These activities harmonise the available resources and promote the new relevant molecular findings in association with background developments leading to the diagnostic tests of the future. To this end regular meetings are organized with the support of OECI Cancer Centers.

OECI is a practical instrument working under the activities promoted by the initiatives of the OECI WGs together with START and WIN projects.

START-OECI is an evidence-based, "state of the art" instrument on cancer treatment, created to support oncologists and physicians in their everyday oncology practice. START works according to a consistent methodology, whereby each START chapter results from a defined internal collaboration process. First, a draft version is assembled by one of the START Editors, possibly on the basis of selected contributions from Authors. Then, one or more European experts in the field act as internal Reviewer/s for the chapter. The chapter is eventually put online, and published in Critical Reviews in Oncology and Haematology. About 30% of the START Contributors belong to OECI Members or Associated Members. In March 2009 START was accepted by the OECI as a practical instrument working under the activities promoted by the Grouping.

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