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European Cancer Patient Coalition



ECPC teams up with researchers, policy makers, charities to draft a plan of action for the European mission against cancer

Dear friends.

We are honoured to invite you to read the new paper of the platform of the <u>European Academy of Cancer Sciences (EACS)</u> "Towards a Cancer Mission in Horizon Europe: recommendations" published yesterday in <u>Molecular Oncology</u>.

EACS is an independent advisory body of eminent oncologists and cancer researchers, placing science at the core of policies to sustainably reduce mortality rate and suffering caused by cancer in Europe. ECPC is represented in the Board of Directors of the European Academy of Cancer Sciences with its past President and Chair of the Scientific Committee, Francesco de Lorenzo. Together with ECPC President Kathi Apostolidis they have collaborated with EACS

In November 2018, about 60 EACS members, among them ECPC representatives ECPC Past President Francesco de Lorenzo and ECPC Vice President Pietro Presti, had a <u>meeting at the Vatican</u>, opened by Marcelo Sánchez Sorondo, Bishop-Chancellor of the Pontifical Academy of Science, and Alexander Eggermont, President of the European Academy of Cancer Sciences to discuss a mission-oriented approach to cancer in Europe.

But what is a mission?

The missions are actions that are inspirational, with wide societal relevance, they are targeted and with a concrete time plan, they are ambitious but realistic actions in research and innovation, they aim at cross-disciplinary, cross-sectoral, and cross-actor innovation, they drive multiple solutions coming from citizens.

The five missions in Horizon Europe were selected among key issues of concern to European citizens: health where cancer was selected as major concern, the climate change in environment, healthy oceans, smart cities in digital information and communication and food in agriculture. Missions are meant to engage European citizens, national governments and foster investments in innovation. Therefore, they do concern each one of us, as European citizens, cancer patients, survivors and carers. They concern our national governments and cancer stakeholders in each EU member state and each one of us should make his voice heard.

The mission approach to cancer is a totally new way to approach research and innovation meaning that research topics should reflect patients' needs, stimulate innovation, invite investments from different actors in using the research results, catalyse new economy development, and mobilize creativity and participation of European citizens.

ECPC has consistently collaborated with EACS during the last three years to prepare the new approach to research and innovation in cancer, represented <u>by the mission approach</u>, which combined with the mandate of the Health Commissioner, Stella Kyriakides, for <u>Europe's Beating</u> <u>Cancer Plan</u>, aiming at developing the European Cancer Plan, will change the current landscape in cancer research, care and survivorship in Europe.

In this framework, members of EACS, among them ECPC representatives, namely Kathi Apostolidis and Francesco de Lorenzo, have collaborated the last few months to prepare the EACS recommendations for the Cancer Mission in Horizon Europe, published in "Towards Cancer Mission in Horizon Europe: recommendations". Francesco and Kathi, as co-authors, have brought the expert patient advocate perspective into the document, making sure that in all recommendations the patient view is embedded.

It is worth noting that recommendations in the paper are also in full alignment with ECPC's so far cancer policy work on several areas of cancer research and care, namely in personalised medicine, biomarkers, early diagnosis, comprehensive cancer care, disparities in cancer care, rare cancers, ERN's, cross border healthcare, digital health in cancer, survivorship, palliative care, among them.

You may find more information in the <u>press release</u>, our <u>News article</u> and you can download <u>"Towards a Cancer Mission in Horizon Europe".</u> Should you like to have more information on any of the topics dealt with in the paper, please do not hesitate to contact me directly (kathi.apostolidis@ecpc.org).

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Kind reg	ards,
J	
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ECPC P	resident
	Publication
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