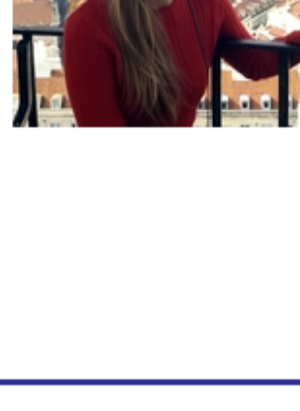


New Intern for the ECL Team!

In February ECL hired via the European Solidarity Corps a new intern **Asnate Kaupe**, from Latvia. During the next 5 months Asnate will be responsible for the ECL Youth Ambassador programme and will provide assistance in monitoring, updating ECL communication channels and event management.

Asnate is an International Relations graduate at the University of Latvia and has an experience in Office Administration as well as event planning, project management in NGOs like AIESEC and ESN (Erasmus Student Network). In relation to the European Institutions, she did an internship as a Liaison Officer during Latvian Presidency of the Council of the EU in the first half of 2015.



Welcome to Asnate!

WASABY has begun!



On the 19 February 2018, the WASABY project was launched during the first meeting of the Steering Committee at the National Cancer Institute of Italy, in Milan.

WASABY is a 3 year pilot project funded by the EU Health Programme, involving 5 partners from across Europe. The project is led by the National Cancer Institute in Italy, with **ECL leading the work package on dissemination**. During the first two years, WASABY will produce **breast cancer risk maps** identifying areas at higher risk in Europe using specific geographic information systems and ad hoc models of spatial analysis. In the third year, the project will promote online primary prevention courses to increase awareness on breast cancer risk to girls from 12 to 19 years of age.

The project website will soon be online at www.wasabysite.it, so check back soon for more information.

MEPs against Cancer

MEPs Against Cancer Meeting: Re-Innovate cancer treatment

On 27 February 2018 the MEPs Against Cancer Group held a discussion hosted by MEPs Alojz Peterle (SLO, EPP) and Lieve Wierinck (BE, ALDE), organised by the Anticancer Fund, devoted to the **advantages of drug re-purposing**.

With innovative cancer treatment being very expensive and often connected to serious adverse events, the drug re-purposing can be an effective tool how to tackle these issues as it can provide treatment for diverse indications with already approved medicines.

However, drug re-purposing is still facing financial and regulatory hurdles such as the lack of interest from the pharmaceutical industry, lack of accessible data, low investment in non-commercial research etc.

The question remains, how do we encourage the industry to invest more in research on existing medicines and marketing of variations? Conversation between different stakeholders should be sustained in order to develop solutions on the European Union and national level.

For more information on MEPs Against Cancer (MAC) events, please visit: <https://www.europeancancerleagues.org/meeps-against-cancer-mac-events/>



Re-innovate
cancer treatment
Tapping into the potential of the patented drugs



With Against Cancer members discussion supported by the Anticancer Fund
Anticancer Fund
EPP
European Parliament, JAM001 | 27 February 2018 | 11:00-16:30

How can we improve the quality of care provided to cancer patients in Europe?

Hosted by: Deirdre Clune MEP, EPP (IE)
European Parliament (Room A5E-3)
6 March 2018, 15h00-17h00

Organised by the European CanCer Organisation (ECCO) and ECL

The event will welcome expert speakers to elaborate on:

- The essential requirements for quality cancer care;
- Patient perspectives on quality cancer care;
- Tools to measure quality cancer care; and
- European approaches to achieve quality cancer care.

Registration are now closed

With the focus on quality - Quality Cancer Care Week (QCCW) 5-11 March 2018.

This year, 5-11 of March is dedicated to the quality of cancer care: what quality cancer care consists of; how to measure it; and how to implement it.

During the week, the European CanCer Organisation (ECCO) seeks to bring attention to the importance and stimulate the debate about the quality of cancer care. Each day of the week focuses on a certain aspect of the quality cancer care – including multidisciplinary, inequalities, rehabilitation and survivorship, education and training and others.

On the 6th of March the QCCW will move to the European Parliament which will connect experts, policy-makers and civil society to discuss “How can we improve the quality of care provided to cancer patients in Europe?”. The meeting will be hosted by MEP Deirdre Clune (IE, EPP) and supported by the MEPs Against Cancer (MAC) group, ECL and ECCO.

Use #qualitycancercare or #QCCW2018 to keep updated during the week or to promote the topic on your social media channels.

ECCO
European Cancer Organisation



QUALITY CANCER CARE WEEK
5-11 March 2018
Calling for quality cancer care throughout the patient journey
#qualitycancercare ecco-org.eu/QCCW

Spring Meeting in Bern



For ECL members: Access to Medicines Task Force Spring Meeting

The ECL A2M TF will meet on **19 March 2018** in Bern, Switzerland. The draft agenda has been sent out and the registration is open!

Interested in attending and have not received the email? If so, please send an email to [Anna\(at\)europeancancerleagues.org](mailto:Anna(at)europeancancerleagues.org)

The Tobacco Control Scale has been scientifically validated.

The Tobacco Control Scale quantifies the implementation of tobacco control policies at country level, and is based on six policies described by the World Bank, which they say should be prioritised in a comprehensive tobacco control programme. www.tobaccocontrolscale.org

According to an article published in the scientific journal, Tobacco Control, the **TCS is an effective tool**. Researchers used the TCS in EU27 in 2007 and the prevalence of tobacco and quit ratios data from the Eurobarometer survey (2006 (n=27 585) and 2014 (n=26 793)). We analysed the relationship between the TCS scores and smoking prevalence and quit ratios and their relative changes (between 2006 and 2014) by means of scatter plots and multiple linear regression models.

In EU27, countries with higher scores in the TCS, which indicates higher tobacco control efforts, have lower prevalence of smokers, higher quit ratios and higher relative decreases in their prevalence rates of smokers over the last decade. The correlation between TCS scores and smoking prevalence and between the relative changes in smoking prevalence was negative. A positive correlation was observed between TCS scores and quit ratios. The percentage of smoking prevalence explained by all TCS components was 28.9%.

The full article is accessible at

<http://tobaccocontrol.bmj.com/content/early/2018/02/21/tobaccocontrol-2017-054119?rs=1&hootPostID=5206ad22e288bb33523d38b56b9d01e2>

The next edition of the Tobacco Control Scale will be presented in Berlin in February 2020 at the 8th European Conference on Tobacco or Health (ECTO).

EU News

#EU4Health Campaign



Group of public health NGOs have developed a **#EU4Health Campaign** briefing which seeks to unite arguments for the EU institutions to step up their activities in the **health sector post 2020**.

Alzheimer Europe, Association of European Cancer Leagues (ECL), EuroHealthNet, European Cancer Patient Coalition (EPC), European Federation of Allergy and Airways Diseases Patients' Associations (EFA), European Patients' Forum (EPF), European Public Health Alliance (EPHA), European Heart Network (EHN), European Alcohol Policy Alliance (Eurocare) and EURORDIS-Rare Diseases Europe have distributed the briefing to their members and encourage everyone to sign the **campaign petition**.

The campaign vision is an **EU where all people are as healthy as they can be throughout their lives**. That means an EU where they can expect equitable support from actions in all policies and programmes to ensure the healthiest possible lives, and which promotes well-being for all at all ages, to achieve complete physical, mental and social well-being; where they can be born, grow, live, work and age in sustainable healthy environments; and where everyone has the right to timely access to affordable, preventive and curative health care of good quality.

Interested in knowing more about the campaign? Please write an email to: [eu4health\(at\)gmail.com](mailto:eu4health(at)gmail.com)

Would you like to receive the briefing document? Please contact: [Anna\(at\)europeancancerleagues.org](mailto:Anna(at)europeancancerleagues.org)

European Health Parliament – Outcomes-based healthcare systems panel

On 20 February 2018 during the European Health Parliament (EHP) plenary the Outcomes-based Healthcare Systems (OBHS) Committee organised a panel where experts including **Christina Akerman, President of ICHOM**, MEP Mariann Harkin and **Salomé Azevedo from Patient Innovation** discussed the necessity to shift toward more patient-centred health care, improving the quality of care starting by greater concentration on patient-reported outcomes (PROMs) and real-world evidence and the necessary incentives for EU Member States to shape their healthcare systems based on patient outcomes.

The debate was moderated by Anna Prokupkova from ECL and Thomas Gelin from Porter Novelli.

For more information about the panel and/or the work of the OBHS Committee, please contact [Anna\(at\)europeancancerleagues.org](mailto:Anna(at)europeancancerleagues.org).



ECIBC, the European Commission Initiative on Breast Cancer

[ECIBC Country Profiles](#) in national languages are now available online.



Cancer Focus NI welcomes smoke-free playgrounds

Cancer Focus Northern Ireland has welcomed all councils to make their **play parks smoke-free zones**.

The call follows a move by Mid and East Antrim Borough Council whose innovative Smoke-Free Play Park Campaign has been rolled out across all 69 play parks across the borough.

Gerry McElwee, head of cancer prevention, Cancer Focus NI, said: “Congratulations to Mid and East Antrim for being the first council to launch this very important campaign which is aimed at protecting children and young people from exposure to smoking. We fully support this extension of smoke-free areas.

“Smoking is the single greatest cause of preventable illness and premature death. Sadly, one in every two smokers die early because of their habit.

“We know that children who regularly see adults smoke are much more likely to try smoking. We firmly believe that this move could help protect children’s health and reduce their perception that smoking is normal behaviour.”

Mr McElwee added: “Most smokers started while they are still children. It is vital that we can take every step possible to try and protect yet another generation from this deadly product.”

Cancer Focus NI works with hundreds of schools across Northern Ireland encouraging children not to smoke through its Smokebusters club. Schools can sign up by emailing smokebusters@canccerfocusni.org or calling 028 9066 3281.

More information is available on www.canccerfocusni.org



The Danish Cancer Society presents Honorary Award on World Cancer Day



Each year the Danish Cancer Society marks World Cancer Day by presenting the Danish Cancer Society’s Honorary Award to a person or a group who has made a special effort dealing with cancer patients.

This year the award was handed over to **Prime Minister Lars Lokke Rasmussen** and **Chairman of the Danish Regional political leadership** as they decided to define cancer as an acute disease in 2007 and introduced the fast track cancer diagnostic and treatment system to ensure rapid treatment for cancer patients. The award was handed over by **Her Royal Highness Crown Princess Mary** at a ceremony at The Royal Theatre, Skuespilhuset, in Copenhagen.

Fondation against Cancer Belgium: The second edition of Mineral Tour confirms the success of the campaign

28/02/2018 - The 2018 edition of Mineral Tour came to an end! **104,579**

Belgians have committed, via the website of the campaign, to do **without alcohol for a month**. Many more were also participating without registering.

“Some participated last year to follow fashion or trend. The number of participants reached over the bar of 100,000, this year, which proves that the concept has still many sunny days ahead, “the organizers said.

“The persistent interest and attention for non-alcoholic alternatives in bars and restaurants is a reflection of a changing society”.



ECL UPCOMING EVENTS

MAC Meeting: EADV Campaign “**Skin Cancer: Safe Work Under The Sun**”
March 27, 14:00-16:00, European Parliament, Brussels

Access To Medicines: March 19, Bern, Switzerland

PSWG workshop: April 12-13, Bucharest, Romania

Use of Biomarkers in Primary and Secondary Prevention of Skin Cancer & ECL Sun Safety workshop: 16-17 April 2018, Brussels

Thanks for reading!

ECL

www.europeancancerleagues.org



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