



Europe's Beating cancer Plan: Bridging the Gap in Breast Cancer Care

15 October 2020

Speaker biographies

KEYNOTE



Stella Kyriakides, EU Commissioner for Health and Food Safety

Stella Kyriakides, from Cyprus, is the EU Commissioner responsible for Health and Food Safety since December 2019. She belongs to the European People's Party (EPP) – Christian Democrats.

Stella worked as a clinical psychologist in the Cypriot Ministry of Health between 1976 and 2006 in the department of Child and Adolescent psychiatry. She served as a Member of the House of Representatives in Cyprus (2006-2009). Furthermore, she worked at the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE), serving as President from 2017-2018.

She has been an active cancer patient advocate for years and is a two-time breast cancer survivor herself. Connected to this she served as President of the Europa Donna – the European Breast Cancer Coalition, Europe's biggest Breast Cancer patient organization from 2004-2006. The Commissioner also was a President of the Cyprus National Committee on Cancer Strategy since 2017.

Co-Chairs of Transforming Breast Cancer Together



Frances Fitzgerald, Member of the European Parliament (EPP)

Frances Fitzgerald is an Irish MEP from Dublin. A parliamentarian for over 20 years, she served as Tánaiste (Deputy Prime Minister) from 2016-17, one of only four women to have ever held this position. She has also served as Minister for Business, Enterprise & Innovation (2017); Minister for Justice & Equality (2014-17) and was the State's first Minister for Children & Youth Affairs (2011-14). Prior to her election to the Dáil (Irish Parliament), Frances served as Chair of the National Women's Council of Ireland (1988-92) and Vice President of the European Women's Lobby.

Frances was elected to the European Parliament in 2019. She is a full member of the Women's Rights and Gender Equality Committee (FEMM) and the Economic and Monetary Affairs Committee (ECON) and a substitute member of the Development Committee (DEVE). Frances was elected EPP Coordinator of the FEMM Committee in July 2019.

She has previously served on the board of the Breast Research Foundation in St. Vincent's Hospital, Dublin, and was also Vice-Chair of Europa Donna - The European Breast Cancer Coalition.



Patrizia Toia, Member of the European Parliament (S&D)

Patrizia Toia is an Italian MEP since 2004. Before her appointment as MEP, she held several political offices in Italy. As such, she held the role of Minister for Community Policies and for Relations, Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs and Minister for Relations with Parliament amongst others (1996-2001). She was elected into the Senate in 2001 prior to her transition into the European Parliament.

She serves as Vice-Chair on the Committee on Industry, Research and Energy (ITRE) and is Substitute Member on the Committee on Development (DEVE), Committee on Transport and Tourism (TRAN) and the Special Committee on Beating Cancer (BECA).

Speakers



Alessandra Moretti, Member of the European Parliament (S&D)

After a law degree and some years in the Regional Council and the Italian National Parliament, in 2019 Alessandra Moretti was elected member of the European Parliament.

There she is member of the ENVI Committee (Environment, public health and food safety), member of the TRAN Committee (Transport and Tourism) and member of the FEMM Committee (Women's rights and gender equality).

She firmly believes in the fight against inequality and social fractures and to take action for the challenges of our time: climate change, gender equality and social justice.



Ciarán Nicholls, Head of the Health in Society unit in the Joint Research Centre at the European Commission

Ciarán joined the European Commission's Joint Research Centre (JRC) as a post-doctorate fellow in 1995 and worked in JRC communications until 2012. In this period, he oversaw nine JRC annual reports, 700 events including 3 open days (with over 25,000 participants) press media relations and web communications.

Since 2013, Ciarán is head of the Health in Society unit in the JRC's Directorate for Health, Consumers and Reference Materials. Together with 45 staff, the unit is responsible for: The [European Commission's Initiative on Breast Cancer](#), The [European Cancer Information System](#) and the [European Network of Cancer Registries](#), The [EU Platform for Rare Diseases Registration](#) which also hosts the European Central Registries for [Congenital Anomalies](#) and [Cerebral Palsies](#), The [Health Promotion and Disease Prevention Knowledge Gateway](#).

Ciarán obtained his PhD in cancer research at Heidelberg University (DE), an MSc degree at Kingston University and Kings College Hospital (UK) and a BSc degree in Chemistry at Galway University (IE).



Barbara Wilson, Founder and Director, Working with Cancer

Barbara Wilson is the founder and Director of Working With Cancer. Prior to her retirement from corporate life in September 2012, she worked as a senior HR Director at various international companies including Catlin Group Ltd, Schroders Investment Management, Barclays Bank and Price Waterhouse.

In 2005, after being diagnosed with breast cancer, Barbara set up a group to help those people affected by cancer to return to work successfully. From 2008 to 2010, Barbara chaired the Work and Finance workstream of the UK National Cancer Survivorship Initiative, working with a multidisciplinary team of health professionals and cancer survivors to develop 'work and cancer' support tools for employees, employers, carers and health professionals.

After retiring in 2012, Barbara attended the School for Social Entrepreneurs, and in 2014 launched Working With Cancer as a Social Enterprise providing coaching, training and consultancy services to anyone affected by cancer to manage work, return to work or find work during or after a cancer diagnosis and treatment. Working across the UK and increasingly in Europe, the company's associates are all cancer survivors or have been profoundly affected by cancer.



Fatima Cardoso, Director Breast Unit, Champalimaud Clinical Centre and Chair ABC Global Alliance

Dr Cardoso is the Director of the Breast Unit of the Champalimaud Clinical Center (CCC) in Lisbon, Portugal. She is board certified in medical oncology and internal medicine.

Dr Cardoso earned her medical degree at the University of Porto in Portugal and completed fellowships in the Translational Research Unit of the Jules Bordet Institute (IJB) in Brussels, Belgium, and the Department of Molecular and Cellular Oncology at MD Anderson Cancer Center in Houston, Texas.

She worked for 10 years as Assistant Professor at the Medical Oncology Clinic of the IJB and served as the scientific director of the international research network TRANSBIG for 7 years (EU Framework VI). She returned to Portugal in October 2010 to create the Breast Unit of the CCC, leading it to become the 1st certified breast unit in Portugal.

Her research interests include biology of breast cancer, prognostic and predictive markers of response to systemic therapy, and new anticancer agents. She is actively involved in many phase I-IV breast cancer clinical trials.

Dr Cardoso is actively involved in numerous professional organizations such as ASCO, and AACR where she serves on several committees. Additionally, she has been a member of several Board of Directors namely ESMO, ECCO and EORTC. Dr Cardoso founded and is founder and President of the Advanced Breast Cancer (ABC) Global Alliance and of the ABC International Consensus Guidelines Conference.

She is editor-in-chief of The Breast Journal, associate editor of the European Journal of Cancer, and an editorial board member of several other journals. Dr Cardoso has authored about 300 publications and has presented her work nationally and internationally.



Grazia Scocca, Legal Expert, European Cancer patient Coalition (ECPC)

Grazia Scocca gained a Ph.D. in Law at the University of Salerno and the University of Strasbourg with a joint doctoral program. Her research commitments have been particularly focused on the concept of responsibility for business in the context of public health issues, International and European Law, and Human Rights Law.

She has previously worked at the Council of Europe along with experienced law firms in Italy and France.

Since February 2020, she joined ECPC as a legal expert working on the Right to Be Forgotten Project, coordinated by Dr. Françoise Meunier.



Isabel T. Rubio, Head of Breast Surgical Oncology at Clinica Universidad de Navarra in Madrid, Spain and Professor of Surgery at the Universidad de Navarra, Spain.

Isabel completed her Medical Degree at the Faculty of Medicine in Salamanca, Spain as a Board-certified General Surgeon. She had additional training as a Breast Surgical Oncology Fellow at The University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences and the Arkansas Cancer Center at Little Rock, USA at the MD Anderson Cancer Center in Houston, Texas, USA. She completed her PhD in 2000.

She was Head of the Breast Surgical Oncology at the Hospital Universitario Vall d'Hebron in Barcelona (2009-2018), and Associate professor at the Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona (2010-2018). She was the director of the Breast Surgery Fellowship program at Hospital Universitario Vall d'Hebron.

Dr. Rubio is active in many societies. She is a founding member and past President of the Spanish Association of Breast Surgeons (AECIMA) (2014-2016), EUSOMA President (European Society of Breast Cancer Specialists) (2020-2022), Board member of EUBREAST (2018-2020), Board member of ECCO (2020-2021), Chief, Public Affairs of the European Society of Surgical Oncology (ESSO), member of the American Society of Breast Surgeons and member of the Outreach Committee (2017) of the Society of Surgical Oncology (SSO).

She is breast section editor of the Journal of Surgical Oncology, reviewer for The Breast, the European Journal of Surgical Oncology and Annals of Surgical Oncology. She has received grants to develop her research by the Susan G. Komen Foundation, Spanish Ministry of Health and other institutions. Dr. Rubio has published over 100 international peer review manuscripts and book chapters.

Her expertise is in breast cancer surgery and multidisciplinary management of breast cancer patients. She has also been active in standardization of cancer surgery, in establishing quality control over the cancer process and promoting that cancer patients are treated in Cancer Units or Centers.



Marzia Zambon, Director of External Affairs, EUROPA DONNA -The European Breast Cancer Coalition

Marzia Zambon has recently joined EUROPA DONNA as External Affairs Director. She is a lawyer with 25 years experience, including bilingual training of lawyers in the UK and Ireland, and is now looking forward to using her advocacy skills on behalf of the breast cancer community in Europe.

Marzia is active in all of Europa Donna's educational programs and conferences; at EBCC 12 she gave an overview of Europa Donna's MBC programs and participated in a discussion on the impact of COVID-19 on Breast Cancer. She cooperates with all of Europa Donna's international partners and is actively engaged in EU policy initiatives, liaising with sponsors and dealing with the organization's governance.

Marzia is in charge managing Europa Donna's involvement in research projects and she represents Europa Donna in the Transforming Breast Cancer Together Initiative and is active in joint group projects cooperating with the European Commission and DG Santé and the European Parliament.

Marzia is covering the implementation of the ECIBC Guidelines and Quality Assurance Scheme across European countries. She has just recently carried out a survey throughout Europa Donna's 47 member country organizations (27 of which in EU member states) in order to assess the current state of breast services in Europe from the patients' perspective.