



Nothing About Us, Without Us!

PRESS RELEASE

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On 16 November, ECPC will hold its third FACE Workshop on Palliative Care to discuss how to face the end with dignity

Palliative care, with its focus on management of symptoms, psychosocial support, and assistance with decision making, has the potential to improve the quality of care and reduce the use of medical services. About 1.7 million people in Europe die from cancer each year, many experiencing severe pain, even though effective pain medications exist. Cancer patients need Palliative care services. However, palliative care has traditionally been delivered late in the course of disease to cancer patients hospitalized in the specialized inpatient units or as a consultative service for cancer patients with uncontrolled symptoms.

To have a meaningful effect on patients' quality of life and end-of-life care, ECPC has proposed that comprehensive oncologic palliative services for patients with cancer would ideally improve the patients' quality of life and facilitate the efficient allocation of medical resources.

As such, ECPC is holding its third FACE workshop to propose that palliative care services must be provided earlier in the course of the disease. Access to palliative care services is inadequate and inequitable, with unacceptable variations in care geographically in Europe and even within Member States, across different demographic groups and patients with different illnesses and needs. There is particular disparity between patients with cancer and those suffering from non-malignant conditions. Often it is the case that the best care is excellent, the worst may be non-existent.

The workshop will be chaired by ECPC President Tom Hudson with the support of MEPs, Commission officials, Member State Representatives academic and patients. It is divided into three sessions.

The first session will include stakeholders. Dr. Maria Vidal from DG Research, European Commission, MEP Anna Zaborska, Prof. Jose Martin-Moreno from the WHO Regional Office in Europe, and Prof. Sheila Payne, International Observatory on End of Life Care, will express their commitment to the palliative care.

The second session will consist of the voices from the Member States, with academics and practitioners from the UK, Spain, Ireland and Poland discussing the successes and challenges of palliative care development in their respective countries. Prof. Lucas Radbruch, President of the European Association for Palliative Care, will sum up the session's findings by discussing the cultural differences among the Member States with regard to the palliative care.

The final session will gather academics and practitioners discussing the palliative care elements relevant in cancer treatment. It will finish with a vision of the palliative care future by Prof. Philip Larkin, Professor of Clinical Nursing at University College Dublin.

Registration is still open. If you would like to attend please contact:

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