Breast International Group (BIG)

The Breast International Group (BIG)-aisbl is a non-profit organisation for academic breast cancer research groups from around the world, with its headquarters at the Jules Bordet Institute in Brussels, Belgium.

BIG facilitates breast cancer research at international level by stimulating cooperation between its members and other academic networks, and collaborating with, but working independently from, the pharmaceutical industry. Such large-scale cooperation is crucial to make significant advances in breast cancer research, reduce the wasteful duplication of effort, and optimally serve those affected by the disease.

Founded by leading European opinion leaders in 1996, BIG constitutes a network of about 50 groups based in Europe, Canada, Latin America, Asia and Australasia. These research entities are tied to approximately 3,000 specialised hospitals and research centres worldwide. More than 30 clinical trials are run or are under development under the BIG umbrella. BIG also works closely with the US National Cancer Institute (NCI) and the North American Breast Cancer Groups (NABCG), so that together they act as a strong integrating force in the breast cancer research arena.

To date, BIG has been mainly focused on large adjuvant trials looking at questions related to optimal chemo-, hormono- and biological therapies, or to special groups of patients, such as the young or the elderly. BIG trials incorporate a substantial translational research component and emphasise the collection and banking of biological specimens for future research. However, BIG also provides a discussion forum for prevention trials and studies in advanced breast cancer, and it launched a biomarkers and drug development programme centred around neoadjuvant studies, NeoBIG.

While nearing the end (in 2011) of its formal support by the European Commission under Framework Programme VI, the TRANSBIG consortium, managed by the BIG Headquarters, will leave a lasting legacy in the form of a biological materials bank (‘biobank’). Extremely valuable for translational research, this will allow researchers worldwide access to genomic data and biospecimens. Moreover, many of the TRANSBIG committees and structures are being adapted to expand their expertise across BIG, benefitting the association in the longer term.

To learn more about BIG visit **www.breastinternationalgroup.org**

European Association of Nuclear Medicine (EANM)

The European Association of Nuclear Medicine (EANM) constitutes the European umbrella organisation of nuclear medicine in Europe and represents the sector towards the European Institutions.

Since 2001, the EANM has an Executive Secretariat in Vienna, which was expanded in 2003 by creating an Educational Facility with courses on: PET/CT in Oncology; Technologists PET/CT; Neuroimaging; Radionuclide Therapy – Dosimetry; Myocardial Perfusion Imaging/Gated SPECT; Paediatric Oncology and Nephro-Urology and PET in Radiation Oncology.

The EANM offers its members a wide variety of benefits such as subscription to the official EANM scientific journal (the *European Journal of Nuclear Medicine and Molecular Imaging* – EJNMMI) and personal online access, reduced registration fees for all courses at the EANM Educational Facility, reduced registration fees at the Annual Congress, regular e-Newsletters featuring society news or important EU news with respect to the field of nuclear medicine and eligibility for various EANM grants.

The next EANM congress will take place October 15–19, 2011 in Birmingham, United Kingdom, featuring plenary sessions, CME sessions, symposia and debates and a large industry exhibition.

If you are interested in more information on the EANM, please visit the homepage **www.eanm.org** or mail the Executive Secretariat at **office@eanm.org.**

European Group for Blood and Marrow Transplantation (EBMT)

The European Group for Blood and Marrow Transplantation (EBMT) is a non-profit organisation established in 1974 to allow scientists and physicians involved in clinical bone marrow transplantation to share their experience and develop co-operative studies.

The EBMT is devoted to the promotion of all aspects associated with the transplantation of haematopoietic stem cells from all donor sources and donor types including basic and clinical research, education, standardisation, quality control, and accreditation for transplant procedures.

The EBMT has defined a clear mission which is ‘Foster excellence in science in order to further improve the outcomes of Stem Cell Transplantation and inform all concerned parties including patients and their families, about the development in the field.’

Moreover, the EBMT vision for the forthcoming year encompasses:
- Increasing the level of science across the organisation with a view to advancing clinical practice;
- improving the governance structure for effective and accountable implementation of the Mission;
- maximising the resources to potentiate the activities of the Society.

The EBMT has 3,612 members based in 536 transplant centres in 57 countries supporting its development. With their generous support, 19 Corporate Patrons of the EBMT join the mutual effort of EBMT members to promote all aspects of blood and marrow transplantation. The EBMT 2012 Annual Meeting will be held in Geneva (Switzerland) from April 1–4, 2012. Visit **www.ebmt.org/ebmt2012** for more information.

The EBMT organises every year its Annual Meeting at the beginning of April, which has grown in size each year to reach 4,300 delegates in Paris 2011 and remains an important moment to ensure and encourage exchange, education and scientific productivity in order to improve upon what has been built over the years.

The organisation is represented and led by the EBMT Board which consists of the following members: President, President-Elect, Secretary, Treasurer, Chairpersons of the Working Parties, the President of the EBMT Nurses Group and the President of the forthcoming annual EBMT meeting.

More information is available on our website: **www.ebmt.org**

Association of European Cancer Leagues (ECL)

The Association of European Cancer Leagues (ECL) is an alliance of national and regional cancer leagues. ECL is represented by leagues in countries spanning from the Faroe Islands to Turkey in order to join efforts to fight cancer. ECL provides a forum of exchange for information and best practices and connects the work and interests of cancer leagues in Europe.

ECL's vision is to be a visible and effective player in cancer control and cancer care, in particular in Europe. The central purpose of ECL is to identify and promote common strategies in cancer control toward achieving health equity in cancer prevention, treatment and services.

The major fields of activity for member cancer leagues include cancer prevention, public information, professional education and assistance, as well as information services and rehabilitation for patients and their families and relatives, and participation in, and support for, cancer research.

ECL Activities

ECL's main areas of activities are in line with current cancer issues in Europe and with the priorities and interests of member leagues. ECL is a main and important stakeholder at EU level for cancer-related issues, such as tobacco control and pharmaceuticals. We also provide the Secretariat for the MAC (MEPs Against Cancer) group. MAC is an all-party informal group of Members of the European Parliament (MEPs) committed to promoting action on cancer as an EU priority (www.europeancancerleagues.eu/mac).

ECL organises specific activities in important areas for member leagues. Currently, ECL leagues are involved in workshops, technical meetings, and forums in the areas of national cancer control plans, HPV vaccines, pharmaceutical issues, sun safety and melanoma, tobacco control, and fundraising. ECL's increasingly strong and visible Patient Support Working Group (PSWG) works with patients to identify important themes affecting the lives of patients in Europe.

Another key activity is ECL's leadership of the Health Promotion and Cancer Prevention Work Package in the *European Partnership for Action Against Cancer* (EPAAC) and as part of a main action, ECL relaunched the European Week Against Cancer which takes place 25-31 May each year (www.weekagainstcancer.eu) to communicate cancer prevention using the evidence-based European Code Against Cancer.

Association of European Cancer Leagues (ECL)

479 Chaussée de Louvain
1030 Brussels, Belgium
www.europeancancerleagues.org
www.cancercode.eu
E-mail: **info@europeancancerleagues.org**

The European Breast Cancer Coalition (EUROPA DONNA)

EUROPA DONNA, the European Breast Cancer Coalition, is an independent, non-profit organisation whose members are affiliated groups from countries throughout Europe.

The Coalition works to raise awareness of breast cancer and to mobilise the support of European women in pressing for improved breast cancer education, appropriate screening, optimal treatment and care and increased funding for research. EUROPA DONNA represents the interests of European women regarding breast cancer to local and national authorities as well as to institutions of the European Union.

EUROPA DONNA has 46 member Countries

TEN GOALS:

1. To promote the dissemination and exchange of factual, up-to-date information on breast cancer throughout Europe;
2. To promote breast awareness;
3. To emphasise the need for appropriate screening and early detection;
4. To campaign for the provision of optimum treatment;
5. To ensure provision of quality supportive care throughout and after treatment;
6. To advocate appropriate training for health professionals;
7. To acknowledge good practice and promote its development;
8. To demand regular quality assessment of medical equipment;
9. To ensure that all women understand fully any proposed treatment options, including entry into clinical trials and their right to a second opinion;
10. To promote the advancement of breast cancer research.

10TH EUROPA DONNA PAN-EUROPEAN CONFERENCE

Malta, 22 and 23 October 2011
EUROPEAN BREAST CANCER ADVOCACY: *CHALLENGES FOR THE NEW DECADE*

EUROPA DONNA – The European Breast Cancer Coalition

Piazza Amendola 3, 20149 Milan, Italy
Tel. +39 02 3659 2280Fax +39 02 3659 2284
E-mail: **info@europadonna.org**
www.europadonna.org

The European Prostate Cancer Coalition (Europa Uomo)

Europa Uomo, the European Prostate Cancer Coalition, represents and supports patient groups with prostate diseases in general and cancer in particular. Our aims include increasing awareness of prostate diseases, the support of individualised treatment based on optimal medical treatment with personalised patient care and patients' advocacy as a priority focused on quality of life based on solidarity and mutual respect.

Our expansion is based on collaboration with professional organisations to provide information on evidence-based treatment, to educate men on holistic patient care and on solidarity in advocacy with other patient support groups.

Europa Uomo
Secretariat: Lange Gasthuisstraat 35–37,
2000 Antwerpen, Belgium
Tel: +32.3.338.91.50
Fax: +32.3.338.91.52
E-mail: **europauomo@skynet.be**
www.europa-uomo.org

European Society of Skin Cancer Prevention (EURO*SKIN*)

Aims of EURO*SKIN*

EURO*SKIN* is an independent non-profit scientific society, whose principal aims are to reduce the incidence and mortality of skin cancer. It sets out to achieve this through the promotion and co-ordination of collaborative actions between European professionals active in the fields of primary and/or secondary prevention. These include, dermatologists, epidemiologists, biologists, physicists and other professionals with an interest in these aims.

In carrying out its aims, EURO*SKIN* publishes articles and organises workshops and conferences. From these come scientific status reports and recommendations towards:

Primary prevention by
- the promotion of scientific studies relevant to primary prevention;
- the development, promotion and evaluation of effective information;
- the promotion and development of solar UVR monitoring programmes;
- the promotion of harmonisation of information programmes throughout Europe.

Secondary prevention by
- the development, promotion and evaluation of effective strategies for secondary prevention of skin cancer;
- promoting population-based skin cancer registration, harmonisation of classification and other activities, essential to the evaluation of secondary prevention;
- a harmonised approach to the application of guidelines.

In achieving the above aims, EURO*SKIN* works closely with its national, European and global 'Partners in Prevention'.

info@euroskin.eu
www.euroskin.eu

Flims Alumni Club

The Flims Alumni Club (FAC) is a non-profit organisation and an Advisory Member of ECCO, the European CanCer Organisation. It has been established in 2001 and is open solely to young professionals and faculty who have participated in the ECCO–AACR–EORTC–ESMO Workshops on 'Methods in Clinical Cancer Research' in Flims, Switzerland.

Flims Alumni Club responds to the interests and needs of highly driven European junior clinical oncologists by offering an expanding range of benefits exclusive to its Members. FAC Members enjoy exclusive access to the FAC Members Directory and a direct networking opportunity via the Flims Alumni Club LinkedIn Group.

FAC Members are also entitled to especially reduced fees to attend key meetings, such as the European Multidisciplinary Cancer Congress, which incorporates a Young Oncologists Track, as well as FAC events and workshops. Each year FAC grants a fellowship to one oncologist to participate in the Flims Workshop.

The mission of FAC is to foster active involvement of young cancer specialists in both clinical and translational research, to promote teaching and dissemination of methods in cancer research, and thus contribute to the enhancement of quality of clinical trials and translational research in Europe.

In FAC we believe that mobility of young cancer clinicians between different European countries promotes high-quality training. We aim to develop a sense of community by fostering interactions among our members and to promote a productive dialogue between young cancer specialists and European and non-European Cancer Societies.

For more information please see **www.ecco-org.eu/education/young-professionals.**

MYELOMA EURONET

MYELOMA EURONET a.i.s.b.l. (ME) is a proud member of ECCO and the ECCO Patient Advisory Committee (PAC).

The 2011 European Multidisciplinary Cancer Congress will unite oncology professionals and patient advocates on a unique and level playing field. Putting the interests of the patient at the core of all activities is very much a part of the Congress ethos.

ME a non-profit network organisation of multiple myeloma patient groups, is a European initiative dedicated to raising the awareness of multiple myeloma, an increasingly common form of bone marrow cancer.

ME provides information on the diagnosis, treatment and care of people living with multiple myeloma and supports its member organisations in the fulfilment of their missions.

ME also advocates both independently and in collaboration with organisations with similar objectives, on behalf of those affected by multiple myeloma.

ME provides a multi-lingual website, current in Arabic, Czech, English, French, German, Greek, Italian, Polish, Portuguese, Romanian, Russian, Spanish and Turkish.

The goals of Myeloma Euronet are to:
- Provide information on appropriate diagnosis, treatment, care and support for myeloma patients and their families;
- Advocate the cause of myeloma patients and their needs among EU health care policy makers and share best practice in shaping appropriate policies at European level;
- Ensure equal access to the highest standards of treatment and care;
- Build partnerships among members of Myeloma Euronet in order to share experience and expertise;
- Encourage the growth of new multiple myeloma patient groups throughout Europe, especially in cities and countries where they are not now found;
- Raise European awareness of multiple myeloma amongst relevant stakeholders and the public.

www.myeloma-euronet.org

Organisation of European Cancer Institutes (OECI)

Established in 1977 to promote cooperation among EU cancer centres and institutes, the Organisation was remodelled into a European Economic Interest Grouping in 2005.

OECI is a continuously growing network, presently grouping 73 members, collaborating in various expertise projects within its Working Groups (Accreditation and Designation; Education and Training, Molecular Pathobiology and Cancer Biobanks) and Activities (Options and recommendations of diagnosis and therapy – the STARTOECI project, Communication and Dissemination, WIN Project and EurocanPlatform).

The OECI's main objective is to identify and perform initiatives that will help cancer centres to adapt to the requirements of a personalised approach to patients' care. Therefore, participation in the creation of the European Research Area and of translational research path, has become the core of the OECI programme reflecting the innovativeness and competitiveness of early and late translational research and will undoubtedly contribute to the quality of health services offered by the OECI institutes.

A strong organisational structure and a certified quality assurance, such as the one released by the OECI Accreditation and Designation System, obtained through an audit focused on quality improvement, are crucial characteristics of a comprehensive cancer centre which aims to provide optimal care while performing excellent translational research.

In the coming years, the OECI will continue to strengthen its organisational system in order to promote and support its role in the practical quality validation and improvement of European CCCs as a guarantee of innovation process and to contribute to the diffusion of relevant knowledge throughout Europe. The next step will be the proposal and promotion of a revised management system for cancer institutes based on an entrepreneurial approach and moving towards personalised medicine.

The OECI, through the Stockholm Group, has contributed to the launch of a European Network of Excellence in translational cancer research recognised by the EC as part of the FP7: the EurocanPlatform. The OECI also participates in other projects with large partnerships all over the EU.

In 2009 the OECI became a registered Publisher and in 2010 *ecancermedicalscience* became the Organisation's Official Journal.

Contact details:

OECI Coordinating Secretariat and Liaison Office
c/o Fondation Universitaire
Rue d'Egmond 11
1000 Brussels
Tel: +32 2 5120146; Fax +39 010 5737 493
E-mail: **oeci@oeci.eu**
www.oeci.eu
Official Journal: **www.ecancermedicalscience.com**

Union for International Cancer Control (UICC)

Founded in 1933, the Union for International Cancer Control (UICC) is the largest cancer fighting organisation of its kind, with more than 400 member organisations across 120 countries. Headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland, it is the leading non-governmental cancer organisation whose mission is to eliminate cancer as a life-threatening disease for future generations.

UICC is committed to delivering the targets of the World Cancer Declaration through strategic partnerships involving members and other institutions interested in fighting cancer. Together we aim to save millions of lives by focusing on what needs to be done by taking the lead in:
- Raising awareness and education;
- Global network of influence;
- Taking action where it matters.

The current global programmes include:
- World Cancer Day: is coordinated by UICC on 4 February each year. Together with its members and the support of the World Health Organization (WHO), UICC aims to raise awareness of cancer prevention worldwide;
- GAPRI (Global Access to Pain Relief Initiative), which seeks to deliver effective pain relief to those in need;
- International Cancer Fellowships: UICC facilitates the professional development of cancer investigators, clinicians, nurses, cancer society staff and volunteers by giving individuals the opportunity to travel to other parts of the world to learn new skills to take back to their own country or organisation. The programme has been highly successful with over 6,000 fellowships awarded in the last 20 years;
- My Child Matters, which addresses childhood cancer;
- Cervical Cancer Initiative, helping to fight cervical cancer globally;
- The World Cancer Leaders' Summit: An annual one-day event, which convenes key players in the cancer world, health ministers and leaders of international businesses to assess progress in the delivery of the Declaration targets and to plan the next steps;
- World Cancer Congress: Held every two years, the Congress brings together the world's leaders in the fight against cancer to share knowledge and learn from each other. Participants focus on transforming the latest knowledge into strategies that can be implemented worldwide to reduce the cancer burden.