

**MEPs against Cancer**

**“Skin Cancer: Safe Work under the Sun”**

On 27 March 2018 MEPs Against Cancer (MAC) group met with speakers from different organisations to discuss the issue of occupational skin cancer. The meeting was hosted by **MEP Marita Urvskog** (SE, S&D) and co-hosted by MEPs Jens Gieske (DE, EPP) and Alojz Peterle (SI EPP).

There are 20 million outdoor workers in the European Union. They are daily exposed to UV radiation and thus have a high risk of developing skin cancer. Speakers presented different perspectives on occupational skin cancer – economic burden on health care systems and the European Union as whole, workers perspective on occupational diseases, challenge of researchers to collect and analyse data of occupational diseases and especially skin cancer, etc.

**Roisin Foster**, CEO of Cancer Focus Northern Ireland, presented skin cancer awareness campaign developed by her society and the Department of Health of NI. The campaign objectives were to increase public awareness of sun exposure and improve early detection. As one of the main focus groups were set outdoor workers and employers and the campaign proved to be successful resulting in increase of diagnosed skin cancer during the 1<sup>st</sup> stage.

There was a common consensus that **health literacy among workers themselves should be improved** and at the same time involving other stakeholders – employers, work unions and governments – is key. In the ever changing work environment improvements and revisions should also be done in the EU legislation.



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

As part of the **Quality Cancer Care Week** (QCCW, 5 - 11 March) on 6 March 2018 the European CanCer Organisation (ECCO) and ECL held an MEPs Against Cancer meeting hosted by MEP Deirdre Clune (EPP, IE) where experts discussed the importance of bringing quality in cancer care.

Speakers introduced already existing cancer care quality measurements existing in different EU Member States. The event concluded that there is a **clear lack of political will** both at the EU and national level to strive for higher uptake of quality patient outcomes measurements (PROMs). Moreover, it was emphasised that a more holistic approach and focus on **multidisciplinary team** of healthcare professionals is needed to shift the paradigm toward patient-centric care.



**Call for ECL Youth Ambassadors**



Founded in 2015, the ECL Youth Ambassadors for the European Code against Cancer brings together highly motivated young people from more than 20 different countries across Europe.

**Youth Ambassadors are students and young professionals** drawn from many disciplines including medicine, public health, law, and political sciences. They all share a deep conviction that cancer can be defeated by following the 12 messages of the European Code against Cancer. Through different events and initiatives, **Youth Ambassadors make creative and enterprising actions to promote cancer prevention.**

The Youth Ambassadors group meets every year for an annual workshop to share experiences and develop common actions. The Youth Ambassadors for the ECAC group receives secretarial support from the Association of European Cancer Leagues (ECL), a Brussels based non profit organisation who represents national cancer leagues across Europe.

[Read more here on how to apply](#)

**WCTOH 2018 calls upon governments to develop a plan by 2021 for phasing out the sale of tobacco products**

2500 participants attended the 17th World Conference on Tobacco or Health in Cape Town in March 2018 . Those participants called upon governments to develop a plan by 2021 for phasing out the sale of tobacco products. The full WCTOH declarations are available at [http://www.wctoh.org/site/assets/files/2283/17th\\_wctoh\\_declarations.pdf](http://www.wctoh.org/site/assets/files/2283/17th_wctoh_declarations.pdf)

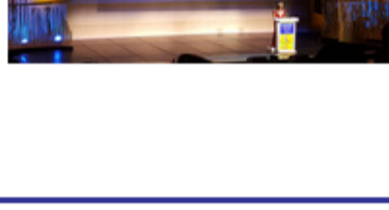


The sixth edition of the **Tobacco Atlas**, published by the American Cancer Society, was also launched at the **2018 World Conference on Tobacco or Health** in South Africa, on a continent that is a principal target of the tobacco industry's vigorous efforts to recruit new users. The book is published as a companion to the [TobaccoAtlas.org](http://www.TobaccoAtlas.org) website, which includes country fact sheets, considerable new content, frequent updates and comprehensive data, among other components.

The next WCTOH will be held in **March 2021, In Dublin**, in collaboration with one of the ECL Members, the Irish Cancer Society.

**WCTOH from an inside eye**

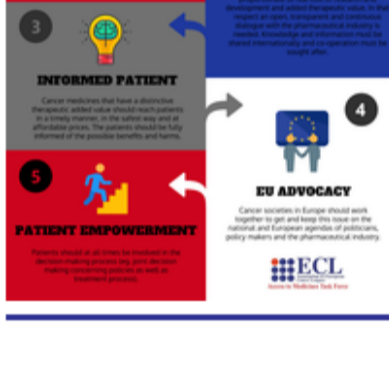
**Gera Nagelhout**, who won the 1st Award of the 7th ECToH Young Professionals 2017, attended WCToH and shared her enthusiastic experience on her [blog](#).



**Spring Meeting in Bern**

On 19 March 2019 the ECL A2M Task Force met at the Swiss Cancer Society to discuss the key issues in access coming in 2018-19. The Task Force Members were joined by Yannis Natsis from the European Public Health Alliance, Dr. Thomas Cerny from Cancer Research Switzerland and Patrick Durisch from the Public Eye. It looks like we will be very busy the rest of the year. Stay tuned for upcoming Task Force initiatives [here!](#)

For ECL members: Minutes and presentations will be distributed shortly



**La Ligue, France: Celebrating its 100th Anniversary!**

On March 14, the French Cancer League organised a full day of activities to celebrate its 100th Anniversary. There were concerts, film festival, conferences and much more in a friendly atmosphere under the sign of solidarity with cancer patients and their families.

Happy Anniversary!



**European Collaboration Needed!**

**Oncommunities project - european funding application to EIT Health consortium**

Dr. Josep maria Borrás ( Institut Català d'Oncologia) and Dr. Cristian Ochoa (Barcelona University) are looking for **European cancer patient associations, coalitions or federations** to help them to scale the **Oncommunities project** to their countries. Find below more explanations:

We need collaboration to an **European funding application to EIT Health consortium**

**We are: University of Barcelona and Catalan Institute of Oncology research group**

**What we need:** European cancer patient associations, coalitions or federations to help us to scale **Oncommunities project** to their countries.

**Benefits for collaboration:** - Access to free innovative health education and online psychosocial cancer care  
- Budget to develop parts of this project in your country (40.000-50.000 euros).

**Please contact with Dr. Cristian Ochoa [cocha@ic oncologia.net](mailto:cocha@ic oncologia.net) before 3rd of April if you are interested.**

**We only need little details of your institution (name, contact details and responsible) to be a partner.**

**General description:**

Oncommunities is the result of a joint effort of patients and healthcare professionals to co-construct healthy experiences in cancer. Oncommunities is a multilevel, stepped and integrated educational and psychosocial e-health platform, which guarantees a proper screening, monitoring and support in health education, treatment adherence, emotional and psychosocial care in cancer. Cancer survivors and health professionals interact using well-established and stepped online interventions according to their psychosocial and health education needs in each relevant cancer process transition. Diagnosis, onset and end of the primary oncological treatments, return-to-work, relapses, no curative treatment options and end of life are main significant transitions in cancer where a proper educational and psychosocial support intervention is needed and has a well-established cost-utility. Oncommunities promotes healthy digital connections to improve health and emotional self-awareness and trigger social support and empowerment in cancer in order to enhance quality of life, psychosocial adaptation and treatment adherence.

**Schematic Project description:**

**Title:** Oncommunities: Online Cancer Therapeutic Communities

**Focus:** Innovative and cost-effectiveness improving access to health education, psychosocial screening-monitoring-support and evidence-based psycho-oncological treatments.

**Main aim:** Implement an online stepped care integrated system with: screening, monitoring, education and psychosocial interventions in an online therapeutic community using an e-health platform.

Health education and Psychosocial services:

1. Facilitating private access (social net) to high quality and participated cancer related information (with multidisciplinary oncological team).
2. Sustained psychosocial screening, monitoring and emotional support.
3. Easy access to online evidence-based psycho-oncological treatment (multi-videconference meetings)

The main characteristics of these communities can be summarized in four big points:

- 1) Private-access to social nets for both patients and health-professionals
- 2) Psychosocial, proactive and high responsive online screening and monitoring in overall oncological process with special focus on crisis and difficult transitions (diagnosis, treatment complications, returning to daily life, relapses, no treatment opportunities).
- 3) Online stepped psychosocial care from more preventive interventions to more psychotherapeutic ones.
- 4) The online community uses asynchronous communication (like Facebook) for basics psychosocial support, and synchronous communication (videconference) for online psychooncological treatments.

The project is currently focused on cancer, but it is intended to widen its focus towards other common chronic diseases.

For more information visit web project: [www.psiconcologiaonline.com](http://www.psiconcologiaonline.com) (select your language)

Please contact with Dr. Cristian Ochoa [cocha@ic oncologia.net](mailto:cocha@ic oncologia.net) before 3rd of april if you are interested.

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**UPCOMING EVENTS**

**PSWG workshop:** April 12-13, Bucharest, Romania

**ECL Sun and UV Safety Workshop:** 17 April, 2018, 13:30 to 17:30, Brussels – for *ECL members and EuroSkin Conference participants*  
Registration required at <https://goo.gl/forms/IXCJreJ8wkqCeLQ83>

**MEPs Against Cancer:** Cancer Nursing Day, 16 May 2018

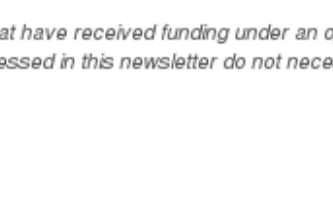
**ECCO Summit:** 7-9 September, Vienna, Austria  
<https://www.ecco-org.eu/ECCO2018Summit>

**ECL Annual Meetings:** 13-16 November 2018, Berlin, hosted by the German Cancer Society.  
*Restricted to ECL members*

Thanks for reading!

ECL

[www.europeancancerleagues.org](http://www.europeancancerleagues.org)



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