



4th EAPC Research Forum

Collaboration in palliative care research: the potential of diversity

The 4th EAPC Research Forum will take place between 26 and 28 May 2006, at Venezia Lido, Italy. This will be a forum dedicated to research issues in palliative care. Your contributions will shape the themes and topics of the meeting with major parts of the programme, including plenary presentations, based upon submitted abstracts. To encourage the potential for diversity in palliative care research, you are warmly invited to attend the prepared thematic sessions and workshops to discuss critical themes in palliative care research. Come to Venice to meet professionals from different disciplines, professions, research settings and nationalities. Space and designated rooms for informal meetings and network groups will be available for your use.

There are many opportunities for you to present your research and new data: during dedicated poster viewing time, at faculty-led poster discussion sessions, or as free oral communications in thematic sessions built upon the abstracts selected for presentation. The authors of the best free papers will be invited to present their work in two dedicated plenary sessions.

Take the opportunity to advance your skills and knowledge in performing high-quality research. At the beginning of the forum, a step-by-step educational research course is offered. In each of the research sessions, the chair persons will also emphasise the lessons to be drawn from the research presentations and dedicate time to leading a productive

discussion of the presentations. Finally, learn from the experts at 'meet-the-expert' breakfast meetings, guided poster tours and informal encounters.

We look forward to welcoming you to the wonderful place of Venice Lido.

The programme offers the following sessions.

- Pre-conference educational session – on Thursday morning, educational sessions on how to plan, conduct and interpret clinical research will be offered. An additional fee and separate registration will be necessary in order to attend these courses.
- Opening session – 30 minutes.
- 'Meet the expert' sunrise-breakfast meetings – up to eight parallel sessions of 45 minutes each morning with two experts per session and a maximum 20 participants. Preregistration will be necessary.
- Plenary sessions – a total of three sessions of 60 minutes will contain:
 1. Three invited lectures of 30 minutes on: research on complex interventions in palliative care; mega-trends in palliative care research, including the role of policy research; and the third will be a hot topic, about very original, new data or the change of a concept or practice
 2. Four plenary presentations of outstanding selected abstracts of 15 minutes
 3. One closing session with presentation of the awards.
- Poster viewing sessions – for each of the two groups of posters at least one hour of the programme will be dedicated exclusively for all participants to poster viewing. Guided poster tours by faculty members will be offered during these time slots.

- Parallel sessions (six slots of four parallel sessions each, making a total of 24 sessions, lasting 90 minutes each). Of those, eight themed research sessions on bone metastasis; prognosis and 'staging' of palliative care patients, opioids, computer-technology in research, new oncological treatments for symptom prevention and control in advanced cancer, nutrition in the palliative care context including terminal care, decision-making in end-of-life care (intensive care unit, sedation, terminal nutrition, ethics), and translational research: pain, cachexia, behavioural sciences. (Two co-chairs, one giving an introduction of five minutes, two (or a maximum of three) invited speakers presentations of 20 to 25 minutes each, followed by 20 to 30 minutes of discussion).
- One step-by-step educational session: (one chair, two or a maximum of three invited experts) – learning from studies that never landed, or never got off the ground.
- Thirteen new research data (free communication) sessions: two co-chairs will moderate and discuss the presentations of up to six selected abstracts. Each abstract will be allocated eight minutes for presentation and seven minutes for discussion.
- Two poster discussion sessions: a faculty of two or three persons will select approximately 12 posters to be discussed in each session.

Informal meeting rooms will be available on Thursday morning and during breaks in which conference participants may organise meetings, such as investigator meetings or EAPC working group meetings.

Awards

Chosen reviewers will assess the posters that will be displayed in two sets during the forum. Six outstanding posters (three for each poster set) will receive an award.

The importance of abstracts

The scientific committee will base a major part of the conference programme on the submitted abstracts. For this reason, the abstract deadline must be set early. Four types of presentations are foreseen. The poster presentations will be highlighted in dedicated poster viewing sessions, including guided poster tours by faculty members. In poster discussion sessions, selected posters will be discussed. Thirteen free communication sessions are planned, which will include up to 78 oral presentations. Furthermore, the scientific committee will select four outstanding abstracts for presentation in two of the plenary sessions.

All accepted abstracts (both oral and poster presentations) will be published in *Palliative Medicine* (the Research Journal of the EAPC), and on the congress website.

Deadline for submission: 30th October 2005. Please note the deadline will not be extended. Abstracts may only be submitted using the electronic abstract form on the website at: www.eapcnet.org/research2006

The abstract text cannot exceed 2,000 characters (excluding title and authors, including spaces). The author must identify the most appropriate category for the abstract and the preferred method of presentation (oral or poster).

We look forward to seeing you there.
Florian Strasser, Franco De Conno and Stein Kaasa

The Italian League for Combating Cancer in Milan

14th Course for Managers of Voluntary Help Organisations
New skills in the world of voluntary help, 5–6 May 2005, Milan

A feeling of malaise is currently widespread among voluntary helpers. It is caused by a lack of consistency between current methods of voluntary help management and new requirements in the field of social and healthcare.

Our course therefore offers opportunities to:

- Analyse the critical elements of the new changes
- Consider the possibility of modifying the perceived profile of voluntary help
- Assess the ways of responding to the new requirements while maintaining the equilibrium of the association/institution system.

The first day will be spent examining the following three topics:

- Executive issues ('knowing where to go'): involving a critical analysis of the present situation
- Coherence: how to manage oneself and other people effectively in this time of change
- Resistance: how to react to the 'negative stress' typical of such times.

Topics will be examined with the participation of attendees.

On the second day, a team will present cases to facilitate discussion of the topics featured in the course.

All interested associations can sign up by paying a donation of 250 euros to the Italian League for Combating Cancer in Milan. This will cover the cost of participating in the course, all teaching materials and coffee and lunch breaks. Knowledge of Italian language is essential.

The course is designed for 60 participants. For further information, please contact: Claude Fusco Karmann (c.fusco@legatumori.mi.it).

Keeping up to date with the latest news

This monthly newsletter will cover palliative care activities in the countries of Central and Eastern Europe (CEE)

and the Former Soviet Union (FSU) in English and in Russian. It has been developed by the Hungarian Hospice Palliative Association, with the support of the Open Society Institute Network Public Health Program's International Palliative Care Initiative and the EAPC.

Its aim is to communicate the activities, diversity, challenges and progress being made in palliative care development; to foster networking and communication in the countries of CEE and the FSU; and to inform others around the world about the regional effort.

Our purpose is to create an individual, high quality and creative identity for the newsletter. We would like to increase the influence of the EAPC in the region using the EAPC website as a basis.

Topics to be covered include:

- Advocacy for palliative care
- Fundraising activities
- Announcements on newly received funding
- Case studies of successful examples of working with the media
- Activities on educating the public
- Progress in palliative care policy development
- Education/training opportunities in the region
- Hospice and palliative care practice
- Drug availability
- Meetings and conference calendar
- Question and answer column for difficult cases to be discussed
- Twinning requests and opportunities.

The ultimate aim is to contribute to the development of care of patients who are suffering with serious life-threatening illnesses and their families. We cannot achieve our goals without your active participation.

The 10th Congress of the EAPC is to be held in Budapest on 6–9 June 2007. The Scientific Committee of the Congress will be in Stockholm and we can use the experiences of the EAPC East in our newsletter as well.

Katalin Hegedus and Melinda Szöllosi, Editors