



European Association for Palliative Care

Non Governmental Organisation (NGO) recognised by the Council of Europe

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RESEARCH

(last update: March 2001)

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FORTHCOMING EVENTS [▲ top](#)

Sessions under the umbrella of the Research Network

7th Congress of the EAPC, 1-5 April 2001, Palermo, Italy

- How to Write a Paper from A to Z. Chair: Prof Geoffrey Hanks, UK.
- Critical Reading of Articles. Chair: Mr Phil J Wiffen, UK; Co-Chair: DR Per Sjøgren, Denmark.
- Validated Assessment Tools in Palliative Care. Chair: Dr. Augusto Caraceni, Italy; CO-Chair: DR Marianne Jensen Hjermstad, Norway.
- How to Conduct Research. Chair: Prof Stein Kaasa, Norway; CO-Chair: DR Robert Dunlop, UK.
- Research in Nursing. Chair: Prof Huda Huyer Abu-Saad, Netherlands. CO-Chair: Ms Roser Borrell I Busquets, Spain.
- Ethical Dilemmas in Research. Chair: DR Mildred Solomon, USA; CO-Chair: Prof Alastair Campbell, UK.
- Report on the activities of the EAPC Research Network. Chair: DR Franco De Conno, Italy; CO-Chair: DR Lukas Radbruch, Germany.

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Workshop to report on the activities of the EAPC Research Network

(6th congress of the EAPC, 23 September 1999, Geneva, Switzerland)

Chair and introduction: Franco De Conno

PART 1: Individual lectures by the Chairpersons of the current projects
Participants: Augusto Caraceni, Geoffrey Hanks, Carla Ripamonti, Nathan Cherny, Lukas Radbruch & Sebastiano Mercadante
PART 2: Short introductions and roundtable discussion with the members of RSC on concluded, ongoing and future activities.

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Introduction to research in palliative care - Seminar on basic research knowledge

(6th Congress of the EAPC, 24 September 1999, Geneva, Switzerland)

Goal: To improve participants' basic skills in research methodology and thereby encourage the number of projects undertaken in palliative care.
Target group: Nurses, doctors and other health professionals who want to participate in a short introduction to research. Basic skills in statistics

or research methodology were not required.

Chair: Stein Kaasa & Franco de Conno

Experts: Robert Dunlop, Augusto Caraceni, Geoffrey Hanks, Helen Morgan, Irene Higginson

- Introduction & overview by Stein Kaasa
- Ethical challenges
- Design of prospective clinical studies, general considerations
- Measures of pain and other symptoms
- How to conduct studies in symptom control
 - A doctor's view
 - A research nurse's view
- Assessment of palliative care programmes

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Recommendations in palliative care

International Congress on Pharmacology and Therapy, 18 July 2000, Florence, Italy

The Director of the International School of Pharmacology, Giampaolo Velo, invited the Research Network to organise a session on palliative care research in the scientific programme of the International Congress on Pharmacology and Therapy, held in July 2000 in Italy.

Chair and introduction: Franco De Conno

Experts: Stein Kaasa, Geoffrey Hanks, Lukas Radbruch, Friedrich Stiefel, Carl Johan Fürst

- Methodology and ethics of research in palliative care
- Modes of administration of third-step opioid analgesics in cancer pain
- Difficult pain problems
- Detection and management of depression in palliative care
- Corticosteroids in palliative care

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Conference on research and development in palliative care

Berlin, Germany, 7-10 December 2000. First Congress of the Research Network

After the first two years of its work, the Research Steering Committee (RSC) decided that in addition to the biennial European EAPC Congress, a conference especially focused on research in palliative care was necessary to spread information about research activities and invite healthcare professionals to participate in discussions on research issues.

This conference endeavoured to provide training for researchers, but to also give an overview of ongoing research projects and recommendations for clinical practice. It aimed to include healthcare professionals involved or wishing to get involved in research in palliative care from all European countries.

160 abstracts had been submitted showing the increased interest in research among palliative care specialists and about 350 participants from 40 countries took part in the discussions on problems currently facing research in palliative care.

In four lectures in plenary, two roundtable discussions as well as 18 sessions, 50 experts from Europe and overseas reported on topics of interest in research and evaluation not only on pain and symptom management, but also on other areas of palliative care such as ethical considerations or psychosocial needs. Topics such as the legalisation of euthanasia, and sedation in palliative care, were also discussed in great detail. The participation in the discussions was extremely high.

The Speakers came from Austria, Canada, France, Germany, Israel, Italy, the Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the United Kingdom and the USA and represent the following professions and specialities: physicians, nurses, social scientists, ethicists, pharmacists,

anaesthesiology, neurology, oncology, pain therapy, palliative medicine, pharmacology, psychiatry, psychosomatic medicine, statistics.

The sessions with a combination of invited speakers and free communication were well received, as were the poster presentations. Three book prizes for the best posters were awarded.

Further information about the Congress and presented abstracts are available on the website (www.kenes.com/eapcresearch).

The Congress had the support and collaboration of the Deutsche Gesellschaft for Palliativmedizin (DGP - German Society for Palliative Medicine). The Congress had received Continuing Medical Education (CME) accreditation from the German Association for the Study of Pain (DGSS) and the Royal College of Physicians of the UK.

Thanks to the SOROS Foundation, a limited amount of sponsoring money was available for participants from Eastern European countries, which will be allocated by the President of the EAPC. The Congress hosted the first meeting of OSI - EAPC - ECEPT on collaboration and common projects.

The Scientific Committee has received much positive feedback both during and after the Congress. Participants stated that the exchange of information and the expert discussion was very enlightening.

The Research Steering Committee is confident that the Congress has provided a valuable input to the development of palliative care within Europe, and hopes that many new ideas and plans for future projects will stem from the events in Berlin.

We would like to thank all those involved in the preparation and running of the Congress, who helped to make this event such a success.

Lukas Radbruch, Chairman of the Scientific Committee, Germany
Franco De Conno, Chairman of the Research Steering Committee, Italy

EXPERT WORKING GROUPS

In palliative care, there are still a variety of research topics and many controversial issues without any guidelines or a defined common approach. The RSC has organised expert working groups on such topics.

The experts were invited to examine clinical and evidential data with the aim of creating clinical guidelines. The RSC is aware that, especially in palliative care, there are many medical issues that do not have a sufficiently mature evidence base to derive such guidelines. In the absence of a best approach, clinicians need to be aware of the range of available options, their potential risks and benefits, and the clinical and pragmatic considerations needed to choose between them.

If an expert working group concludes that the current level of evidence does not lend itself to the development of clinical guidelines, then they will collate the data in the form of a pragmatic report rather than clinical guidelines. The results of all expert working groups should be an official publication.

EAPC expert groups usually hold closed meetings but may start their work during international or national conferences. Expert group members may give presentations to an open audience and then continue their work by corresponding with other members and the RSC involved in the same project..

ALL EXPERT GROUPS MUST GUARANTEE THAT THE RESULTS OF THEIR WORK AND PUBLICATIONS ARE UNDERTAKEN INDEPENDENT OF ANY COMMERCIAL INTEREST OR INFLUENCE.

Publications

WHO guidelines on cancer pain management: report on international application and current appraisal (in collaboration with Excerpta Medica),
5th Congress of the EAPC, 13 September 1997, London

The purpose of this working group was to review the current application of the WHO guidelines on cancer pain management in various countries around the world. In association with Excerpta Medica, a report of the meeting has been produced.

Chairs: Franco De Conno and Geoffrey Hanks.

Experts: Robin Fainsinger, Carl Johan Fürst, Stein Kaasa, Sebastiano Mercadante, Wouter Zuurmond, Josep Porta, Lukas Radbruch, Nathan Cherny and Ben Zylitz.

Additional commentators: Philippe Poulain and Jose Ferraz Gonclaves.

This paper has been published by Excerpta Medica as a stand-alone publication.

The EAPC has received complementary copies for RN members and the individual membership of the EAPC. The proposal of Janssen-Cilag to distribute further copies as a handout at the EAPC Congress was welcomed by the RSC.

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Morphine and alternative Opioids in Cancer pain: the EAPC recommendations

GW. Hanks, F. De Conno et al.... and the members of the steering committee of the research network of the European Association for Palliative Care:

Expert working Group of the Research Network of the European Association for Palliative Care

British Journal of Cancer, 2001;84:587-593. published 6 March 2001.

This paper is a result of the expert working group on : Morphine and alternative opioid analgesics in cancer pain was held at the 2nd International Comprehensive Cancer Care Congress, 1 May 1998, Rhodes, Greece to discuss and update the following publication: Morphine in cancer pain: modes of administration. BMJ 1996; 312: 823-826.

Chair: Geoffrey Hanks and Franco De Conno

Experts: Nathan Cherny, Magdi Hanna, Eija Kalso, Henry J McQuay, Sebastiano Mercadante, Jacques Meynadier, Philippe Poulain, Lukas Radbruch, Carla Ripamonti, Jordi Roca i Casas, Juliette Sawe, Robert Twycross, Vittorio Ventafridda and the RSC Members.

We have ordered **reprints** to be distributed to the **EAPC members** and we have received permission to translate the paper into French and distribute the translation without paying author-rights to the British Journal of Cancer.

If you visit their website :

<www.harcourt-international.com/journals/bjoc/default.cfm> you will be able to access it. The website is available to all. But you only get access to the full contents of the journal if you are a subscriber. You can get 24hours of access for a single payment of \$33.00. Otherwise you can get contents lists and abstracts and a sample copy etc for no payment.

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Clinical Practice Recommendations for the Management of Bowel Obstruction in Patients with End-Stage Cancer

C. Ripamonti, R. Twycross et al:

Working Group of the European Association for Palliative Care

Supportive Care in Cancer, 2001 (in press; foreseen for Issue N°2 March)

This paper is the result of the third of the expert groups organised by Franco De Conno for the EAPC previously to the establishment of the Research Network. The expert group on Bowel obstruction first met in

Athens at the First International Congress of the Hellenic Society.

We have obtained from Springer Verlag the right to put the reprint as a download pdf file on our Web as soon as it is published. We will furthermore try to purchase reprints to be distributed to the **EAPC members** who have no access to Internet.

We are in negotiation as to the right for translation into French.

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Strategies to Manage the Adverse Effects of Oral Morphine, An evidence-Based Report

N.Cherny, C.Ripamonti et al ..and the Steering Committee of the Research Network of the EAPC:

Journal of Clinical Oncology (in press; publishing date: May 1 2001)

Its importance is being highlighted and it is being published in a separate section of the journal as an "ASCO Special artical". The paper will appear on the web site of the JCO <http://www.jco.org> and will be available in full text to subscribers or at a payment of \$12 USD.

Nathan Cherny is negotiating on behalf of the Research Network to obtain a special rate to purchase reprints which will be distributed to the **EAPC members** and the right to translate the article in French.

The paper is the result of an expert group on: "What to do when oral morphine fails in treatment of cancer pain: Critical assessment of the strategies." They first met at theScientific Meeting of the Portuguese Association of Palliative Care, 17-18 October 1998, Oporto, Portugal

Chair: Nathan Cherny and Carla Ripamonti.

Experts: Carol Davis, Marie Fallon, Sebastiano Mercadante, Henry McQuay, Gavril Pasternak, José Pereira, Vittorio Ventafridda and the RSC members.

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Depression in Palliative Care: A Pragmatic Report of an Expert Working Group of the European Association for Palliative Care.

F. Stiefel, M. Die Trill, A. Berney, JN Olarte, D. Razavi and the members of the steering committee of the research network of the European Association for Palliative Care

Journal of Supportive Care in Cancer (in press; publishing date: unknown)

We are negotiating with Springer Verlag for the right to put the reprint as a download pdf file on our Web as soon as it is published. We will furthermore try to purchase reprints to be distributed to our members who have no access to Internet.

We are in negotiation as to the right for translation into French.

The paper is the result of an expert group on Detection and management of depression in palliative care who first met at the 6th congress of the EAPC, 24-25 September 1999, Geneva, Switzerland.

Chair: Friedrich Stiefel & Juan Manuel Nuñez Olarte Experts: Darius Razavi, Maria Die Trill, Alexander Berney and the RSC members

Topics debated:

- Detection and screening of depression
- Education of physicians for increasing the recognition of depression
- Psychotherapy of depression
- Psychopharmacology of depression

Psychiatric disorders in patients with chronic and severe illnesses are prevalent and often remain undetected. The resulting lack of treatment

adds a considerable amount of suffering to the burden of having a disease. Therefore, the RSC decided to organise an expert panel on the problem of depression in palliative care.

The goal of this workshop was to discuss research strategies to improve the detection and treatment of one specific mental disorder frequently encountered in palliative care. The experts reviewed and discussed the subject in a workshop and reached consensus in a subsequent closed session.

Ongoing working groups

Pain measurement tools and methods in clinical research

27 February 1998, Erice, Italy

Chair: Augusto Caraceni and Nathan Cherny.

Experts: Robin Fainsinger, Stein Kaasa, Philippe Poulain and Lukas Radbruch and the RSC members.

The final version of the summary paper has been submitted to the JPSM. [A revised version is actually circulated among the members.](#)



Breakthrough pain - Episodic pain,

2nd International and Hellenic Conference on Pain Relief Palliative Care, 5-7 March 1999, Athens, Greece

Chair: Sebastiano Mercadante and Lukas Radbruch

Experts: Augusto Caraceni, Nathan Cherny, Friedeman Nauck, Stein Kaasa, Carla Ripamonti and the RSC members.

The topic is quite controversial. It is acknowledged that many patients continue to suffer from difficult pain syndromes with a typical temporal pattern, and that the presence of breakthrough pain is a very important negative prognostic factor.

The meeting revealed big differences as to definition and approach within Europe and the USA. For example, in the UK, this term is often used in the context of end-of-dose failure, whereas in an American definition breakthrough pain is a temporary increase in pain intensity with otherwise well controlled baseline pain.

Moreover, the term 'breakthrough pain' is typically English and does not have any equivalent in other languages in Europe, especially in Latin countries, where patients and untrained physicians may have misconceptions of the definition of breakthrough pain. The term 'episodic' or 'transient' pain seems to be more simple and adequate in the majority of languages, including English, French, German, Italian and Spanish. Treatment for episodic pain often will follow the same guidelines as for continuous pain, but specific treatment options are available, using rescue medications with short-acting analgesics, co-analgesic and adjuvant drugs or non-drug treatments often in combination. Algorithms have been discussed for education and for using a common language among researchers. Algorithms may be helpful for the physician to find the best treatment for specific pain syndromes.

The paper entitled 'Breakthrough pain - state of the art and the need for structured research' has been submitted for publication.



Psychosocial research

July 1999, London

The RSC recognises the need to develop research in psychosocial issues in palliative care and will be giving thought to how this should progress. In preparation for a fuller discussion, an expert group met in London in

July 1999. The group included some of the most active researchers in psychosocial issues and comprised Julia Addington-Hall, Sheila Payne, Frances Sheldon, Barbara Monroe, Marilyn Relf and David Oliviere (Chair). The group identified possible areas for research which include:

- What is psychosocial care and which professions are involved
- Minimum standards for family assessment
- Social deprivation and place of death
- Social exclusion
- Single person households
- The bereavement care of children
- Complementary therapies
- Volunteers
- The needs of family carers
- Gender and palliative care
- Cultural aspects of pain
- Life review.

Other groups were identified for possible collaboration and funding.

We are at an early stage of developing 'psychosocial palliative care research' therefore:

1. The RSC should consider at their next meetings some priority areas and identify some goals
2. The RSC should try to encourage an expert working group, with European representation at the next conference where members can make proposals to the Scientific Committee
3. All colleagues working in the field should actively participate and make comments and recommendations.

David Oliviere

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The indications and use of steroids in palliative care

Centre for Scientific Culture, Ettore Majorana, 15?16 October 1999, Erice, Italy

Chair: Carl Johan Fürst and Stein Kaasa

Experts: Paul Andrews, John Ellershaw, Tali Siegal, Friedrich Stiefel, Declan Walsh and the RSC members.

Corticosteroids are extensively used in palliative care. However, the indications for use and the use of different drugs and dosages are very much guided by clinical experience. The scientific evidence base is scarce. The pharmacological actions of corticosteroids are largely unknown. At the occasion of the meeting of the RSC, held at the Centre for Scientific Culture, the RSC organised the sixth expert working group.

This group started to look into basic pharmacological principles of corticosteroids and investigate evidence and experience-based knowledge related to the indications and use of corticosteroids in palliative care. The areas covered were pain, anorexia, cachexia, fatigue, neurological problems, nausea and somatic as well as psychiatric side-effects.

The preparation of a manuscript is in progress and the aim is to have a draft ready for the end of 2000. The intention is to publish this review and guidelines in a medical journal.

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Sedation in Palliative Care

First meeting : 1-2 October 2000, St. Raphael, France

Chair: Philippe Poulain, Silvain Pourchet.

Experts: Nessa Coyle, Carl Johan Fürst, Stein Kaasa, Lars Johan Materstvedt, Nicole Silvestre, Vittorio Ventafridda, Raymond Voltz, Joseph Porta I Sales.

RSC members participating: Franco De Conno, Augusto Caraceni, Jose

Subjects debated:

- Needs and limits of sedation in palliative care
- Sedation - techniques and drugs
- Italian experience with sedation in palliative care
- Norway: "100 hundred death analysed"
- Psychological impact of sedation in patients and their family
- Environmental care of patients family under sedation
- Sedation and euthanasia, two words, two concepts, only one result
- The morality of terminal sedation and its relationship with euthanasia. The philosopher point of view
- Sedation and emergencies in palliative care
- Survey about sedation, experience of Catalonia.

Philippe Poulain presented the concept for the work of the group for discussion to the participants of the 1st R&D Congress in Berlin 7-9 December 2000. He reported about the input of this discussion to the RSC in their meeting on 10 December. The very lively debate in the session on Sedation in the Congress showed for example important differences in the need for clarifications on this topic between the United States and Europe linked to different problems to face. Europe may need to discuss more about concepts. Philippe Poulain will circulate with the first draft of the paper also an abstract about the session on Sedation in the "Berlin Conference" to the RSC and the experts.

PROJECTS

Cross-sectional survey

The present project is the first empirical multicentre study organised by the EAPC ResNet.

The study includes 21 countries, all the 15 member states of the European Union as well as Norway, Switzerland, Iceland, Israel, Romania and Cyprus. For each country, one national co-ordinator recruited five (if possible) to a maximum of 10 participating centres to the study. A network of 142 centres was set up.

The study was co-ordinated by a core group of four Steering Committee members: Stein Kaasa, Geoffrey Hanks, Nathan Cherny and Franco De Conno.

All the organisation, distribution of information, dispatching of documents, collecting data and drawing up of data bases was carried out by Karin Torvik, the data manager of the Unit for Applied Clinical Research, Faculty of Medicine, Trondheim, Norway. The entire study was carried out without any external financial support.

The questionnaires were completed in all countries in the English language, and a French translation of the questionnaire was available.

The **main objectives** of the study are:

- To identify the patient population of specialist palliative care services in terms of demographic data, diagnostic groups, treatment, social circumstances and performance status
- To provide detailed information on the use of strong opioid analgesics and some other key drugs by specialist palliative care services.
- To identify a network of palliative care services across Europe able to participate in collaborative research.

Inclusion criteria

The study includes 3088 patients, both inpatients and outpatients under the care of palliative care services in the participating centres on one specific day during week 23. Each centre may choose the day for

registration during the week 23.

Due to different reasons, Israel and the Netherlands collected data during week 25, France during week 26 and the UK, Greece, Ireland and Luxembourg during week 40 (second round).

In countries with less than ten specialist palliative care services, all centres were included. In countries with more than ten specialist services, was aimed to obtain a representative sample based upon an equal distribution of type of centres in the country. For selecting representative centres, the following guide was used:

- Cancer hospital
- General hospital
- Hospice
- Outpatient hospital-based service (Ambulatory service)
- Day care
- Home care (specialist advisory service)
- Home care (extended nursing care, or 'hospice at home')
- Other

Method

This study is a descriptive cross-sectional 'quality assurance' survey. All participating centres completed a questionnaire (only one per centre) describing the nature of their service.

On the given day of the study, the participating centres completed a detailed questionnaire on every single patient currently under care. The patient survey includes:

- Demographic data: age, sex, marital status, home circumstances and diagnosis
- Palliative care data: date of referral to the palliative service, place of palliative care delivery, involved team members, anticipated life expectancy, nutrition, alertness, mobility and goals of care
- Current problems: symptom severity and active problems
- Therapeutics: medications, invasive analgesic approaches, invasive palliative approaches and use of alternative/complementary medicines.

A specific subsection was incorporated for patients with cancer. This includes details of specific diagnosis, stage of disease, sites of known metastases and current anti-cancer therapies.

Publication

Preliminary data from the first round was presented during the Berlin conference, 7-10 December 2000. More data will be presented at the session of the Research Network. Several Publications will be finalised until end 2002.

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Survey on opioid availability in Europe

Philippe Poulain has collected data of a survey on opioid availability in Europe. In 2001, additional data will be collected mostly from Eastern European countries in order to have updated and comparable data. A second round will be needed for some countries. It is planned to circulate the questionnaire to be updated at mid 2001 and write a paper next year.

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National and regional research initiatives in Europe

The RSC decided to create a chapter in its section on the Web to collect and publish information about the National and regional research initiatives. For its next meeting the RSC has invited the representatives of 4 groups .

The RSC invites all EAPC members and readers to inform us about such initiatives.

Hereunder the information we have received until now .

FRANCE

Commission Recherche de la Société Française d'Accompagnement et Soins Palliatifs

créée en Novembre 1999

OBJECTIFS :

- Etre un facilitateur pour la recherche en soins palliatifs
- Renforcer la formation à la recherche en soins palliatifs
- Soutenir des projets de recherche

Lien à une association nationale : la SFAP

CONTACTS :

Secrétariat : 01 45 75 43 86, E Mail : sfap@wanadoo.fr

Responsables de la Commission :

- Docteur Benoît BURUCOA , E mail : benoit.burucoa@chu-bordeaux.fr
- Madame Evelyne MALAQUIN-PAVAN, E mail: dssi@ccl.ap-hop-paris.fr
- Docteur Eric KARIGER, E mail : ekariger@chu-reims.fr

Nombre de centres participants : pas d'inscription actuellement, mais potentiellement les adhérents de la SFAP et les structures spécifiques de soins palliatifs (USP, EMSP)

FINANCEMENT : Les donateurs de la SFAP, particulièrement la Fondation de France

ACTIVITES ET ETUDES EN COURS :

1. Composition d'un article sur l'enquête auprès des adhérents sur la recherche en soins palliatifs :
2. Organisation d'une journée de sensibilisation à Paris le 20 octobre 2000 (80 participants)
3. Préparation de deux séminaires de formation pour les adhérents de la SFAP :
 - l'un à Bordeaux les 29 et 30 juin 2001 sur les approches quantitatives
 - l'autre à Paris les 26 et 27 octobre 2001 sur les approches qualitatives
4. Préparation d'un guide d'aide à la recherche en soins palliatifs (parution prévue au début de l'année 2002).

GERMANY

Arbeitskreis Forschung der Deutschen Gesellschaft für Palliativmedizin

(Working group on research of the German Association for Palliative Medicine)

Palliative care has seen a rapid development in Germany in the last years, and the number of inpatient and outpatient services has increased steadily. However, research into palliative care still is scarce, and publications focus on cancer pain management with few exceptions. With the increasing number and scope of the palliative care units the discussion on quality assurance has been raised, and research in palliative care has been called for.

Following the growing demand on research in palliative care a working group has been established by the **German Association for Palliative Medicine**.

The working group had its initial meeting in 1999 and has formed a network for research in several meetings since then. A workshop on research has been organized by the working group in the German Palliative Care Congress last year. The working group is also involved in the development of a German core instrument for documentation of inpatient palliative care.

Future activities of the working group will cover several areas:

- A training workshop on research methodology will be organized for the next palliative care congress.
- Participants will be informed of ongoing and planned research projects and will be invited to participate in German and European projects.
- Finally the working group will try to identify topics and aims for clinical trials with high relevance for the development of palliative care and will initiate clinical trials with the research network on these topics.

Physicians and non-physicians working in palliative care throughout Germany are invited to join the network!

Contact::

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Email: Lukas.Radbruch@uni-koeln.de

Internet: www.dgpalliativmedizin.de/ak-1.html

SPAIN

Co-operative Group of Catalonia for Research in Palliative Care (CATPAL).

DIRECTOR ASSISTANTS:

Dr. Xavier Gómez Batiste.

DIRECTOR ASSISTANTS:

Dr. Albert Tuca.

Ms. Esther Corrales.

Information about this group will be presented during the RSC meeting at the Palermo Congress and will be published after the Conference.

UNITED KINGDOM

Palliative Care Research Forum of Great Britain and Ireland

Information about this group will be presented during the RSC meeting at the Palermo Congress and will be published after the Conference.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The RSC members wish to express their thanks to the following institutions for their support to the Network:

- Division of Palliative Care & Rehabilitation, National Cancer Institute, Milan, Italy
- Portuguese Association of Palliative Care and the Portuguese League Against Cancer
- Jenny Karezy Foundation and the Hellenic Association for Pain Control
- International School of Pharmacology at the Ettore Majorana Centre of Scientific Culture
- [Palliative Medicine Unit, Faculty of Medicine, Norwegian University of](#)

[Science and Technology, Trondheim, Norway](#)

- [Regione Siciliana](#)
- Assessorato alla Sanità della Sicilia
- SAMOT
- Angelini A.C.R.A.F. Spa
- ASTA Medica
- Grünenthal
- Janssen Cilag
- Lafont
- UPSA
- Zambon Italia



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