



European Association for Palliative Care
EAPC Onlus: Non profit-making Association
Non Governmental Organisation (NGO) recognised by the Council of Europe
Association Européenne pour les Soins Palliatifs
EAPC Onlus: Organisation à but non lucratifs d'utilité publique
ONG reconnue par le Conseil de l'Europe

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President UICC
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1205 Geneva
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Trondheim, 28 September 2003

Dear Doctor Lee, Dear Doctor Seffrin,

I contact you in my position as President of the European Association for Palliative Care, which gathers a movement of about 50000 persons represented by 29 Associations in 19 different European Countries.

The letter is in reference to the recently published WHO/UICC document “Global Action Against Cancer”.

We appreciate the citation of Dr. Gro Harlem Brundtland: “Pain relief and palliative care can improve the quality of live of cancer patients and the families”, and that there is page on the need to better opioid availability. However, we are astonished that the document presents that: “22,4 million people are living with cancer and 1,5 million are dying of cancer today”, without reporting on the importance of palliative care for these patients. Palliative care go far beyond opioid availability and pain treatment and is recognised as a special service for all patients during end of life.

I would in later publications highly recommend that you include palliative care as an important entity of a global action against cancer.

EAPC can provide you with a range of publications and studies on pain and many other very invalidating symptoms these patients suffer from, and on the proven effect of treatment of these symptoms. Furthermore, special services of palliative care is now recommended as a part of the health care system at the same level as oncological services.

I very much appreciate, that I have been invited to represent EAPC and the movement of Palliative Care at the meeting of the WHO in Geneva, 25 to 28 November 2003 on: “Consultation on strategies to improve and strengthen Cancer Control Programmes in Europe.” And I look forward to contribute to get more attention to the fact that when cure is not possible any more, we still can care and relief symptoms and suffering.

I look forward to a close collaboration with both UICC and WHO in the future.

Sincerely,

Stein Kaasa

Cc: Dr. Eduardo Bruera, President IAHP, Houston, USA
Dr. Cecilia Sepulveda, WHO Cancer Control Program, Geneva Switzerland
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