

From Europe

EUROPEAN COMMISSION TO REMOVE OBSTACLES TO RESEARCH, TEACHING AND TRAINING ABROAD

The European Commission wants to put an end to the many pitfalls and problems that are currently experienced by people trying to research, train or teach abroad. A Green Paper has been issued on the initiative of Edith Cresson, the commissioner responsible for research, education and training. The paper has the support of Padraig Flynn, the commissioner for social affairs, and Mario Monti, the commissioner for the internal market.

The Federation of European Cancer Societies will be preparing a response to this Green Paper on behalf of its members.

The commission identifies the difficulties discouraging mobility and proposes nine lines of action.

- A legal framework for the situation of 'student/trainee' and volunteer in the European Union to solve the problems of social security and taxation

hampering mobility;

- standard treatment for researchers on a grant in all the Member States, either through the recognition of an identical condition or the application of similar measures throughout the union;
- social protection for anyone wanting to travel in the Union as part of training or studying, this facility already being accorded to people moving in the EU for the purposes of employment;
- a European area of qualifications through mutual recognition of studies and training courses in another Member State;
- abolition of the 'territoriality' of grants, thereby allowing the least privileged to train or study in another Member state;
- equal treatment of EU citizens and third country nationals residing legal-

ly in the Member States;

- reduced socio-economic problems by granting aid to the most needy to enable them to undertake periods of training in other countries;
- encouragement to learn languages even those less widely spoken;
- better information on existing possibilities and raising of public awareness of the advantages of mobility in training and studying.

Further details about the Green Paper can be obtained from Phylip Pritchard, Chief Administrator, FECS, Avenue E. Mounier 83, Bte 11, 1200 Brussels, Belgium.
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Hodgkin's Disease Cure Should be 100%

The cure rate for Hodgkin's disease should approach 100% and almost nobody should die from this disease. This is the belief of Dr S. Rosenberg of the Departments of Medicine and Radiation Oncology, Stanford University School of Medicine, Stanford, California, U.S.A. Dr Rosenberg was delivering the Kaplan Lecture at the 6th International Conference on Malignant Lymphoma held in Lugano, Switzerland this summer. "It is now a reality that Hodgkin's disease can be cured with the initial treatment programme in virtually all patients, except the elderly," he said.

Dr Rosenberg reviewed the three eras of treating Hodgkin's disease at Stanford University, covering a period of 35 years. "Only in patients over the age of 59 are we failing to meet our goals of curing all patients with Hodgkin's disease."

Further meeting highlights

Professor Franco Cavalli, of the Servizio Oncologico Cantonale, Bellinzona, organiser and chairman of the meeting, spoke to the *European Journal of Cancer* about some highlights of the meeting. The conference was attended by 2000 participants from over 75 countries. Two hundred and twenty abstracts out of the 750 submitted were accepted for oral presentation and posters.

Professor Cavalli said, "The key note lecture by Professor Klaus Rajewsky from Cologne, discussing development of B-cells, showed convincingly for the first time that all cases from Hodgkin's disease most probably stem from B-cells. Therefore, after almost 180 years, the mystery of the origin of this disease is close to being solved." Professor Rajewsky is based at the Institut für Genetic, Universität zu Köln, Köln, Germany.

Professor Cavalli commented that the mini-symposium on cutaneous lymphomas was interesting as this type of lymphoma is increasing rapidly, mainly B-cell cutaneous lymphoma, whereas in the past only T-cell cutaneous lymphomas were seen. Said Professor Cavalli, "In general, epidemiological studies showed that hair-dye is not responsible for the increase in lymphomas, but pesticides and HIV may both have a role in this." He noted that malignant lymphomas have doubled their incidence in the last 20 years.

He noted also the convincing evidence that antibiotic treatments for gastric MALT (mucosa-associated lymphoid tissue) lymphomas worked and said, "The time has come to avoid any surgery for these lymphomas. Gastrectomy may belong to the history of medicine for gastric lymphomas!"