

# Federation of European Cancer Societies

---

The Federation of Cancer Societies (FECS) is a unique multidisciplinary umbrella organisation. The membership is composed of

**Full Member Societies** European Association for Cancer Research (EACR)  
European Oncology Nursing Society (EONS)  
European Society of Surgical Oncology (ESSO)  
European Society for Medical Oncology (ESMO)  
European Society for Therapeutic Radiology and Oncology (ESTRO)  
European branch of the International Society of Paediatric Oncology (SIOP Europe)

**Affiliated members** European Association for Neuro-Oncology (EANO)  
European Group for Blood and Marrow Transplantation (EBMT)  
European Organisation for Research and Treatment of Cancer (EORTC)  
European Society of Gynaecological Oncology (ESGO)  
European Society of Mastology (EUSOMA)  
European Society of Oncology Pharmacy (ESOP)  
Flims Alumni Club (FAC)  
Organisation of European Cancer Institutes (OECI)

**Sustaining members** Association of European Cancer Leagues (ECL)  
Europa Donna – the European Breast Cancer Coalition (ED)  
European School of Oncology (ESO)  
European Society of Skin Cancer Prevention (EUROSKIN)

## The Federation Of European Cancer Societies (FECS)



In the early 1980s, a few visionaries working in European oncology came together to found FECS, the Federation of European Cancer Societies. Only twenty years ago, the multidisciplinary approach in cancer care, research, and treatment, was a relatively new concept, and FECS set out to create a platform for multidisciplinary working. Over the years, a new structure has been set up providing FECS with the opportunity to develop its field of activities in different domains.

FECS is an umbrella organisation gathering the broad spectrum of all the partners involved in the fight against cancer in Europe – researchers, surgical oncologists, radiation oncologists, medical oncologists, paediatric oncologists, and oncology nurses. Through its membership and activities, FECS is able to develop and leverage the multidisciplinary approach for cancer treatment and management across Europe for the benefit of all cancer patients and professionals. Its multidisciplinary nature also gives FECS considerable potential to move forward the different European agendas on oncology.

### MISSION

FECS aims:

- to promote and co-ordinate collaboration between European societies active in different fields of cancer research, prevention and treatment with the ultimate goal of providing the best possible treatment and care for all European cancer patients,
- to promote the implementation throughout Europe of multidisciplinary approach in oncology,

- to promote and provide continuing medical education (CME) and promote and harmonise the accreditation of CME in oncology in Europe,
- to communicate with the relevant authorities, health care providers, the public and patients' organisations and provide them with the best available information about oncology.

## **CURRENT ACTIVITIES**

### **A dynamic network of partners**

FECS is in a strong position to ensure that oncology is given the importance it deserves at the European political level. Using its relationship with member societies, it has developed a dynamic network of partners to work on important issues in cancer. Members are regularly informed about its activities in this field and about policy developments. This process is two-way – the same mechanisms are used to ensure that the Federation is informed about member societies' activities, initiatives and concerns, to help them, when needed, to move their agenda forward, targeting the right politicians and other key players at EU level.

### **Relations with EU institutions**

Given the increasing influence of economic factors – healthcare budgets and management systems – on access to treatment and the quality of treatment, it is not enough simply to concentrate on best treatments alone. In order to best defend the interests of patients, FECS is increasingly involved in advocacy activities. FECS has therefore enhanced its relationships and interactions with the European institutions in order to raise awareness about oncology related issues and to move the political agenda in the right direction.

Within the European Commission, FECS is in frequent contact with DG Research (among other of the European Commission's Directorates General); is developing initiatives to influence the development of the 7<sup>th</sup> Framework Programme; acts as a partner in applications sent for funding; and is often contacted to suggest names of experts who could participate in the different DG's activities.

In the field of public health, FECS is developing its contacts with DG Sanco, and providing upon request information to the "High level reflection process" put in place by the European Commission at the request of the Member States with the aim of mapping centres of reference, and of analysing the access to quality care, in order to draft recommendations for public health Ministers. FECS is proactively contacting key people to influence the health agendas of EU presidency.

At the European Parliament, FECS frequently meets MEPs to talk to them about current status of oncology in the EU, drawing their attention to strengths and weaknesses such as the unequal access to quality care. FECS is organising, whenever appropriate, events in the Parliament, with the aim of formulating recommendations for MEPs but also the European Commission and the Member States. FECS is also involved in the current Parliamentary debate about "the draft regulation for paediatric use", the health programme, the 7<sup>th</sup> Framework Programme, etc.

The EMEA (European Agency for the Evaluation of Medicinal Products) is using the Federation to nominate experts to participate in the relevant committees.

FECS is also active in the recognition of medical oncology and in the follow up of the clinical trials directive implementation (see [www.fecs.be](http://www.fecs.be), advocacy section).

## **Communication**

FECS has developed a “multidisciplinary newsletter” which is regularly sent electronically to FECS member societies for dissemination to their members in order to keep them updated about the developments in other fields. Among each FECS member society 2 to 3 experts regularly inform the Federation about news in their field. FECS, also, believes strongly in the need to create relationships with patients groups to work with them to achieve the ultimate goal “ensuring equal access to the best possible treatment and care”.

## **A platform for scientific exchange**

FECS is dedicated to establishing platforms for scientific and clinical exchange for all those working in cancer.

Every two years, FECS organises ECCO, the European Cancer Conference. This conference provides a multidisciplinary forum to discuss all aspects related to cancer from bench to bedside. Around 11,000 participants attend this conference.

FECS recognised the importance of nurturing young oncologists, therefore the FLIMS workshop was established. The FECS–AACR–ASCO Workshop on Methods in Clinical Cancer Research is an annual course organised by FECS, in Flims, Switzerland. This course is designated to young European oncologists of all disciplines to teach the methodology of clinical trials. The FLIMS Workshop will be going into its seventh year and with its Alumni Club, it has helped to forge professional links among all young dedicated specialists in the field of cancer.

As part of its mission, to facilitate further exchanges, FECS organises conferences for its member societies.

## **Education**

The conferences and workshop organised by FECS have an educational value in themselves. But the Federation has also developed other projects in order to maximise its influence on multidisciplinary cancer education.

In 2001 FECS received a grant from the European Commission for a three-year project which aims to evaluate the needs and gaps in “Continuing Medical Education” (CME) in oncology, the accreditation of CME across Europe and to develop new tools for CME (web casting, CD ROMs, case studies). The final report has been sent to the Commission in January 2004. FECS is pursuing its activities in the field of new CME tools. FECS has developed on line case studies and ACOE has developed guidelines for the accreditation of distance learning material. FECS works in close relationship with UEMS (the Medical Specialists of the European Union) and its European Accreditation Council on Continuing Medical Education, to streamline the overall process of harmonisation and mutual recognition of the accreditation system throughout Europe. In order to speed up the process, FECS is now meeting regularly with other European speciality accreditation boards.

FECS has received an EC grant to develop two-week elective course targeting medical students, in order to provide them with an overview of cancer research, treatment and care, with the hope to increase their interest for this medical speciality. The first elective course took place in August 2005 and was such a success that the commission has decided to renew the grant for 2006.

FECS is also funding some special pan-European projects, which are multidisciplinary and conducted in collaboration with member societies and some of these have a high educational value.

## The future

The Federation of European Cancer Societies, with the help of its members, is in a strategic position at European level and has exceptional tools:

- To pursue its educational mission, organising important conferences and workshops and maintaining its activities in the field of Continuing Medical Education and its accreditation.
- To monitor, identify and influence the political developments which impact the oncology community.
- To proactively raise awareness among politicians, patients and the lay public about strengths and problems in the field of oncology, with the goal of ensuring equal access to quality treatment for all European cancer patients.

Developing a true oncology spirit, in order to avoid the division of specialities, is one of the major goal of the Federation for the near future. The Federation is currently deeply involved in discussions with its members to find solutions to create a structure more adapted to the evolving environment.

Creating a true oncology spirit will create new opportunities to collaborate on oncology issues of trans-national importance and would allow the European oncology community to benefit from the greater power of a unified scientific and political voice representing cancer in Europe.

## European Association For Cancer Research (EACR)



The European Association for Cancer Research, founded in 1968, is the largest cancer research organization in Europe with a membership of over 5000 laboratory, translational and clinical cancer researchers from 58 countries, with five National Society Members.

**Goals and Objectives:** EACR's aim is the advancement of cancer research in all areas of oncology – from basic research, to prevention, treatment and care. This includes support for meetings and workshops, increased opportunities for collaboration, improved communication, the enabling of developing countries to contribute to cancer research and the strengthening of education and training in oncology.

**Activities** include the organization of conferences covering the most important recent advances in experimental oncology and corresponding translational research; the development of high priority areas in oncology through the establishment of specific topic-based working groups; enhanced communication through EACR Newsletters, in its official publication the European Journal of Cancer and on its website at [www.eacr.org](http://www.eacr.org).

**Specific activities for young oncologists** include a Young Researchers' Forum to generate ideas for developing and enhancing the Association. All meetings have a significant section targeted towards young basic scientists. Many opportunities exist for winning awards including the prestigious EACR Young Cancer Researcher Award, the Carcinogenesis Young Investigator Award, the OSI sponsored Translational Research Award and the EACR-Faustus poster awards.

**Fellowship programmes** comprise the EACR Travel Fellowship Awards, intended to support research on the basis of technical exchange, including participation at workshops and courses; Meeting Bursaries designed to assist younger members of the Association particularly post graduate students and members less than 35 years old to attend conferences.

**Becoming a junior member – Special offer: STUDENT MEMBERSHIP OF EACR IS FREE** with a new streamlined application process; this includes one year free membership for the Flims Young Fellows. Benefits include reduced registration rates at meetings, a series of fellowships bursaries and

awards and representation on governing and planning bodies to ensure that the voice of the young is heard.

#### **For more information contact**

Paul Saunders  
EACR Administrator  
EACR Secretariat  
School of Pharmacy  
University of Nottingham  
Nottingham  
NG7 2RD, UK  
Tel: 44 115 9515114  
Fax: 44 115 9515115  
e-mail: paul.saunders@nottingham.ac.uk  
website: www.eacr.org

## European Oncology Nursing Society (EONS)



The European Oncology Nursing Society was established in 1984. EONS is dedicated to developing and promoting the practice of cancer nursing in Europe through educational, research, and practice-based initiatives.

EONS is comprised of national oncology nursing societies, individual cancer nurses and institutions and agencies involved in cancer care. It has a membership of over 48 organisations, representing around 18,000 oncology nurses and also over 200 nurses as individual members across Europe.

Several pan-European educational programmes have been initiated by EONS.

The *European Cancer Conference* (ECCO) is a very important educational event for EONS, offering a platform for interaction and professional exchange between cancer nurses from all over the world.

The second most important initiative is the *EONS Spring Convention*. The 4<sup>th</sup> EONS Spring Convention was held in Edinburgh, UK, from 15 to 17 April 2004. The next Spring Convention will take place in Innsbruck, Austria, from 20 to 22 April 2006.

General theme of the Convention will be: *Cancer in the Elderly: New developments, changes and implications for nursing*.

One of EONS' important activities is the accreditation of educational programs in cancer nursing. The ultimate aim of accreditation is to improve the quality of educational courses offered to cancer nurses throughout Europe.

The official journal of the Society is the *European Journal of Oncology Nursing*, EJON. EJON seeks to address issues of importance to oncology nurses throughout Europe. EJON aims to inform the practice of cancer nursing through the report of current and ongoing research and relevant developments in practice, policy and education.

The *EONS Newsletter* has been providing the EONS' members with information on the Societies activities and practical information of interest as well as offering a networking forum for cancer nurses throughout Europe.

To know more about EONS, just visit our website at <http://www.cancerworld.org/> or contact the secretariat at [eons@village.uunet.be](mailto:eons@village.uunet.be), fax 0032 2 779 99 37.

# European Society for Medical Oncology (ESMO)



The European Society for Medical Oncology (ESMO) is the leading professional European organization representing medical oncologists and healthcare professionals who treat people with cancer. The Society has grown to include representatives from every European country and the six major geographical regions of the world, with more than 4,000 ESMO members representing over 90 countries. ESMO's membership is comprised of medical oncologists representing all oncology disciplines and subspecialties, physicians and healthcare professionals participating in approved oncology training programs, oncology nurses, and other healthcare professionals with a predominant interest in oncology.

**Goals and objectives:** ESMO is formed of members who share a common goal. As a non-profit organization, ESMO strongly supports all types of scientific cancer research and, in particular, patient-oriented clinical research. Its aims are to:

- Improve
- Advance
- Disseminate
- Educate
- Train

## **Activities:**

- ESMO Congress and ESEC (ESMO Scientific & Educational Conference)
- Educational Program: ESMO Examination; ESMO Medical Oncologists' s Recertification Approval (ESMO-MORA); ESMO Meetings Program
- ESMO Fellowships
- ESMO Translational Research Unit visits
- ESMO Central and Eastern European (CEE) Task Force educational program
- ESMO *Minimum Clinical Recommendations* (Clinical guidelines)
- *Annals of Oncology*
- ESMO Publications
- Career Development Program
- Developing Countries special activities
- Web site including online Clinical Discussion Forum and Virtual meetings
- ESMO Foundation grants

## **Specific activities for young medical oncologists (YMO = under 40 years of age):**

- YMO scientific and breakfast sessions at the ESMO Congress
- ESMO Scientific & Educational Conference (ESEC)
- Masterclasses
- Visits to translational research units
- Fellowships
- Palliative Care and Developing Countries research grants
- ESMO *Handbook of Oncological Emergencies*
- Recognition awards

## **Fellowship programs:**

- The ESMO Fellowship and Award Committee fosters a Fellowship Program. The aim of this program is to provide scholarships to young medical oncologists for 1 year, or in exceptional cases for 2 years, of pre-clinical and/or clinical training in an outstanding European laboratory and/or clinical facility.

- The aim of a grant for a YMO to visit a high-quality translational research unit is to obtain practical information on how translational research is performed. YMO are particularly interested in: 1) How the technology works; 2) Project history and management, including funding; 3) Relations with clinicians; and 4) Quality control.

**For more information please contact**

Silvia Storni-Michel, Membership Services, Marketing Assistant  
 Via La Santa 7, CH-6962 Viganello-Lugano (Switzerland)  
 Tel: +41 (0)91 973 19 01  
 Fax: +41 (0)91 973 19 02  
 E-mail: [membership@esmo.org](mailto:membership@esmo.org)  
 Website: [www.esmo.org](http://www.esmo.org)

## European Society of Surgical Oncology (ESSO)



The European Society of Surgical Oncology was established in 1981 to further the practice of surgery for the treatment of cancer. With a membership of over 1800, the Society's aim is to ensure that the highest possible standard of surgical treatment is available to cancer patients throughout Europe.

ESSO endeavours to foster a multi-disciplinary collaboration in the management of cancer patients. As a full member of the Federation of European Cancer Societies (FECS), it is able to ensure that surgeons can interact with those professional groups responsible for other modalities in the treatment of cancer.

It is well recognised that a majority of patients cured from cancer are cured by surgery. However, surgical oncology is not recognised as a subspeciality in all European countries. One of the Society's missions is to have this field established as an important speciality in oncology. Hence, the Education Committee of ESSO offers fellowships to support trainees in surgical oncology. The aim of these fellowships is to allow young surgeons to work in another specialist centre to either expand their experience or learn new techniques. ESSO will, at ECCO 13 in Paris, propose a Core Curriculum in surgical oncology with recommendations for both the trainees and the cancer centres.

Further to the Core Curriculum and the fellowships, ESSO has developed a surgical oncology examination, in conjunction with the Surgical Board of UEMS. This examination is open to suitably qualified European candidates, and will provide validation of a surgeon's continued professional development in the field of surgical oncology as well as indicating his/her competency to practise in this area. The next examination will be held on Sunday 30 October 2005 during ECCO 13 in Paris.

The Society recognises the importance of organ based societies in the field of surgery. To accommodate this, ESSO has provided a platform, in the form of their biennial meeting, to encourage organ based surgeons and surgical oncologists to discuss and disseminate information related to the area of surgical oncology. Further exchange of information is encouraged in the official journal of ESSO, the European Journal of Surgical Oncology, EJSO.

To learn more about the Society please visit its website, [www.esso-surgeononline.be](http://www.esso-surgeononline.be).

# European Society for Therapeutic Radiology and Oncology (ESTRO)



ESTRO, The European Society for Therapeutic Radiology and Oncology, was founded in Milano in September 1980 as a Society of individual members working in the field of radiotherapy and oncology.

## **Goals and Objectives:**

- Foster radiation oncology in all its aspects.
- Develop benchmarks, tools and methodologies for assuring the quality of radiation oncology in Europe and stimulate their implementation in clinical practice.
- Improve the standards of cancer care by inscribing radiation oncology as a clinical specialty in the multidisciplinary approach to cancer treatment.
- Promote international exchange of scientific information on radiotherapy & oncology and related fields of science such as radiophysics and radiobiology and stimulate research.
- Develop guidelines for education and best practice in radiation oncology and associated professions.
- Establish relationships and co-operation with international, regional and national societies and bodies in the field of radiation oncology.

## **Activities:**

ESTRO's core activities are articulated in its mission statement. Besides activities for the exchange of scientific information and for the education and training of radiotherapy professionals, as evidenced from the 2005 ESTRO events listed below (updates available from [www.estro.be](http://www.estro.be)), ESTRO has generated with support from various EU programmes, a broad range of initiatives for the development of guidelines and infrastructures for the surveillance of the quality in RT, for drafting best practice guidelines and encouraging research for the optimisation of radiation oncology.

## **Specific activities for young oncologists**

The ESTRO teaching courses play an important role in the growing cohesiveness of the European radiation oncology community. By adding a European dimension to the education of young professionals, mobility within Europe is both encouraged and supported. The ESTRO Board also recognised the importance of exchange and transfer of expertise by committing resources to the extremely successful Technology Transfer Grant Programme for short visits to other departments which, in previous years, was funded by the European Commission.

## **Fellowship programmes**

Travel grants for meetings and courses.

## **For more information contact:**

Fatima El Grandi / Lea Minnen

Av. E. Mounier 83, 1200 Brussels, Belgium

Tel: 32.2.7759340 Fax: 32.2.7795494

e-mail: [info@estro.be](mailto:info@estro.be) website: [www.estro.be](http://www.estro.be)



## SIOP Europe



SIOP Europe is the only pan European organization involved in childhood cancer. Its membership is interdisciplinary. SIOP Europe is the European branch of SIOP (International Society of Paediatric Oncology).

SIOP is the major global organisation concerned with the issues of children and young people who have cancer.

SIOP's mission is to bring the best possible care for children with cancer to the farthest corners of the globe.

### **Goals and Objectives of SIOP Europe**

- (1) Facilitate and increase professional medical, scientific and educational co-operation throughout Europe, in particular by supporting exchanges and meetings between doctors, nurses and other professionals involved in the care of children and adolescents with cancer.
- (2) Promote and support collaborative clinical trials within European countries.
- (3) Participate in the development of European guidelines for, and standards of, training and care in paediatric oncology.
- (4) Support and develop European socio economic policies for the reintegration of children and adolescents into education and employment after diagnosis and treatment for cancer.
- (5) Promote and develop collaborative relationships with organisations representing children and adolescents with cancer and their families.

### **Activities**

SIOP Europe members have the opportunity to meet at the SIOP Int. Annual Meetings and at the ECCO meetings, the latter are organised every other year by FECS, the "Federation of European Cancer Societies", of which SIOP Europe is a full member society.

### **Specific activities for young oncologists**

SIOP Europe sponsors the Flims Workshops, organised by FECS every year, by offering fellowships to young paediatric oncologists; SIOP also has a separate category of membership for young people in training.

### **Fellowship programmes**

SIOP Europe offers a number of fellowships during the ECCO meeting, every other year.

### **For more information contact:**

Rosalinde Kennis  
SIOP Secretariat  
Raiffeisenstraat 88  
5611 CH Eindhoven  
The Netherlands  
tel: +31 40 2697544  
fax: +31 40 2697545  
e-mail: [secretariat@siop.nl](mailto:secretariat@siop.nl)  
web site: [www.siop.nl](http://www.siop.nl)