

including three days with extensive information on breast cancer: Day 1 on complications to surgery, pain, alternative treatment and body image. Day 2 on oncological treatment and psychology and on day 3 advises from dietician and physiotherapist were presented. Parameters studied were levels of stress and anxiety, body image, tiredness and general wellbeing. Data were collected from patient questionnaires.

**Results:** Preliminary socioeconomic and demographic data have been collected. Data on psychological wellbeing, coping, self-efficacy, social relations, and quality of life show encouraging results of the CAMMA intervention program. Complete analysis of data will be presented later.

**Conclusion:** Preliminary data indicate a positive effect of intensive information and intervention when patients are cope with the diagnosis of primary breast cancer. So the study continues but further conclusions await longer follow up and processing of data.

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POSTER

#### Working in partnership with Clinical Nurse Specialist (CNS) and cancer service users to evaluate and develop the CNS role

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Background and why this is an area of importance: In October 2005 the cancer peer review feedback suggested that one of the strategic aims that the Trust should focus on is the development of the Clinical Nurse Specialist role (National Cancer Peer Review, 2005). Fundamental to the development of any nursing role is that it should be patient centred. However, there is little evidence that service user have been involved in shaping the role of CNS. Often CNS roles evolved from clinical need (Hill, 2000). The need to organise health services around users has been the theme of many health policies in recent years (NHS Management Executive, 1992). The NHS Cancer plan (DOH, 2000a) advocates that patients should be at the centre of the development and delivery of cancer services. Various national initiatives have been set up for user involvement but action at local level is also important (DOH, 2000b). This research aims to bridge the gap that exists. This will occur through the evaluation and development of the CNS role in partnership with service users in a South East London teaching hospital. Since this review would require collaboration, action research will be utilised. Action research allows individuals to work together collaboratively. It also develops learning as it helps individuals reflect on their practice and helps them identify and justify how this new learning influences change (Mc Niff, 1988).

**Materials and Methods:** A qualitative approach through action research will be utilised within this project because this research is underpinned by collaboration and partnership working and these are also the essential components of action research (Coughlan and Brannick, 2001). A group of Clinical Nurse Specialist and Cancer Service Users will meet for a minimum of three focus groups. The numbers of expected participants will 8 to 10 individuals – 4 CNS and 4 service users.

**Results:** The study is currently underway and the data will be analysed using the Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and threats framework (SWOT). Review of the data will be taking place during the data collection and this also ensures that further cycles of action are initiated. Triangulation of the data will occur through the cross referencing of the data collected from the inquiry diary, notes from focus groups and notes from feedback from the participants.

**Conclusion:** Will be available by the end of May 2007 when the research is completed.

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POSTER

#### Expanding the role of the clinical research nurse in an Italian cooperative oncology research group

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**Background:** cooperative oncology groups have a long history in Italy, while the role of the clinical research nurse is relatively new. The purpose of this project was to establish a network of clinical research nurses (CRNs) within a cooperative oncology group and to identify strategies for maximizing their impact on patient outcomes and research practices.

**Methods:** a group of CRNs were identified in May 2006, through a survey sent to all Investigators of the Multicenter Italian Trials in Ovarian Cancer and Gynaecologic Malignancies (MITO) cooperative group. Through brainstorming, a literature review, discussions with the MITO leadership and contacts with international gynaecologic oncology groups, the CRNs identified 4 initial objectives for improving patient care and research nursing practices to: (1) establish the use of nursing summaries for MITO

conducted trials; (2) identify potential companion studies and other nursing research projects in this patient population; (3) establish formal contacts with international gynaecologic oncology nursing organizations and CRN groups for future collaborations; (4) develop evidence based MITO nursing guidelines to address specific procedures or patient care issues.

**Results:** the first nursing summary was written for the international MITO-2 study, and established minimal content for MITO conducted trials, including strategies for staff and patient education and essential nursing interventions. The CRNs identified the following priorities for nursing: improving compliance with eventual intraperitoneal chemotherapy and evaluate symptom burden over time. MITO nurses have established contacts with the Gynaecologic Cancer Intergroup (GCIG) nurses and the Oncology Nursing Society Clinical Trial Nurses, permitting the review of existing practices and providing contribution to Clinical Trial Nurse Manual (chapter authored by MITO nurses). An intraperitoneal chemotherapy nursing protocol has been published within the MITO group.

**Conclusions:** these early successes of the MITO nurses have stimulated interest in continuing to work toward achievement of the initial objectives and to use this model for expanding the role of CRNs in other Italian cooperative oncology groups.

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POSTER

#### How to reach targets with a SIG

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**Introduction:** The Dutch Special Interest Group (SIG) Immuno/Targeted Therapy founded in 2004 is a special working party of the Dutch Nurses Association, V&VN Oncology and consists of nursing professionals with expertise in the immuno and targeted therapy. The SIG Immuno/ Targeted Therapy has a national reputation in the fields of monoclonal antibodies, small molecules, anti-tumor vaccines, immuno modulation therapy and cytokines (including growth factors).

In the past 4–5 years these new cancer treatments have developed rapidly. The working mechanism of immuno/targeted therapy is very complex and not fully understood. Side effects and complications of new therapies differ from those of traditional chemotherapy and need special nursing skills and attention. Knowledge of immuno and targeted therapy has become important for (oncology) nurses since they are increasingly involved in caring for patients treated with these new cancer therapies.

Aims of the SIG Immuno/Targeted Therapy:

- Improve the quality of care for patients
- Enhance knowledge and practice and become expert in this field
- Provide information and educate nurses and other health care professionals to improve nursing skills
- Become a network for health care professionals

Organisation of the SIG: The SIG consists of (oncology) nurses who have a special interest and expertise in immuno/ targeted therapy and participate at a voluntary basis. The Netherlands is divided in nine cancer registry regions. Each region has a catchment area of 5–20 hospitals. At this moment the SIG has 22 members, representing all nine regions. The SIG meets three times per year. During these meetings new developments, ideas and the progress of the different projects are discussed and new information is exchanged.

**Activities:** To achieve current goals the SIG is involved in several projects in the field of immuno/ targeted therapy, e.g.:

- Development of a theoretical and practical manual for nurses
- Development of educational programs for (oncology) nurses
- Development of patient brochures
- Organizing basic and advanced level sessions at the national annual oncology congress

**Central aim:** We would like to inform other health care professionals how to organize knowledge and share experiences in the field of immuno and targeted therapies to improve patient care, nursing skills and to exchange information about the organisation and activities of the Dutch SIG Immuno/Targeted Therapies.

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POSTER

#### Information meetings for patients with prostate cancer and their partners prior to combined treatment with external beam radiation and HDR brachy therapy

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**Background:** Adequate information and education is essential for patients with cancer and their partners to be able to participate in decision-making