

Speakers' Bios



Deputy Director General
DG SANTE
@eu_health

MARTIN SEYCHELL

A graduate in chemistry and pharmaceutical technology, Mr. Seychell specialised in Chemical analysis. He has held important positions on several government boards and commissions in Malta. Mr. Seychell occupied the post of Head of Directorate at the Malta Standards Authority between 2001 and 2006. He has been responsible for the implementation of a number of EU directives in the areas of risk assessment, food safety, chemicals and cosmetic products legislation, and has actively participated in negotiations on major technical proposals such as the new chemicals legislation, REACH, and in screening processes in the areas of free movement of goods, environment and agriculture during the process leading to Malta's accession to the EU. He held the post of Director of Environment in Malta between 2006 and 2011. He was appointed Deputy Director General for Health and Consumers at the European Commission in March 2011 (SANCO). From 2014 to date he is the Deputy Director-General for Health in the Health and Food Safety Directorate-General (SANTE).



Chief Medical Officer
MacMillan
@Maherjane

JANE MAHER

Professor Jane Maher became Macmillan's Chief Medical Officer in 1999. She is an NHS clinical leader, and a Consultant Clinical Oncologist at Mount Vernon Cancer Centre and Hillingdon Hospital, where she has worked for more than 20 years. Jane is also a senior clinical lecturer at University College London and Visiting Professor in Cancer and Supportive Care at the Centre for Complexity Management at Hertfordshire University. In her role at Macmillan, Jane provides medical services advice at board and senior management level and supports the charity's links with the royal colleges, universities, the Department of Health and the NHS. She has had a long term interest in consequences of cancer treatments. Her activity in this area includes chairing the Maher Committee for the Department of Health in 1995, leading the UK National Audit of Late Effects Pelvic Radiotherapy for the RCR in 2000 and most recently chairing the National Cancer Survivorship Initiative Consequences of Cancer treatments committee. She has written more than 100 published articles and is a National Clinical Advisor for Aftercare and Survivorship for NHS Improvement and UK representative for cancer survivorship in Europe.



Initiator
'My Survival Story' Project
@marbitz

MARTIN INDERBITZIN

He studied neuroscience at ETH Zurich and did his PhD in artificial emotions at the UPF Barcelona. He learned the skill of filming at Blake College in London and worked since 2012 as a producer. He writes and gives talks and travels a lot.

In 2012 he got diagnosed with pancreatic cancer. During his first chemo he decided to sign up for a triathlon that he finished 3 months later. This personal experience gave him the idea to start mysurvivalstory.org.



ECPC President
@cancereu

FRANCESCO DE LORENZO

Francesco is a colon cancer survivor, medical doctor and was a professor of biochemistry – University Federico II Naples. He has a rich experience in cancer advocacy being the co-founder, former Vice President and Board member of ECPC. He is also the founder and president of the Italian Associations of Cancer Patients (AIMaC), Italy's first Cancer Information Service (CIS), and of the Italian Federation of Cancer Patients Organisations (FAVO). Francesco is also active in Italy's governmental network of cancer Institutes (ACC), Italy's National Cancer Plan Committee and National Volunteer Observatory of the Italian Welfare Ministry. Francesco engaged in Italian politics as Member of the Parliament, holding several ministerial mandates (Ministry of Health, 1989-1993). At the EU and international level, Francesco is a member of the European Commission Expert Group on Cancer Control, a member of the ESMO Patient Advisory Group, ECPC representative within CanCon, in several Work Packages and he is also a Founding Member of the Elite Oncology Roundtable, created under the auspices of the Society for Translational Oncology – STO, from which the European Cancer Patients Bill of Right originated. Finally, he is the co-chair of ECPC Expert Group on Immuno-Oncology and representative of ECPC within the Joint Action on Rare Cancers.



ECPC Board Member
@cancereu

RAFAL SWIERZEWSKI

Rafal is a scientist and a cancer survivor of fibrosarcoma. He works for scientific and cancer patients' organizations in Poland. He earned his PhD in 2006 from the Institute of Physical Chemistry of the Polish Academy of Sciences and was a trainee at the Istituto per lo Studio delle Macromolecole, Consiglio Nazionale delle Ricerche, Genova, Italy. His scientific work covers physico-chemical properties of biologically active compounds, drugs used in cancer chemotherapies and stem cells application in advanced therapies for autoimmune diseases and cancer. Member of the Polish Society of Thermal Analysis and Calorimetry, he served as member of numerous Scientific Conference Organizing Committees and he is a graduate of the HTA Patient Academy of London School of Economics. From June 2013 till June 2016 he has been an ECPC Board Member. He continues his work as a member of Patients' and Consumers' Working Party (PCWP) of European Medicines Agency (EMA). In the EMA he's also a member of working groups on clinical trials, pharmacovigilance and vaccines application and regulation. He also joins Scientific Advisory Group meetings.



Scientific Collaborator
Belgian Cancer Centre
@EU_CanCon

REGINE KIASUWA-MBENGI

Régine studied Politics and Human Sciences and graduated from the School of Public Health of the Université Libre de Bruxelles with a Master's degree in Policy and Health Systems, in 2010. She started working at the European Social Observatory on cross-border care issues and joined the Cancer Centre of the Scientific Institute of Public Health in 2012. Since then, her main interest has been the social and professional reintegration of cancer survivors. She is currently a PhD Student at the Université Libre de Bruxelles for the Research Centre of Environmental and Occupational Health, where she led an important population-based cohort study, following the socio-economic position of 80000 cancer survivors.



Social Entrepreneur
oPuce
@Lebrocquy

ISABELLE LEBROCQUY

Isabelle Lebrocquy lost her job while fighting colon cancer. This motivated her to improve reintegration to work after cancer. She founded oPuce to help create jobs for people after cancer and to inspire employers and society to look differently at cancer survivors. She set up an online survey: 25% of the 1.000 respondents lost their job. A number of universities have now been involved finding solutions. Isabelle asked the Dutch Parliament to adapt social legislation and to implement a plan of action for Cancer & Work. The Netherlands is now one of the first countries addressing the burden of cancer survivorship.



Founder
Pembe Hanım
@pembehanimdd

SEDA KANSU

Seda Kansu is a breast cancer survivor and patient advocate from Istanbul, Turkey. She is the co-founder and a board member of Pembe Hanım, a very active ECPC Associate Member. Within Pembe Hanım, Seda is the Patient Opinion Leader for cancer patients and their relatives, responsible for media, fundraising and international communications. Her aim is to create better life conditions morally, physically and financially for people affected by cancer combining education and help. In October 2015, Seda created a partnership between Pembe Hanım and the American Cancer Society to organise the first ever "Relay for Life" in Turkey. Seda is a graduate in Tourism and Business administration and has also studied childhood psychology.



Project Coordinator
PanCare
@PanCareSurFup

LARS HJORTH

Lars qualified from Medical School at Lund University in 1987. Working at Skåne University Hospital in Lund since 1990. Qualified as a Paediatrician in 1994. Appointed as Consultant in Paediatric Oncology in 2000. Specialist in Paediatric Oncology since 2007. Head of Paediatric Oncology & Haematology Lund from 2007 to 2010. Chairman SALUB (Swedish Working Group for Long-term Follow-up after Childhood Cancer) from 2004 to 2012. Chairperson of PanCare (Pan-European Network for Care of Survivors after Childhood and Adolescent Cancer) since 2008. Coordinator PanCareSurFup (Collaborative FP 7 Project) since 2011. Board member of SIOPE since 2016. Lars has a special interest in late complications and survivorship issues after childhood cancer, long-term follow-up, nephrotoxicity, quality of life and bone sarcomas.



Director of the Evaluation Dept.
Haute Autorité de Santé
@zaleski_i

ISABELLE DURAND-ZALESKI

Isabelle Durand-Zaleski is a medical doctor, Professor in Public Health. She carried out her PhD research in economics and management at Paris IX University. She holds a Masters in Public Health from Harvard University and a diploma from the Political Study Institute of Paris (*Institut d'Etudes Politiques de Paris*). She has been the head of the Evaluation Department in the National Health Authority. She is currently the head of the Paris Health Economics and Health Services Research Unit.



*Head of the Laboratory of
Physiology and Pharmacology
University of Namur*

BRUNO FLAMION

Bruno Flamion is a MD/PhD from the University of Brussels, Belgium, trained in internal medicine and nephrology. He is Professor of physiology and pharmacology at the University of Namur, Belgium (since 1998). He was a medical and pharmacological expert for the Belgian Federal Agency for Medicines and Health Products (FAMHP) for 12 years and worked for the European Medicines Agency (EMA) for 10 years, acting as CHMP member, vice-chair of the Pharmacogenomics Working Party, chair of the Pharmacokinetics group, and finally chair of the Scientific Advice Working Party from 2005 to 2010. He was exposed to all major drug development programs during that period. From 2010 to 2012 Bruno Flamion chaired the Belgian Federal Committee for Reimbursement of Medicines within the National Institute for Health and Disability Insurance (RIZIV/INAMI). Bruno has set up a consultancy (BFLAM sprl) devoted to drug development, mixing regulatory and health technology assessment/reimbursement aspects.



*Usher Institute
University of Edinburgh
@KMFacey*

KAREN FACEY

Karen Facey trained as a statistician, working in pharmaceutical companies and the UK medicines regulatory agency. In 2000 she setup the first national health technology assessment (HTA) Agency in Scotland and since 2003 has been an independent consultant on HTA and patient involvement. In 2005, she founded the HTA International Interest Group for Patient/Citizen Involvement in HTA and now coordinates their Working Group on Methods and Impact. She has been involved in the development of the HTA module for EUPATI and is co-editing a book on patient involvement in HTA.



*Director of EUnetHTA JA 3
@wim_werk*

WIM GOETTSCH

Wim Goettsch, PhD is the Director of the EUnetHTA Joint Action 3. Until the beginning of 2013, he was the Deputy Secretary of the Medicinal Products Reimbursement Committee at Dutch National Health Care Institute. He has a PhD in immunology and an advanced education in (pharmaco)- epidemiology and pharmaco-economics. He has more than 60 publications in peer-reviewed international journals.



*ECPC Board Member and
Secretary
@cancereu*

JANA PELOUCHOVA

Jana is a chronic myeloid leukemia patient on treatment for 14 years. Challenges of living with CML led her, in 2006, to become the founder and chairperson of Diagnoza CML patient organisation in Czech Republic, evolving in 2014 into Diagnoza leukemie patient society, addressing patients with all types of leukemias. The need for sharing and learning experiences in advocacy was the reason she became the co-founder of the CML Advocates Network (2007) and president of the Swiss-based Leukaemia Patient Advocates Foundation. Recently, she became a member of the Steering Committee of the newly established global network CLL AN (chronic lymphocytic leukemia). Jana is an ECPC Board Member and Secretary since 2011. As a rare cancer advocate she also represents ECPC in the Rare Cancers Europe. For a second election period she is a member of the ECCO PAC. Besides gaining access to therapies in hemato-oncology she is focused on improving methods of patient education and adherence to oral anti-cancer drugs.



JARC Coordinating Team
Istituto Nazionale Tumori
[@IstTumori](#)

ANNALISA TRAMA

Dr. Annalisa Trama is a dynamic and enthusiastic researcher with an international experience in descriptive and evaluative epidemiological multicentres studies. Since 2009 she works as medical director at the Evaluative Epidemiology Unit of the Fondazione IRCCS Istituto Nazionale dei Tumori in Milan, Italy where she is involved with national and international projects and initiatives on rare cancers, including the Joint Action on Rare Cancers and the EU project RARECAREnet. Besides her experience on cancer, Dr. Trama has also worked on HIV and AIDS. Furthermore, she is proficient in resource mobilisation, project management and multistakeholders initiatives.



ECPC Public Affairs Coordinator
[@francescoflo](#)

FRANCESCO FLORINDI

Francesco joined ECPC in March 2014 as Public Affairs Coordinator. He obtained a cum laude Master in International Relations and Diplomacy from the University of Trieste-Gorizia with a thesis on EU enlargement. In Brussels, Francesco worked for regional representatives, NGOs, research centres and the European Commission (Joint Research Centre). His experience working on cancer dates back to 2013, when he joined ECCO and SIOPE Public Affairs team. This experience raised his awareness of the challenges faced by patients. Hence, he quickly moved to the side of patients, putting his policy and public affairs skills to ECPC's service, helping the ECPC Board to produce a new policy strategy ("Europe of Disparities in Cancer") and to deliver several high profile projects. Francesco is a fellow Young Gasteiner and a Member of the European Health Parliament.



Project Manager
Institut Jules Bordet, Brussels
[@QuimeTapu](#)

PATRICK MIQUEU

Dr Patrick Miqueu is project manager at the Jules Bordet Institute in Brussels (Belgium). He is responsible of communication initiatives promoting Research and developing Patient Engagement. Dr Miqueu holds a PhD in Biostatistics from the University of Nantes (France) and a Master of Bioethics from the Catholic University of Leuven (Belgium). Previously, he worked at the European Organisation for Research and Treatment of Cancer (EORTC) to coordinate the SPECTAcOLOR platform: a cancer centers network in colorectal cancer. Dr Miqueu also took part in the coordination of two European Projects (RISET, the ONE Study) and is experienced in the management of national and international projects. He is currently involved in various initiatives promoting Patient Engagement in Research. He is an active member of the European Forum for Good Clinical Practice (EFGCP) where he actively participates in the Patient Roadmap To Treatment working party. He also contributed to the patient educational platform for patients, EUPATI.



ECPC Vice President
[@kgapo](#)

KATHI APOSTOLIDIS

Kathi is a Public Affairs Consultant with broad experience in regulatory affairs, strategy, marketing and communications. Twice breast cancer survivor, she is a Patient Rights and Health Care activist. She is the Chair of the Intergroup Committee for Cancer Patient Rights Advocacy in Greece (DEDIDIKA) and member of other Greek & international breast cancer associations. She is involved in e-health and m-health integration in healthcare policy and is a frequent invited speaker at medical and European cancer related conferences. As ECPC vice president, Kathi has been actively involved in research activities in several EU-funded projects, notably BenchCan and eSMART. She also participates in the Scientific Advisory Board of the TRANSCAN-2 research EU project. In 2015 she was appointed to become a member in the Quality Assurance Scheme Development Group in the European Initiative on Breast Cancer (ECIBC).

DAVE DE BRONKART



Leader of the Participatory
Medicines Movement
[@epatientDave](#)

Cancer survivor “e-Patient Dave” is an international keynote speaker on healthcare who consistently earns extraordinary ratings by understanding each audience and working closely with each client to define their unique “home run.” Audiences have ranged from the Institute for Healthcare Improvement to the Danish Patient Safety Association and the Israel Internet Society. His compelling TEDx Talk “Let Patients Help” was for years in the top half of most-watched TED talks of all time

DEE O’SULLIVAN



Managing Director
[myhealthapps.net](#)
[@my_health_apps](#)

Since 2013, Dee has been director of [myhealthapps.net](#): a web portal of health apps reviewed and tested by patient and health consumer organisations worldwide. The site is published and maintained by PatientView, a UK-based data, research and publishing consultancy that canvasses and analyses patient perspectives on healthcare. It now has the capacity to reach out to 120,000 patient groups across the globe. In addition, she works with PatientView on related mobile health research projects and liaises on its behalf on relevant European public health policy initiatives. She is also PatientView’s representative on the newly-established EU Working Group on mHealth Assessment Guidelines. Dee has more than 20 years’ experience of the political and policy-making arenas at both national (UK) and EU levels, encompassing a wide range of roles from editorial to advocacy, pan-European stakeholder engagement and strategic communications, primarily in the field of public health. After 16 years based in Brussels Dee returned to the UK at the end of 2015.

MIHAELA MILITARU



ECPC Director
[@cancereu](#)

Mihaela Militaru joined ECPC in August 2013 as Director. Prior to this she worked in EU affairs for 12 years, first as a liaison officer of the Senate of Romania with the European Parliament and subsequently as a policy adviser within the European Parliament (8 years). Her activity in the European Parliament focused in the last years on healthcare policy and the measures needed at EU-level for fighting diseases such as cancer, multiple sclerosis, autism and fibromyalgia. Within ECPC Mihaela has been coordinating MAKE SENSE Campaign for 3 years, a campaign that runs in 15 countries. Other projects of ECPC where Mihaela Militaru is involved: immuno-oncology, bladder cancer, inequalities in cancer care, working with MEP Glenis Willmott in order to introduce a Directive which will ensure that “terminal illnesses” becomes a protected feature such as the one included in the Directive 92/85/EEC for pregnant workers.