

courses at the Trust sties (n=36) and a number of healthcare workers other than nurses attended.

Data collection methods gathered information on the range of attendees and evaluated the courses and individual sessions taught. Additionally, focus groups were set up, but attendance was poor so additional follow up data was gathered through interviews. Evaluation of the courses was positive with participants reporting they had gained knowledge and skills and felt better able to care for the cancer patient. Following the courses, the limited data gathered from the focus groups and interviews indicated that participants felt better able to communicate with colleagues. Although there was little evidence that attendance on the course produced any effect on interprofessional working in the clinical area, the Trust based course did offer better opportunity for networking. Therefore it is suggested that such short courses be provided as part of in-service training in the Trust areas. Such short courses present the opportunity to educate a number of healthcare workers together but further research is vital to determine whether these courses are influencing interprofessional working and subsequent patient care.

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ORAL

#### Developing an education programme on targeted therapies based on the learning needs of European nurses

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Many European cancer nurses have limited experience with targeted therapies and many lack knowledge about how to meet the needs of patients receiving these novel treatments. There are few educational materials available about this topic and many of those that are available are not up-to-date. EONS, in collaboration with Merck KGaA, has embarked on an educational initiative that aims to bridge this gap. The TARGET project has the goal of enhancing European oncology nurses' understanding of the role and relevance of the Epidermal Growth Factor Receptor (EGFR) in cancer care. A European Advisory Board consisting of nurses with experience in targeted therapies and nurse education has been established. The Advisory Board decided to develop the TARGET curriculum and materials based on the results from a study of oncology nurses' learning needs in relation to targeted therapies. A learning needs assessment was carried out in 6 European countries between March-April 2005 with the aim of collecting information about oncology nurses' interest in learning about targeted therapies and to benchmark their knowledge about these novel agents. A questionnaire was developed and pilot tested with a small number of nurses. Following some minor modifications, the questionnaire was administered by telephone interview to 182 nurses with experience caring for cancer patients receiving targeted therapies from France, Germany Spain, Italy, the Netherlands and the UK. The majority of respondents were aged between 41 and 50 years (36%), had an average of 7 years experience in cancer nursing and had experience caring for a median of 6 patients receiving targeted therapies per week. Respondents indicated that short courses/conferences are their preferred means of undertaking continuing professional education. The vast majority expressed interest in learning more about targeted therapies, specifically about their mode of action and side effects.

The knowledge component of the questionnaire revealed numerous deficits in respondents' knowledge about targeted therapies. Out of 20 knowledge assessment questions, on average, 6 were answered correctly, 10 incorrectly and 4 were not answered. Many of the respondents gave incorrect answers to questions about therapy administration and patient management.

The results of this learning needs assessment has provided clear evidence to guide the development of the TARGET course materials and will help ensure that this initiative is focused on addressing nurses' knowledge deficits about targeted therapies.

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#### "Train the trainer" – a course on fatigue in cancer patients. Did it make a difference?

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Fatigue is one of the most common symptoms among cancer patients. Nevertheless, several studies have illustrated, that the health-care-takers do not know enough about, how they can help the patient suffering

from fatigue. Furthermore, the health-care-taker's feeling of powerlessness results in not paying enough attention to this overwhelming symptom. This then leaves the patient unattended and helpless.

SIG Fatigue is a Special Interest Group of nurses working with fatigue in cancer patients in Denmark. The group is a part of the Danish Association of Nurses working with Cancer Patients. SIG Fatigue consists of 9 nurses (basic nurses, specialist nurses and charge nurses) from all parts of Denmark.

The group was founded in 1996 and its first task was to make a patient pamphlet. The next step was to develop educational material for the group to use when teaching other colleges. Acknowledging the limitation of the group's ability to reach nurses from all over the country, the group decided to arrange a 2 days course called "Train the trainer". The purpose of the course was to make the participants able to teach their own colleges in Cancer related fatigue (CRF).

SIG fatigue has held 3 courses with 72 nurses participating in all. The courses were held from spring 2003 to spring 2004. In order to sign up for the course, the participants had to ask their leader for 2 days off to plan and fulfil an education session about CRF when coming back from the course. Furthermore, we have set a standard rule that the participants should participate in pairs coming from the same department. This was to make the implementation easier.

The first day the participants were toughed about CRF by members of SIG fatigue. In advance the participants had received educational material such as overheads, some articles etc.

On the second day an industrial psychologist taught the participants about strategies of implementation. For example, how to deal with resistance from the colleges coming back from the course inspired with new ideas. The participants were asked to give a written evaluation immediately after the end of the course and the participants gave the course a very good evaluation. They said that they had gained a lot of new knowledge about CRF and that they had become aware of how big a problem CRF was for the patients.

Approximately 6 months after the course the participants received another evaluation form. The purpose of this was for SIG Fatigue to be aware of whether the participants had reached their goal or not in order to evaluate whether the course had been a success. This summer 2005 the results of all the evaluation forms will be discussed.

My presentation will contain how we planned "Train the trainer," our considerations, the demands we laid upon the participants and the evaluation of the participants. Did we make a difference? Did the course fulfill its purpose?

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ORAL

#### Implementation and evaluation of a self-directed learning package for nurses caring for patients with colorectal cancer

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Colorectal cancer, one of the most frequently occurring cancers, is the second most common cause of cancer death, with the incidence continuing to increase in Scotland (ISD 2000). The pathway for patients is complex and care is delivered across a variety of clinical settings. Enabling nurses to feel confident and be competent in their knowledge and skills, via education and training, is key to delivering quality cancer care both within the hospital and community. Here we report on an initiative to develop and evaluate a national training programme for registered nurses caring for patients with colorectal cancer, which was funded by the Big Lottery Fund.

The aim of the project was to improve the quality of care provided to patients by:

- Providing a comprehensive basis for nurses in the management of colorectal cancer through the implementation of an evidence-based training programme
- Reviewing evaluation methods which demonstrate changes in practice
- Evaluating the structure, process and outcomes of the nurse's role in colorectal cancer management, prior to and after the implementation of the training package

Following a comprehensive literature review the NICCI (Nursing in Colorectal Cancer Initiative) audit tool (Grocott et al 2001; le Roux 2004) was adapted for use in the project. This tool provides indicators, which are measures of the structure, process and outcomes of the nurse's role. A self-directed learning package, developed as part of NICCI, by the European Nursing Oncology Society (Hawthorn & Redmond 2000), was chosen for this study and supplemented with up-dated information. A detailed evaluation of the effect of the training package on participants'