



7th EAPC Congress, 2001

The aim of this Congress was to continue EAPC tradition with a challenging scientific programme that would inform and update on all aspects of palliative care. An exchange of information among professionals of any given field is the most productive and effective way to educate others and ourselves. Much care was taken to assemble renowned speakers to share their experience and knowledge with delegates from all over the world.

The Congress was attended by 1,842 participants from 54 different countries. There were 110 speakers in total, representing many different countries and different professions including physicians, social workers, specialists in ethics, communication and pharmacology, nurses, social scientists, psychologists, volunteers and chaplains. Forty-three per cent of participants were physicians.

Four plenary sessions were held and they dealt with the following subjects: controversies in ethics; prognostication at the end of life; ethics within Latin Europe; controversies in therapeutics; end-of-life care decision-making; end-of-life care in children; towards European standards in palliative care (policy); palliative care in non-oncological patients; taking care of the difficult patient/the difficult family; nurses' challenges; controversies in hydration and nutrition; bereavement, loss and grief. Sixty parallel sessions were held and dealt with the following areas and topics: communication; public health policy and organisation; quality of life; research; family and education. The entire programme including abstracts is still available on the web (www.eapcnet.org).

Delegate participation was high and the presentations and poster sessions were well received. Three prizes for the best posters were awarded.

Moreover, the Scientific Committee selected the best abstracts whose authors were given the opportunity to deliver an oral presentation within the corresponding sessions held by the invited speakers. Over 600 abstracts were submitted and 105 were selected for oral presentation.

The Congress has received Continuing Medical Education (CME) Accreditation from the Royal College of Physicians of London (20 CME credits), the European Society of Medical Oncology (18 ESMO-MORA points, category 1) and the Italian Ministry of Health (20 CME credits).

The Scientific Committee has received much positive feedback both during and after the Congress.

The importance attached to this event and the interest that it generated was evident from the patronage of the President of the Italian Republic and the opening addresses of the Italian Minister of Health, Professor Umberto Veronesi, the Archbishop of Palermo His Eminence Cardinal Salvatore De Giorgi, Dr Marie de Hennezel of the University of Paris International Hospital, the Assessore alla Sanità Regione Sicilia Giuseppe Provenzano, the Presidente della Provincia Regionale di Palermo Francesco Musotto and the Commissario Straordinario of the City of Palermo, Guglielmo Serio.

The President of the Italian Republic also addressed a greeting to the Congress and on the occasion of the opening ceremony His Eminence, Cardinal Salvatore De Giorgi, read a greeting from the Pope, His Holiness John Paul II, to the audience.

We would like to thank all those who have worked hard in order to make this congress such a success: the EAPC Board, the EAPC Executive Committee, the organisers, the Scientific Committee, the Advisory Board, speakers and submitters of abstracts. And a special thanks to all the participants!

Sebastiano Mercadante, Chair of the Scientific Committee; Giorgio Trizzino, Chair of the Organising Committee

Initiatives in Eastern Europe

Projects and organisations working towards establishing international collaboration in co-operation with the EAPC are as follows:

The EAPC centre for palliative care support in Eastern Europe

One of the top priorities of the EAPC for the future is the development of quality palliative care in Eastern Europe. Through a grant from the Open Society Institute (OSI), an EAPC co-ordination centre has recently been set up at Stockholms Sjukhem in Sweden.

The first priority of the co-ordination centre is to survey palliative care needs in different countries. The centre will also survey the existing support and resources and try to co-ordinate these efforts by increasing awareness and knowledge. Information provision and educational support are other major goals.

Our first step is to distribute a questionnaire asking everybody working in palliative care in the Eastern European countries to give his/her view on the situation. The questionnaire is available in English and Russian in a printed version or

from the following email address:
Sylvia.Sauter@stockholmssjukhem.a.se

We invite all those working for the same aim to contact us. We would also like to get in contact with people living outside the Eastern European countries who are engaged in activities, contacts and twinnings in Eastern Europe. Please inform us about what you are doing. If there is anyone who would like to contribute to palliative care in Eastern Europe, please let us know.

For more detailed information, please contact: Sylvia Sauter or Carl Johan Fürst, Stockholms Sjukhem, Mariebergsgatan 22, S-112 35 Stockholm, Sweden.

Tel: + 46 8 617 1200.

Fax: + 46 8 617 9300.

email:

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Sylvia Sauter, Centre Manager; Carl Johan Fürst, Centre Director, Sweden

The Eastern and Central Europe Palliative Task Force (ECEPT)

ECEPT is an international organisation, based in Poznan, for care professionals in palliative care in Eastern and Central Europe.

The tasks for ECEPT are:

- To gather data on palliative care provision in the region
- To share experiences in the field of palliative care
- To influence government institutions for policies and funding for palliative care
- To organise training and courses for palliative professionals from Eastern and Central Europe
- To set standards of palliative care specific for local needs/circumstances
- To raise awareness about palliative care in the whole society.

For more information please contact Jan Luczak (jluczak@usoms.poznan.pl) or Maciej Kluziak (mkluziak@polbox.com), Palliative Care

Dept, Ul.Lakowa 1/2, 61-878 Poznan, Poland. Tel/Fax: +48 61 853 0106.

University of Sheffield PaCE

The project is based at the University of Sheffield at the Sheffield Palliative Care Studies Group (SPCSG). It involves a review of services, strategies and policies in 29 of the Eastern European countries and part of Asia during 2001.

The project aims at collecting and compiling data for an overview of the factors which promote or inhibit change, of opportunities that might be exploited and examples of good practice of palliative care in the whole region. There is also a lack of needs analysis, programme implementation audit and evaluation of services. The review will result in a 'white paper' that documents what has been achieved and makes recommendations for future development.

The project is funded by OSI – a Soros Foundation. For more information please contact: D.Clark@Sheffield.ac.uk

Open Society Institute (OSI)

The OSI funds many projects in Eastern Europe with the aim of improving the care of the dying.

Seven different programme areas will be funded, such as:

- Resource centres/training centres – for institutions/organisations to serve as training centres for palliative care education
- Palliative care regional education programmes
- Palliative care national education programmes
- Regional meetings of policy makers
- Scholarships – one to three months in established palliative care settings
- Palliative care travel grants
- Educational materials – translation of existing educational materials.

For further information and criteria for applying, please go to www.soros.org or contact: Mary Callaway, Palliative Care in Eastern

Europe, Open Society Institute, 400 West 59th Street, New York, New York 10019, USA.
Fax: +1 212 548 4613.

International Association for Hospice and Palliative Care

The International Association for Hospice and Palliative Care (IAHPC) is dedicated to the development and improvement of palliative care worldwide.

The IAHPC has developed programmes of education and support for those establishing palliative care programmes anywhere in the world.

For further information, please contact: Liliana de Lima, 1515 Holcombe Boulevard – 08, Houston, Texas 77030-4009, USA.
Tel: +1 713 339 2006.
Fax: +1 713 339 9041.
email: lidelima@aol.com
website: www.hospicecare.com

Hospice Information Service

The Hospice Information Service at St Christopher's Hospice in the UK is a worldwide resource and link for those engaged in palliative care.

Hospice Worldwide is a guide for healthcare professionals wishing to establish contact with existing or planned hospice and palliative care services in countries outside the UK. Services are grouped within their geographical continent to facilitate local networking among professionals.

There is a directory and listing of services available for Eastern and Central Europe. The Information Service welcomes comments and further suggestions for inclusion in the directory.

For further information, please contact: Avril Jackson and Ann Eve, The Hospice Information Service at St Christopher's, 51–59 Lawrie Park Road, London SE26 6DZ, UK.
Tel: +44 (0)20 8778 9252.
Fax: +44 (0)20 8776 9345.
website: www.hospiceinformation.co.uk