

Proffered papers

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ORAL

INFLUENCING THE EUROPEAN CANCER AGENDA

A.P. Pritchard

Federation of European Cancer Societies, Brussels, Belgium

The Federation of European Cancer Societies (FECS) seeks to promote and coordinate collaboration between European societies active in the different fields of clinical and experimental oncology and cancer care. Through its federated structure, FECS represents the greater part of basic scientists, medical oncologists, surgical oncologists, paediatric oncologists, radiotherapists and nurses (the European Oncology Nursing Society is a full member of FECS) working in Europe. FECS also liaises closely with the European Organization for Research and Treatment in Cancer and the European School of Oncology and has informal links with the major intergovernmental organisations with a remit for health and cancer in particular functioning at the European level. Until recently FECS has been perceived almost exclusively as the organizer of the biennial ECCO meeting. Recent political developments, such as the ratification of the Treaty on European Union (Maastricht Treaty) giving the institutions of the European Union a mandate to legislate on health matters, have forced FECS to reassess how it can assist its full members to participate in and influence intergovernmental and other organisations with a remit for health functioning at the European level. This paper will describe how FECS has responded to the new political environment and its demands.

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ORAL

LIVING WITH HORMONE THERAPY FOR ADVANCED BREAST CANCER—A EUROPEAN SURVEY OF ONCOLOGISTS AND NURSES PERCEPTIONS

S. Denton, on behalf of EONS and the Working Group on Living with Advanced Breast Cancer Hormone Treatment (WGLABCHT)

The Royal Hospitals NHS Trust, London, U.K.

A European survey will be conducted in the summer of 1995 to assess the incidence and severity of side-effects experienced by post-menopausal women undergoing hormone therapy for advanced breast cancer, and how this treatment may affect overall well-being. The survey will include in-person discussions with 3 oncologists each in FR, GER, IT and the U.K. A focus group will be conducted with the WGLABCHT to review and comment on these qualitative findings. Based upon these discussions, a detailed survey will be developed for nurses. Telephone interviews will be conducted with 50 oncology nurses in FR, IT and the U.K. and 50 gynaecologists in GER. Data will be recorded anonymously and centrally coded and analysed to determine points of similarity and differentiation among the respondents individually and by country. A global report of the findings, and reports for results by country, will be available in Sept 1995.

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ORAL

CANCER CARE PRIORITIES FOR NURSES: A U.K. EDUCATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

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Cancer Care-Priorities for Nurses is a European education initiative sponsored by the European Oncology Nursing Society through an educational grant from SmithKline Beecham and coordinated by Cooney Waters Interscience.

Continuing and specialist education for cancer nurses is of increasing importance. Proposals for the organisation of cancer services in U.K. stress the key role which nurses play in the delivery of cancer care.

The programme consists of five separate roundtable meetings each addressing a different issue related to cancer care. Altered Body Image, Emesis, Psychological Disorders, Pain and Infections. Leading nurses from European countries have taken part in each one. Educational Booklets are produced following each roundtable and these include course aims, themes and content together with a model curriculum. An evaluation tool has also been developed.

The next stage of the project is the establishment of courses in all European countries based on the roundtable curricula and materials. This paper describes the U.K. experience of implementing the work, including the planning process, administration and management of courses, monitoring and review. The views of roundtable members, planners, teachers and students will be included in the comprehensive evaluation and details will be provided of the next stage of the project.

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POSTER

INTERNATIONAL INQUIRY ABOUT INTENSIVE CARE IN ANTICANCER CENTERS

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Intensive care is more and more often used in the management of cancer patients. In order to determine if and how critical care facilities including nursing aspects can be used specifically for these patients, we performed a world-wide inquiry in anticancer centers. We mailed a questionnaire to 146 centers and we received 84 responses (57.5%). There was at least one oncological (i.e. with > 50% of cancer patients) ICU in 59 (70%). The majority of the ICU were found in the European institutions (30/59). Of the 40 Occidental ICU, the main characteristics of nursing were the followings:

type of ICU	general	surgical	medical
n	17	14	9
Median number of beds	8	7	7
(range)	(4–18)	(1–22)	(1–15)
Chief nurse qualifications:			
—in critical care	12	9	8
—in oncology	6	5	7
Median RN number per bed	2.5	2.5	2.0
Critical care techniques used:			
mechanical ventilation	17	13	6
hemodynamic monitoring	17	12	8
hemodialysis	6	5	4

In conclusion, ICU appears to be available in the majority of anticancer centers and are often managed by nurses qualified in both intensive care and oncology.

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POSTER

COORDINATING RESEARCH NURSE: NETWORKING WITH EUROPEAN CLINICAL TRIALS NURSES

A. van Wijk

Coordinating Research Nurse, on behalf of the EORTC, Early Clinical Trials Group and EORTC, New Drug Development Office

In 1992 the Research Nurses of the Early Clinical Trials Group presented a proposal requesting a coordinating Research Nurse. The aim of this function is to promote the quality of research within the ECTG as well as assisting the Research Nurses in this network with the implementation of ECTG-trials.

Objectives of the job are:

- To coordinate and support multi-centre trials within the ECTG Research Nurses network in order to improve the quality of scientific, medical and nursing research.
- To assist research nurses working with principle investigators in the ECTG.
- To disseminate knowledge and to share experiences with colleagues in order to provide a nursing perspective for the improvement of patient care in ECTG trials.
- To enhance the consistency of data retrieval in participating institutes.

It was decided that the function should have a trial period of one year on a 50% work week basis.

In September 1994 the first ECTG-Coordinating Research Nurse began her work. During this presentation I will share with you the efforts, methods, results and conclusions of the first year on the job.