

# Defending the rights of cancer patients - the Finnish way

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Association of Cancer Patients in Finland is a non-governmental organisation founded in 1971. It supports cancer patients focusing on rare cancers. Concrete work includes producing and distributing reliable information and offering peer support.

The Association coordinates a patient network of 17 different cancer types. Each network has own website and closed Facebook group, which provides a confidential discussion forum to the members. The network also arranges local and national events.

# Patient networks – basis for advocacy



Suomen Syöpäpotilaat ry  
Association of Cancer Patients in Finland

- Melanoma Network
- GIST Network
- Sarcoma Network
- Kidney and bladder cancer Network
- Lung cancer Network
- Gynecological cancers Network
- Neuroendocrine tumour Network
- Pseudomyxoma peritonei Network
- Brain tumour Network
- Young adults' Network
- Myeloma Network
- CML Network
- CLL Network
- MPN Network
- Lymphoma Network
- Allogeneic transplantation Network
- Waldenström's macroglobulinemia Network

Altogether 3100 members in the networks

# Cooperation instead of competition



Suomen Syöpäpotilaat ry  
Association of Cancer Patients in Finland

## ACPF's patient networks in Facebook

Lively discussion board

Peer to peer support

The source of up to date  
information about patients'  
needs, views and wishes.

The base for advocacy

## ACPF: a partner in the national patient advocacy

Member of The Cancer Society of  
Finland. Collaboration with other  
peer organisations.

- Patient rights and views

- Equal care

- Financing activities

Member at the Finnish Federation  
for Social Affairs and Health  
(SOSTE)

## ACPF: lobby

**Ministry of Social Affairs and  
Health Care** – the main decision  
maker

**Council for Choices in Health Care  
in Finland** - recommendations on  
public health services

**Pharmaceuticals Pricing Board** -  
reimbursement and wholesale  
price of medicinal products

**Cancer working group** at the  
Finnish Parliament

Active communication and collaboration based on Patients' needs and views