

The Society Member Pages

EACR is proud to have six national societies affiliated as 'Society members' and to have the opportunity to present some highlights of the year.



MOT: The Hungarian Cancer Society 50 years against cancer

The Hungarian Cancer Society (Magyar Onkológusok Társasága, MOT) was founded in 1957, so we celebrated its 50th anniversary in 2007. The history of the alliance of Hungarian oncologists, however, has much longer history, going back to at least to early 1930s.

Today, MOT is a large multidisciplinary cancer society with more than 900 members.

Over 1,000 participants at the 26th biennial meeting also celebrated the

50th anniversary of MOT (November 8-10, 2007) respecting contributions and achievements of our researchers and physicians. Here I just mention some examples, such as the introduction of the basic method for isotope diagnostics (Hevesy, G., Nobel laureate), description of basal cell carcinoma (Krompecher, Ö.), Kaposi' sarcoma, Marek' disease, and the discovery of new anticancer agents.

For the past 50 years, the programmes and services of MOT have aimed at enhancing the exchange of knowledge among researchers, physicians, advocates and patients to advance prevention, treatment and care in our country. The key elements of our mission statement have been implemented by strengthening the internal and external communications and collaborations of MOT.

Strong communication is being developed with members at meetings, with partner International Organizations (EACR, AACR, IARC, EONS etc.) in our own scientific journal ("Magyar Onkológia" established in 1957), through MOT newsletters, and (www.oncology.hu).

The Hungarian Cancer Society has built excellent relationship with EACR since early 1970s and joined EACR as its Society Member in 2003. We are most grateful to Professor Mike Price, the former Secretary General of EACR, for strengthening our relationship with EACR. Supporting local cancer research efforts in a large number of European nations, Mike created the opportunity for scientists trapped by political regimes to join the United Europe of Cancer Research.

The Hungarian Cancer Society had the pleasure of hosting a great number of international meetings in Hungary over the past 50 years. Two biennial meetings of EACR were organized in Budapest in 1981 (EACR-06) and in 2006 (EACR-19). EACR workshops were held on "Environmental Hepatocarcinogenesis" (1977) and on "Tumour dissemination" (1993) and meetings of the European Study Group for Cell Proliferation (1984, 1992).

Internationally recognized leaders of the Hungarian cancer community had the honour of organizing the 14th UICC International Cancer Congress



in Budapest (1986), joint meeting of AACR-IARC on "Carcinogenesis from Environmental Pollution: Assessment of Human Risk and Strategies for Prevention" (1996), among many other.

The current dire cancer mortality data and the forecast for the coming decade in Hungary give reason for concern. As Hungary is on the top of world cancer mortality lists, cancer remains a genuine nation-wide tragedy which calls for considerable efforts to be made against this dreadful disease. Therefore, there is a huge need for the continuation of dedicated and tireless work of the MOT membership and the furthering of our excellent relationship with EACR and other international cancer organizations, advocates and industrial partners.

In our half-Centennial year and beyond that, it gives me great pleasure and honour to express my heartfelt gratitude for all past, current and future contributions to the ongoing effort to combat cancer.

Edith Olah

Società Italiana di Cancerologia (SIC): the Italian Cancer Society

Approaching the 50th Meeting

The Italian Cancer Society (SIC) was founded in the 1950s and it is the longest-lived association dedicated to oncology operating in Italy. The society has to date organized 49 meetings, and is approaching the celebration of its 50th meeting, which will take place in Naples, Italy from October 6th to 9th, 2008 under the coordination of Alfredo Budillon (Cancer Institute Pascale).

The society currently has around 400 active members, with notable growth achieved under the recent presidencies of Marco A Pierotti (Director of the National Cancer Institute of Milan, and current President of EACR) and Raffaella Giavazzi of the "Mario Negri" Institute (Bergamo and Milan), the first woman President of the SIC, who served in the years 2006-2007. The President

ASEICA: The Spanish Cancer Society

XI ASEICA Meeting, Las Palmas 10-12th, May 2007

The ASEICA Meeting was held in Las Palmas, Gran Canaria and for the first time the language of the meeting was English and completely focused on Translational Oncology.

The Meeting gathered 450 participants in total and the programme featured 14 sessions and 5 plenary lectures:

There was an excellent programme that attracted a lot of young investigators and increased the participation of groups working in translational research in many different topics from new molecules, predictive markers or genomic studies among others. The Meeting also featured poster sessions with 150 posters and 24 selected oral communications selected among the best posters. The closing ceremony included an award to

Juan Carlos Lacal in recognition of his enthusiasm, commitment and efforts to bring together basic and clinical researchers in oncology. He has been Secretary and President of ASEICA and also member of the EACR Executive Committee.

Among other initiatives, he was instrumental in bringing the National Cancer Society: ASEICA to the EACR in 1996 and since then other National Cancer Societies have joined EACR.



Juan Carlos Lacal

The organizers of this Meeting wish to express their gratitude to EACR for their contribution to the success of the Conference.

Rosario Perona

for 2008-2009 is Dr Adriana Albini, of the IRCCS (Scientific Institute) Multimedica of Milano-Sesto San Giovanni.

The SIC's principal activities are the promotion of experimental, molecular and translational oncology, with attention to clinical and epidemiological aspects. The society encourages interactions between preclinical and clinical investigators and has numerous medical oncologist members. The SIC is also involved in policies to foster cancer research in Italy and to attract young scientists into oncology; it also aims to transfer of knowledge and experience, establishing relations with similar national and international associations.

One of the most important partners of SIC is the European Association for Cancer Research (EACR). The relationship among the two societies has existed for many years, and officially the SIC joined the EACR as a Society Member in 2001. Members of SIC are now members of EACR, increasing exchanges, visibility and

opportunities for the new generations of scientists.

The SIC organizes its activity through the annual meeting and smaller workshops of its working groups.

The SIC Annual Congress is a major cancer research event in Italy. The recent 49th meeting was held in Pordenone under the coordination of Riccardo Dolcetti, with national and international scientists and presenters.

The society makes important awards in recognition of achievements:

The Prodi Lecture in recognition of long term scientific activity in Italian cancer research with internationally recognized achievements and active participation in the society (since 1988).

A fellowship by the Pezcoller Foundation to promising young investigators (since 2006).

A certain number of awards by the



Prodi's lecture 2007 awardee Sylvie Menard, with Pordeone's meeting organiser Riccardo Dolcetti and Past President Raffaella Giavazzi at the 49th SIC meeting

Associazione Oncologica Pisana "Piero Trivella" that are given to young investigators presenting the best posters (awarded since 1998).

A prize awarded by the journal Tumori, for the best paper published in the journal in that year (awarded since 2002). The peer-reviewed journal Tumori (ISSN 0300-8916) (www.tumorionline.it), is the Society's official publication; founded in 1911 this year it is 97 years old.

This year a session was dedicated to Graziella Persico, an important Italian scientist who discovered the angiogenic factors PIGF and Crypto, but unfortunately succumbed to cancer recently

Besides "transitional" working groups devoted to immunology, metastasis and angiogenesis, the society has given birth to a "Junior Group"- created in 2006 - to implement the participation of young scientists to the Society. The Group is operating successfully and it has organised a session in the meeting for the second time.

This year the young investigators also proposed a candidate to the SIC council (Marco Macor) who was elected through the general assembly. Donatella Del Bufalo (Regina Elena Rome) is the member of the Board who coordinated the Group and has devoted much time and attention. The social dinner of the under 35 had almost 100 attendees...fostering not only science but friendship and networking.

Adriana Albini

British Association for Cancer Research

News

2007 saw the BACR continuing to expand its programme of focused conferences and to support its members to attend other meetings. Competition for BACR awards is increasing and during the year the BACR provided in excess of £37K in support of students (27 awards) and full members (13 awards) to attend meetings and 4 Travel/Exchange Fellowships were awarded.

Two successful BACR Special Conferences, were held:

'Diet & Cancer: susceptibility, prevention and therapy' - University of Nottingham, June 2007,

and

'Cell signalling and novel cancer therapeutics', London, November 2007.

The BACR also sponsored a number of other scientifically relevant meetings during the year.

Topics for 2008 BACR Special Conferences

Cellular immortality & cancer: from telomerase to cancer stem cells
3rd & 4th June, Stratford-upon-Avon

Advances in Cancer Drug Discovery
7th/9th September, Cambridge

2nd BACR/APS meeting Pre-clinical models; biomarkers and targeted therapy

27th November, London
Two of the BACR Award lectures were presented at the 3rd NCRI Cancer Conference:

The BACR/AstraZeneca Frank Rose Young Scientist Award given by Dr Owen Sansom (Beatson Institute for Cancer Research) and the BACR Translational Research Award, given by Dr Jorge Reis-Filho (Breakthrough Breast Cancer, The Institute of Cancer Research, London). The BACR Hamilton-Fairley Award for the best poster at the NCRI meeting was won by Dr Christopher Morrow (Paterson Institute of Cancer Research, Manchester).

The BACR also organised two educational workshops at the NCRI meeting: "RNAi technologies" and "Apoptosis" which were both well attended despite the early start!

BACR AGBM



Stewart Martin

Andrew Westwell

At the BACR AGBM this year, we were all very sorry to lose the invaluable services of Dr Stewart Martin, who had been Hon Treasurer for the past 5 years and had worked tirelessly on behalf of the BACR to maximize its income and make sure the money was spent as effectively as possible. However, we were very pleased to welcome Dr Andrew Westwell as the new BACR Honorary Treasurer.

Website

The BACR website is being updated this year and it is anticipated that it will have been launched by the end of January 2008. It is hoped that members will access the various facilities offered by the new site.

SFC France Report

-The Société Française du Cancer (French Society of Oncology) is continuing to focus its activities on continuous medical education for research scientists and therapists (medical oncologists, surgeons, radiotherapists) from academic institutions and private companies.

Two courses have been already organised, the first one about "Targeted therapies" in 2005, the second one on " Targeted therapies: selected patients" in 2006 and a third one is ongoing on "Individual prescriptions". Each course comprised 5 full day sessions. In addition, a 3 day continuous session devoted to formation of junior oncologists to clinical research is organised each year. The 2008 session will take place at "Val Thorens" (24 - 26 April).

The presentations from all these meetings are published promptly in special issues of "Bulletin du Cancer" which is the official journal of the Société Française du Cancer.

The next biannual EACR congress will take place in France (Lyon), The Société Française du Cancer, which is a very recent member of the EACR, will do its best to attract French oncologists to this important meeting. The Société Française du Cancer will meet the registration fees for 20 participants of accepted posters/oral communications issued from French teams.

Société Française du Cancer will sponsor the annual meeting organized by the "Growth factors club". It will be devoted to "Omics' approaches in cancer": clinical applications" and will take place at Institut Curie in Paris (21 January 2008) with the participation of Pr.A.Chinnaiyan (USA), Pr. O. Kallioiniemi (Finland), Pr. J. Hoheisel (Germany), Pr. M. Stratton (UK), Pr. A-L. Borresen-Dale (Norway), Pr. M. Vvan de Vijver (The Netherlands), Pr.D. Birnbaum (France). Participation is free. Contact Mrs Desenclos, Executive Secretary, Société Française du Cancer (sdesenclos@scf.fr).
F Lavelle

AEK Germany

An Introduction

The Division of Experimental Cancer Research (Abteilung Experimentelle Krebsforschung, AEK) within the German Cancer Society (Deutsche Krebsgesellschaft e.V., DKG) was founded in 1979 by DKG members. AEK serves as a forum for all scientists active in experimental cancer research. Membership is open to students, postdocs and principal investigators.

AEK is divided in 8 work groups: biochemistry group (AEK-B), immunology group (AEK-I), cancerogenesis group (AEK-K), molecular genetics & cytogenetics group (AEK-M), pathology group (AEK-P), therapy & pharmacology group (AEK-T) virology group (AEK-V) and cell & developmental biology group (AEK-Z). Owing to the interdisciplinary character of modern cancer research, scientists usually are members in several groups.

The AEK groups organise biannual congresses which have developed into the most important meetings on basic cancer research, but also covering translational aspects of cancer research, in German-speaking countries. Invited speakers from abroad and from Germany are renowned experts in their fields. The meeting also offers the opportunity for members to present their work.

The 15th International AEK cancer congress will be held in Berlin, March 2009. The first announcement for this congress will be published soon.

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