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Advancing cancer nursing practice

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The EONS project on Advanced nursing practice has enabled a network of nurses across Europe to be established and to work together to explore the common purpose of developing nursing. There were dilemmas of national differences, language, and political and local barriers to development, but the enthusiasm and commitment to the development of nursing was a universal theme. The difficulty in developing a single concept and definition of advanced nursing practice led the group to redefine this a 'advancing' practice, as a way to enable international co-operation.

Sustaining projects of this nature that involve international collaboration are difficult and require resources and commensurate funding. These were not available in full for the project and were a limiting factor. However, international collaboration is essential, so that, as is often the case, experiences and ideas are not regenerated and re-lived independently rather than shared and developed in a coherent manner. This is a very wasteful process. This project offers insights into how such collaboration might be developed in the future.

What is needed now is a pan European effort to establish an advanced nursing practice development programme. Proposals around such an initiative will be made based on the UK project which aims to establish and evaluate a Master's programme aimed at developing Advanced Nurse Practitioners in Cancer Nursing.

Novice Researchers Lecture

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What constitutes good cancer care in Greece

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Good cancer care is what all cancer patients deserve. The latest report on the satisfaction regarding the Greek health services shows that only 18% of the population is satisfied. For this reason a three round Delphi was conducted to explore which cancer services and which areas in cancer care need to be developed or improved in Greece. The sample consisted of 30 health professionals and cancer patients' support members from different settings where cancer care is offered. The results show that there is a need for better education for health professionals, and improvement of communication skills. There is also a need for health services development like Day units, home care, hospices etc. all over Greece. The next phase of this project will be the development of a questionnaire, from the results of the Delphi, that will be given to a sample of 200 nurses randomly selected, so that results may be more representative. The aim is to capture nurses' views regarding what constitutes good cancer care in Greece.