



8th EAPC Congress, 2–5 April 2003, The Hague

The Scientific Committee has decided to include nine plenary sessions, covering key aspects of palliative care and its development. We have invited speakers of outstanding reputation, including healthcare professionals with extensive experience in palliative care and distinguished academics.

The plenary sessions will include a lecture in memory of Virgilio Floriani in recognition of the Floriani Foundation's contribution to palliative care over the years, including its support for the foundation of the EAPC.

The Scientific Programme will cover broad areas of palliative care and will consist of different sessions. Each session will take into account the diversity of the audience.

Each plenary session will be followed by a parallel session organised as a discussion panel, allowing both the speaker and audience to discuss the topic in more detail. A reporter will give a formal response to the plenary lecture and two independent specialists will then give their statements on the topic. Thereafter, a general discussion will follow. We hope that this initiative will bring extended opportunities for discussion into the Congress.

Chosen reviewers will assess the posters that will be displayed during the Congress. Outstanding posters will be pre-selected and specific sessions will be organised for further discussion and presentation.

Each one of the abstracts received will be submitted to experts and professionals who will base their assessment on ratings of: relevance to palliative care, clarity of presentation,

rigour of methodology and originality. The highest rated abstracts will be selected for oral presentations.

The purpose of the teaching sessions at a basic level will be to give participants: the opportunity to learn about key concepts in palliative care; to explore basic knowledge, skills and attitudes; and to identify key issues in the literature. These sessions are mainly aimed at those with basic or limited experience in palliative care.

The purpose of the advanced teaching sessions is: to introduce advanced aspects, controversies and developments; to critique the related current evidence base; to discuss advanced knowledge, skills and attitudes; and to develop a critical understanding of the relevant literature. These sessions are mainly aimed at those working full-time in palliative care.

Specific sessions will be organised to give the audience the chance to discuss different topics in detail. A facilitator will make a short introduction, which will then be followed by an open discussion among the participants.

Parallel sessions will also be offered for small groups of participants to meet with professors and experts in palliative care from throughout Europe and from overseas.

In addition, the Congress will offer the opportunity to EAPC Collective Members wishing to organise 'national' meetings focused on initiatives and developments in their own countries. They will be held in the native language, if requested by the national organisations.

For further details, please visit the Congress website: www.eapcnet.org/theHague2003

Hospice and palliative care national associations seminar 30 March–1 April 2003, The Hague

Many national palliative care associations work in isolation and find themselves reinventing what has been developed elsewhere. This exciting seminar aims to share experiences, bringing together representatives from across the globe to learn about how other associations have contributed to the development of palliative care.

The seminar is being organised by Help the Hospices, the national charity for the hospice movement in the UK.

The aim is for participants to develop a greater understanding of:

- Joint working with individual service providers
- National associations' experiences of organisational development
- How associations have interacted with governments.

By the end of the seminar, participants will have increased their knowledge of what other associations have achieved; areas where associations could implement change; and how to go about this, as well as the possibilities for international collaboration. Associations are also encouraged to bring a poster presentation of their work.

Consensus statements and action points will be the main outputs from the seminar. The aim is for the areas discussed to be written up and published after the seminar.

The seminar is intended for anyone whose role requires national planning in hospice and palliative care, or responding to the needs of hospice and palliative care providers. We are anticipating accommodating a

maximum of two representatives from each country. For further details contact:

Nick Pahl, Development Director,
Help the Hospices, Hospice House,
34-44 Britannia Street,
London WC1X 9JG, UK.
Tel: +44 (0)20 7520 8236.
email: n.pahl@helpthehospices.org.uk

The Cyprus Anti-Cancer Society (CACS)

Cyprus is a Mediterranean island with a population of 750,000. Since the Turkish incursion in 1974 the island is unfortunately divided, with 37% being under occupation by the Turkish army. After an enforced population movement in 1974, Turkish Cypriots are in the north of the island and Greek Cypriots in the south, which is governed by the internationally recognised Greek Cypriot Government.

Established in 1971, the CACS is a charitable institution with the aim of preventing cancer and providing palliative care. Its activities cover several areas.

One of the main activities of the CACS is the education of the public about the causes and the various types of cancer, and the preventive measures that can be taken to avoid the disease. Great efforts are exerted by the society to change the old belief that cancer is incurable.

The Society organises public lectures and issues a large variety of leaflets and booklets covering all the known types of cancer, and giving specific advice regarding symptoms and prevention measures.

The Non-Smokers League

Among other activities, the CACS has created the Non-Smokers League

which has carried out an important role in educating the public on the disastrous effects of smoking as a prime cause of cancer. The League has submitted specific proposals for the amendment of legislation. It has also issued a large number of brochures, leaflets and posters for the enlightenment of students and the public at large.

Palliative care

The Arodaphnousa Hospice was opened in 1976 and is a nursing home for cancer patients. It is the only hospice in Cyprus which provides palliative care by a multiprofessional team. It caters for around 200 patients every year from all over Cyprus.

The Society provides specialist medical and nursing care and day care for patients requiring control of symptoms and relief of physical and emotional distress. It also provides respite care in a friendly and caring environment in a building recently renovated and equipped with all necessary facilities.

It is a registered charity, and makes no charge for the service it provides. It relies on voluntary contributions from fund-raising activities, and especially from its main yearly fund raising activity the 'Christodoula March'.

The CACS offers personal care and treatment to patients in their homes. The home care service was introduced in September 1993. Today, it covers the whole of Cyprus, offering medical and nursing treatment to patients as well as social and psychological support, so that more patients are able to remain at home. Under this service, more than 500 patients are treated every year.

A day centre in Nicosia welcomes 10-15 patients a day, twice a week.

Patients are driven to and from their homes to the centre. Patients attend for social support and to give the family a break. Medical and nursing care is also available. Services include social and psychological support, hairdressing, manicure, aromatherapy, physiotherapy and massage. A similar service has been established in Limassol.

Psychological and social services for patients are provided by psychologists and a social officer specialised in this area. The psychological services are provided for all cancer patients throughout Cyprus.

The Society offers financial assistance to cancer patients who desperately need help. This assistance is granted to those intending to get treatment abroad and to patients with a low income.

The CACS organises lectures, seminars and workshops with the participation of specialists/doctors from abroad and from Cyprus. It also subsidises doctors, nurses and other scientific personnel involved in the field, through scholarships and fellowships to enable them to attend seminars and specialised training programmes abroad. This enables them to acquire specialised knowledge in the most recent techniques of cancer care and treatment.

For further information on CACS, please contact:

Dr Antonakis Andronikou,
Executive Director, The Cyprus
Anti-Cancer Society, 2, Paraskeva
Ioannou, 2024 Dhasoupolis, Nicosia,
Cyprus.

Tel: +357 2 497373 or 497617.

Fax: +357 2 316822.

email: anticancer@dial.cylink.com.cy

website:

<http://www.cylink.com.cy/anticancer>