

## 3rd EORTC Breast Cancer Working Conference, Amsterdam, 27-29 April 1983

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THE 3rd EORTC Breast Cancer Working Conference was again organized by the EORTC Breast Cancer Cooperative Group. The congress was modelled to create a working atmosphere. Nine topics from the clinical breast cancer field were selected to be the main points to be discussed. Invited review lectures (plenary sessions), followed by poster sessions related to the topics, were given on the first day. The themes were amply discussed in parallel workshops on the second day; reports of the workshops in plenary sessions on the last day provided all conference members with an overview of the discussions and conclusions made.

Attention was focussed on the following themes: epidemiology—statistics; biology—receptors; markers—prognostic factors; diagnosis—screening; proliferative lesions; psychosocial aspects; breast conserving therapy; adjuvant systemic therapy; advanced disease.

Throughout the conference there was a poster exhibition outlining the work of the EORTC Breast Group. Abstracts of the review lectures, of the designs of the workshops and of the 225 shown posters were published in an abstract book. On the occasion of the conference a book on the history of breast cancer was published (DE MOULIN D. *A Short History of Breast Cancer*. The Hague, Nijhof).

The conference was attended by 700 participants from most European countries and from many

other countries all over the world: an attendance higher than expected.

The meeting gave an overview of the current problems in the field of clinical breast cancer, providing recent information on many ongoing investigations. The discussions created suggestions for future studies. Traditional statements about breast cancer treatment were critically reviewed and debated. The available data often proved to be confusing. The uncertainty of many standard conclusions became clear, expressing the need for further research.

The review lectures and workshop reports written by the co-chairmen-rapporteurs and chairmen are published in this issue of the *European Journal of Cancer & Clinical Oncology*. The Organizing Committee of the conference gratefully accepted the offer of the Editorial Board of the *European Journal of Cancer & Clinical Oncology*, headed by Prof. Tagnon, to open a regular issue of the journal to the conference proceedings. By this way it is now possible to bring the discussions of this conference to the attention of a large group of workers interested in oncology. Prompt publication ensures the up-to-date character of the information.

The different topics are reported in various ways. The format of the reviews and reports is not uniform, a point that adds to the value by creating vivacity. The reviews and the reports supplement and complement each other. Together these presentations provide us with the state of the art in many of the problems related to the treatment of breast cancer.

We gratefully acknowledge the enthusiastic scientific and organizational help of many in organizing the meeting and preparing this publication.

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Members of the Organizing Committee of the 3rd EORTC Breast Cancer Working Conference; guest editors of this issue of the *European Journal of Cancer and Clinical Oncology*.