



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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Foreword

Dear Colleagues,

On behalf of the European Palliative Stage Opportunity (EPSO) Taskforce working on behalf of the European Association for Palliative Care (EAPC), I am delighted to invite you to participate in this exciting new venture proposed by this group of palliative healthcare educators and professionals. The principal goal of the EAPC is to promote and disseminate palliative care across Europe. Education and training in palliative care for physicians, nurses and other professionals are one of the crucial ways in which this dissemination is achieved.

The palliative care movement is still young and its development varies according to different health care systems, economic concerns and cultural issues. Clinical experience is needed for all professionals and I strongly believe that sharing experiences with others will be an effective way to improve knowledge and skills in palliative care.

The opportunity for exchange - to open our minds to other cultures, palliative care organisations, differing ways of communicating with patients, discourse around clinical decision-making will greatly improve our global practice of palliative care.

This project is a two-way exchange with mutual benefits for both the host centre and the practitioner. The goal of this task force initiative is to help the palliative care professional seeking a clinical experience in another European country to have clear and informed access to available placements which will enhance their professional practice. The EPSO task force has laid the foundations for a European network for education in palliative care.

The EAPC has as its mission the ideal of **“One Voice – One Vision”** for palliative care in Europe. This project contributes to that vision through the dynamic and inspiring work of the Taskforce members to whom I am most grateful for their time and energy in bringing the EPSO project to fruition. The pages edited at <http://www.eapcnet.org/projects/EPSOproject.html> will open up a new era in European palliative care through increased collaboration and shared diversity. I hope that you will be part of this new development.

Martine De Vlieger
Chair
E.P.S.O. Task Force



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