

INNOVATIVE HIGH-QUALITY CANCER CARE THROUGH COORDINATING RESEARCH AND EDUCATION

www.oeci.eu

OECI OBJECTIVES

Pursue knowledge, reduce fragmentation, increase competitiveness

THE ULTIMATE GOAL

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

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 to the Organisation, based on the understanding that larger centres may well use the net-work to become more competitive, taking upon themselves the responsibility to find ways to share their expertise with less endowed centres in order to contribute to the provision of equal treatments all over Europe.

At present, only a minority of European patients are treated in a Comprehensive Cancer Centre (CCC) of excellence, but every European citizen has a right to receive the best treatment available. The OECI contributes to the implementation of this right by promoting:

- An evidence based and updated tool defining excellence standards in diagnosis;
- A programme in education, including training and tutoring, aimed at raising the average quality standards of treatment, to be used as a basis for national guidelines;
- An accreditation-designation system which proposes a consensual definition of quality criteria and standards, fosters their dissemination and evaluates the adequacy of the practices in order to help optimise resources and expertise;
- The establishment of a European network of cancer bio-banks allowing even smaller centres to rely on vast and appropriate data collections.

Considering the network of centres OECI comprises, the Organisation has an impressive size in terms of bed capacity, treated patients, research and medical staff, and participates in the majority of cutting-edge European 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.

By gathering around a table most of the European Cancer Centres' Directors, OECI is in an ideal position to put forward new preclinical and clinical research proposals and rapidly implement them with a coordinated effort. This is the necessary prerequisite to the creation of platforms for translational cancer research capable both of promoting excellence and attracting SMEs and big pharma, while also involving national public and private funding entities.

In a scenario where most therapies require a multidisciplinary approach and contributions by specialists such as surgeons, molecular biologists and molecular anatomopathologists for molecular profiling, medical oncologists and radiotherapists, it seems that, alongside the essential role of professional associations, the network of Institutes and Centres will play a key role in the future of cancer sciences, as the best environment to design new and fruitful integration and collaborations.



Marco A. Pierotti

OECI President

OECI on a map

Belgium

- Institut Jules Bordet, Centre des Tumeurs de l'Université Libre de Bruxelles, Brussels (www.bordet.be)
- Oncologic Center, UZBrussel, Brussels (www.uzbrussel.be)
- Cliniques Universitaire Saint-Luc (Centre du Cancer), Brussels (www.centreducancer.be; www.saintluc.be)

Bulgaria

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

Czech Republic

- Masaryk Memorial Cancer Institute, Brno (www.mou.cz)

Denmark

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

Estonia

- North Estonia Medical Centre, Tallinn (www.regionaalhaigla.ee)
- Tartu University Hospital, Tartu (www.kliinikum.ee)

Finland

- Helsinki University Central Hospital, Helsinki (www.hus.fi)

France

- Centre Alexis Vautrin, Nancy (www.alexisvautrin.fr)
- Centre G.F. Leclerc, Dijon (www.cgfl.fr)
- Centre Leon Berard, Lyon (oncora1.lyon.fnclcc.fr)
- Centre Paul Strauss, Strasbourg (www.centre-paul-strauss.fr)
- Institut Curie, Paris (www.curie.fr)
- Institut Gustave Roussy, Villejuif (www.igr.fr)
- Centre Antoine Lacassagne, Nice (www.antoinelacassagne.org)
- Centre Henri Becquerel, Rouen (www.becquerel.fr)
- Centre Paul Papin CRLCC, Angers (www.centrepaulpapin.org)
- Institut Sainte Catherine, Avignon (www.institut-sainte-catherine.org)
- Institut Claudius Regaud, Toulouse (www.claudiusregaud.fr)

Germany

- Deutsches Krebsforschungszentrum, Heidelberg (www.dkfz.de)
- University Cancer Centre Dresden Carl Gustav Carus, Dresden (www.uniklinikum-dresden.de)
- Charité Comprehensive Cancer Center, Berlin (cccc.charite.de)

Greece

- Agii Anargiri General Oncological Hospital of Kifissia, Athens (www.onco.gr)
- "Agios Savvas" Regional Cancer Hospital, Athens (www.agsavvas-hosp.gr)
- Metaxa' Cancer Hospital of Piraeus, Piraeus (www.metaxa-hospital.gr)

Hungary

- National Institute of Oncology, Budapest

(www.oncol.hu)

Italy

- Centro di Riferimento Oncologico (CRO) - Istituto Nazionale Tumori, Aviano (www.cro.it)
- European Institute of Oncology (IEO), Milan (www.ieo.it)
- European School of Oncology (ESO), Milan (www.eso.net)
- Fondazione IRCCS Istituto Nazionale dei Tumori (INT), Milan (www.istitutotumori.mi.it)
- Fondazione San Raffaele, Milan (www.sanraffaele.org)
- IST Istituto Nazionale per la Ricerca sul Cancro, Genoa (www.istge.it)
- Istituto Nazionale per lo Studio e la Cura dei Tumori Fondazione "G.Pascale", Naples (www.fondazionepascale.it)
- Istituto Regina Elena (IRE), Rome (www.ifo.it)
- Istituto Superiore di Oncologia (ISO), Italy (www.consorzioiso.it)
- Istituto Tumori Giovanni Paolo II, Bari (www.oncologico.bari.it)
- Istituto di Ricerche Farmacologiche Mario Negri IRFMN, Milan (www.marionegri.it)
- Istituto di Ricerca e Cura del Cancro di Candiolo, Turin (www.ircc.unito.it)
- Istituto Oncologico Veneto (IOV), Padua (www.ioveneto.it)
- Istituto FIRC di Oncologia Molecolare (IFOM), Milan (www.ifom-firc.it)
- Centro di Riferimento Oncologico della Basilicata (CROB), Potenza (www.crob.it)
- Istituto Scientifico Romagnolo per lo Studio e la Cura dei Tumori (IRST), Meldola - Forlì (www.irst.emr.it)

Lithuania

- Institute of Oncology, Vilnius University, Vilnius (www.loc.lt)

Norway

- Rikshospitalet-Radiumhospitalet Medical Center, Oslo (www.rikshospitalet.no)

Poland

- Wielkopolskie Cancer Centre, Poznan (www.wco.pl)

Portugal

- Instituto Portugues de Oncologia Francisco Gentil EPE do Porto, Porto (www.ipoportu.min-saude.pt)
- Instituto Portugues de Oncologia Francisco Gentil EPE do Coimbra, Coimbra (www.croc.min-saude.pt)
- Instituto Portugues de Oncologia Francisco Gentil EPE do Lisboa, Lisbon

(www.ipolisboa.min-saude.pt)

Romania

- Oncology Institute "Prof. Dr. Ion Chiricuta", Cluj-Napoca (www.iocn.ro)
- Institute of Oncology «Prof. Dr. Al Trestioreanu», Bucharest (www.onk.io.ro)

Russia

- Blokhin Russian Cancer Research Centre, Moscow (www.ronc.ru)
- Clinical Cancer Centre, Kazan

Serbia - Montenegro

- Institute of Oncology Sremska Kamenica Novi Sad, Sremska Kamenica (www.onk.ns.ac.rs)

Slovakia

- Slovak Comprehensive Cancer Centre, Bratislava (www.exon.sav.sk)

Slovenia

- Institute of Oncology Ljubljana, Ljubljana (www.onko-i.si)

Spain

- Centro Nacional de Investigaciones Oncologicas, Madrid (www.cnio.es)
- Institut Català d'Oncologia, Barcelona (www.iconcologia.net)
- Instituto Madrilenio de Oncologia (IMO), Madrid (www.grupoimo.com)
- Institut de Medicina Predictiva i Personalizada del Càncer (IMPPC), Barcelona (www.imppc.org)
- Fundacion Instituto Valenciano de Oncologia (IVO), Valencia

(www.ivo.es)

Sweden

- Sahlgrenska University Hospital, Göteborg (sahlgrenska.se)
- The Karolinska University Hospital and Institute, Stockholm (ki.se)

Switzerland

- Istituto Oncologico Svizzera Italiana (IOSI), Bellinzona (www.eoc.ch)

The Netherlands

- Erasmus MC Daniel den Hoed Cancer Centre, Rotterdam (www.erasmusmc.nl)
- Integral Kankercentrum Noord-Nederland, Groningen (www.ikno.nl)
- The Netherlands Cancer Institute - Antoni van Leeuwenhoek Hospital, Amsterdam (www.nki.nl)
- Maastricht University Medisch Centrum, Maastricht (www.mumc.nl; www.azm.nl)

Turkey

- Dokuz Eylül University, Institute of Oncology, Izmir (www.deu.edu.tr)

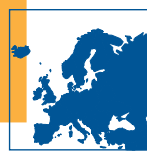
Ukraine

- R.E. Kavetsky Institute of Experimental Pathology, Oncology and Radiobiology, Kiev (www.nas.gov.ua)

United Kingdom

- Cancer Research UK Cambridge Research Institute, London (www.cambridgecancer.org.uk)
- Christie Hospital NHS Foundation Trust, Manchester (www.christie.nhs.uk)
- King's Health Partners Integrated Cancer Centre, London (www.guysandstthomas.nhs.uk)





OECI THE EUROPEAN CANCER LIAISON NETWORK

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» held its first General Assembly in 1980. Its founders designed a structure aimed at promoting efficient partnership across Europe, notwithstanding its linguistic barriers and traditional research heterogeneity. In keeping with the ongoing European developments, in 2005 the Organisation was remodelled into **OECI-EEIG Organisation of European Cancer Institutes, European Economic Interest Grouping**.

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 consensual quality standards and 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 structures where accelerated 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.

The **Molecular Pathobiology WG** aims to update and promote new developments in histopathology, cytology and molecular testing in the field of cancer, where the application of new updated tumor classifications and prognostic criteria based upon modern technologies such as molecular testing is in greater demand by oncologists in the day to day clinical care of patients and becoming a fundamental part of an appropriate therapeutic approach. The WG focuses on education, training and the unification of criteria in Cancer Institutes mainly oriented toward young 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, (biobanks, data storage and transfer, immunohistochemistry, and FISH among others). These activities combine criteria from traditional histology with the new relevant molecular findings in association with background developments leading to the diagnostic tests of the future. To this end regular annual meetings are organized with the support of OECI Cancer Centers.

The **European Cancer Biobank WG** aims at establishing an efficient infrastructure for OECI multi-centre research platforms, providing request options for samples collected from cancer patients for translational and clinical research for cooperative multi-center research adopting agreed rules for access and exchange. The WG will act through the OECI-TuBaFrost project, a tool available to all cancer centres within the Organization. OECI-TuBaFrost offers the opportunity to realize a catalogue of OECI cancer centres integrated biobanks, to request samples

and to start a separate project driven exchange platform. The TuBaFrost access and exchanging rules combined with ongoing standardisation efforts represents a comprehensive horizontal cancer platform. The OECI TuBaFrost is monitoring new developments in biobanking management in order to incorporate new achievements.

The **Education and Training WG (ETWG)** aims at coordinating and implementing the educational activities of the European Cancer Institutes by promoting the establishment of a European Area for E&T in oncology, and stimulating tighter relationships among OECI members, while defining a better connection with external related bodies, such as the European School of Oncology, ECCO, and ESMO among others. Through the ETWG's plan of activities, the OECI hopes to help finding practical answers to the Lisbon goals, tackling fragmentation in training, sharing knowledge and facilities among CCCs, facilitating the launch of new research initiatives, reinforcing existing successful actions, improving knowledge on new emerging fields, and exchanging personnel with industries and vice-versa.

The **Dissemination and Communication Activity** aims at facilitating exchanges between scientists and clinicians within and between each OECI Institute, according to cancer type of interest, specialisation or technology skill, and to help people working together on projects of common interest, trial protocols, data sharing, meta-analyses, any activity which needs connectivity and communication. Around 30,000 visitors will be able to read the science and watch the videos from OECI each month, from 203 countries, on ecancer.eu. This Activity aims at better disseminate 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 definite, internal collaborative 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.

Working Groups and Activities

Accreditation and Designation WG: Mahasti Saghatchian
Education & Training WG: Angelo Paradiso
Molecular Pathobiology WG: Antonio Llombart-Bosch
Cancer Biobanks WG: Peter Riegman
WIN Consortium: Thomas Tursz
START-OECI: Lisa Licitra
Dissemination and Communication: Claudio Lombardo and Gordon McVie

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