



European Society of  
Oncology Pharmacy

# Membership Online Letter (MOL)

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3/04

## Dear Colleagues

Another year has come to an end, full of activities that enhanced our knowledge and fostered the Oncology Pharmacy movement everywhere in Europe.

This newsletter takes you from Iceland to Malta, over to Germany and to Poland. In Luxembourg we worked together and joined our views and demands. We learned, that we can increase our own opportunities, if we manage to organise the many people involved in Oncology Pharmacy in Europe.

At the moment only European ISOPP members are members of the ESOP. However, there are many other colleagues involved in Oncology Pharmacy in Europe, that would like to join. In reflection of this, the ESOP delegates are preparing an initiative for the next assembly in Hamburg, January 2005, to build a base for national Oncology Pharmacy



societies in Europe to become members of ESOP.

By this the ESOP will become a true European Society, based on a federal Organisation.

Besides this meeting, the 3<sup>rd</sup> European NZW with speakers from more than 12 different countries will be hosted.

Join us and become part of this meeting, together with 500 other pharmacists.

You are also invited to take a look at the homepage [www.esop.li](http://www.esop.li), not only to view the program, but also to log in and gather points, after reading a fantastic scientific article.

Until soon  
Yours  
*Klaus Meier*

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## Report from Meeting in Słubice

### Agnieszka Jarmolowicz (Poland)

1st Polish-German Conference in Oncology Pharmacy took place in Słubice and Frankfurt/Oder at the Collegium Polonicum Viadrina European University from 11th to 12th June 2004. More than 100 pharmacists from Germany and Poland were present.

Most of the lectures were concentrated on pharmaceutical care of oncology patient. Prof. Marion Schaefer (Berlin) presented the ground of pharmaceutical care, Lukasz Lapinski (Wroclaw) spoke



about therapy monitoring. From Michael Hoeckel (Hamburg) we have learnt how the patient orientated drug distribution in oncology looks like and how the pharmacists can contribute to the therapy optimisation. Prof. Roland Radziwill (Fulda) talked about oncology patient nutrition and its influence on the therapy outcome and cancer prevention.



The latest news about oncology drugs were also discussed. The lecture about new mechanisms of action in oncology was presented by Jurgen Barth (Essen). Prof. Bernhard Woermann (Braunschweig) spoke about guided anticancer therapy and Dariusz Kowalczyk about perspective of introduction anti-cancer genetic vaccines.

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Participants had the opportunity to visit the pharmacy of Clinical Hospital in Frankfurt/Oder where cytotoxics are prepared with the use of gravimetric measurements.



There was a promotion of ESOP during the conference. ESOP president Klaus Meier and Polish ESOP delegate Teresa

Pociecha encouraged Polish pharmacists to form Polish society of oncology pharmacy.

There was also time to make new friends – international friends, to talk about differences and similarities in both countries. Nevertheless, the most important issue was to consolidate polish and German cooperation in the field of pharmacy. Also, from this point of view the conference was an absolute success.

In the end we did not say "goodbye" but "see you next time".





## Report of the Oncology Workshop „Quality Standards for the Oncology Pharmacy Service in Europe“, Luxemburg

### Stavroula Theophanous-Kitiri (Cyprus)

It is a great pleasure for me to write this report about the second ESOP Oncology Workshop “ Quality Standards for the Oncology Pharmacy Service in Europe “ which was held on 24 -25 of September 2004 in Bâtiment Jean Monnet, Luxembourg.

The aim of the workshop was to establish and present uniform standards for all European countries and to make the appropriate changes of the standards in the QuapoS3 book.

On Friday morning the delegate member of each European country participated in the ESOP delegate meeting where we discussed very important topics about ESOP, like guidelines to become a centre of



excellence of ESOP, ESOP constitution, spill kits e.t.c

The delegates participated in 5 different workshops

1. Education and training led by Dr Franca GOFFREDO (I)/ Jeff KOUNDAKJIAN (UK)

2. Technical aspects led by Dr Peter VAN BALEN (NL)/ Werner HENKE (D)
3. Pharmaceutical care led by Michael HÖCKEL (D)/ Kathleen SIMMONS (NL)
4. Quality management led by Dr Karla DOMAGK (D)/ Jordi MASSO (SP)
5. Research and development led by Dr Robert TERKOLA (A)/Per HARTWIG (SE)



I participated in the workshop technical aspects, which was really great. We had discussions about various topics and we had the opportunity to compare different ways of practice, different situations and to exchange ideas. Some of the topics discussed were Laminar air flow hood or isolators? Positive or negative pressure in preparation room? Cleanroom Class D, C or B? the use of closed





systems and what kind of systems? e.t.c

It was amazing, having representatives from each European country, we had not only the opportunity to discuss about

scientific aspects but also we had the chance to develop close relationships, contacts and friends. Camille Groos who organized the workshop, offered to the delegates a taste of Luxemburg cuisine and entertainment having a local band playing festive



marches. It was an unforgettable evening. On Saturday evening each workgroup presented their conclusions of the topics discussed. The workshop was closed by the president of ESOP, Klaus Meier who reported on a very successful meeting where participants were highly active at the scientific discussions and presentations. It was an unforgettable experience because the delegates shared their experiences and the participants were satisfied with the positive results of the workshops.



At the closing of the workshop we said "good-bye" and "au revoir" to each other with the promise to meet soon again and put all of our efforts in order to make oncology pharmacy stronger and stronger for the whole Europe!

I had also the chance to visit the Hospital Kirchberg, where Camille Groos is working. I would like to thank Camille for his hospitality, for spending so much of his precious time with me showing me his department, the cytotoxic reconstitution, the CYPRO program and guiding me around his glamorous hospital which is less than one year old. I would also like to thank Klaus Meier for his friendship, for leadership of the society and to tell him that his activity and organization is appreciated and admired by all of us.



*Stavroula Theophanous-Kitiri  
Clinical Pharmacist, Senior Pharmacist  
Bank of Cyprus Oncology Centre  
Nicosia, Cyprus*



## Meeting of the Polish Oncology Pharmacy

**Teresa Pociecha (Poland)**

On October 13, 2004 nearly 100 Polish hospital pharmacists came to Zakopane, the town beautifully located at the foot of Tatra Mountains, to take part in 5<sup>th</sup> National Annual Meeting of Oncology Pharmacy. During 3 days they have had an opportunity to hear very interesting lectures on different topics covering cancer and its treatment as well as to take part in workshops devoted to pharmacoeconomical studies in preparing solutions of cytostatics. Honorary guest of the meeting was ESOP President – Klaus Meier, who is regular participant of Polish meetings. He was leading a workshop on "How to prepare cytotoxics with a balance?"



beautiful flowers and a surprise – nice portrait of him offered by his colleagues.

A new Executive Committee of the Section of Oncology Pharmacy of the Polish Pharmaceutical Society has been elected. Dr Lazowski has been re-elected as a Chairman, as a vice-chairmen has been elected dr K. Chmal-Jagiello and dr H. Jankowiak-Gracz, and as members of ExCo – A. Jarmolowicz, T. Pociecha, M. Bicz and M. Mosiewicz. The Committee has a very ambitious programme for the future.

Except very rich scientific part, participants of the Meeting have had an opportunity to meet during evening social meetings and to admire very specific folklore of Polish and Slovak Tatra mountaineers. Next Meeting is planned in October 2005 in Warsaw, but before there will be 2<sup>nd</sup> Polish-German Conference on Oncology Pharmacy planned in late spring.



Organization of the Meeting was as always in the hands of dr Jerzy Lazowski, who celebrated on its first evening 65 birthday and 40 years of professional carrier. There was a lot of cordial wishes,



### 3. NZW-Süd, Post-ASCO-Meeting in Ravensburg

Jessica Y. Lachmuth (Germany)

For the third time, the NZW-Süd was held in the beautiful city of Ravensburg, Germany on September, 10-11<sup>th</sup> 2004. Three months after the 40th annual meeting of the American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO) in New Orleans, 248 pharmacists came together in the concert hall of Ravensburg for an update on cancer therapy.

The meeting was organized by the German Society of Oncology Pharmacy (DGOP) in cooperation with the Institute for Applied Healthcare Sciences (IFAHS).



In his opening speech, Klaus Meier as president of DGOP focussed on the importance of permanent education. At present, 240 pharmacists attend the education program for oncology pharmacy and 60 pharmacies are in the process of certification. Furthermore he pointed out the great importance of conventions like the NZW-Süd. These meetings offer the opportunity to discuss political and scientific matters and to define the aims of pharmaceutical practice in favour of the patient. Claus Roland, the president of IFAHS, placed emphasis on pharmaceutical advisory service in oncology. The aim of pharmaceutical activity should be the best possible, individual support for cancer patients. Today pharmacists should not only be seen as manufacturers of cytostatic drug preparations, but should also be admitted more responsibility regarding the individual cancer therapy.



The host of the meeting, Prof. Dr. Günter Wiedemann, Ravensburg, pointed out the great significance of a close collaboration between doctors and pharmacists. In view of the poor financial situation, decisions concerning the selection of adequate drugs and therapy should be made in interdisciplinary cooperation.

Over two days, fifteen outstanding speakers reported on developments in foundation research and targeted therapies, new clinical studies were presented and practical problems were discussed.

Between presentations it was possible to communicate and pose questions at so called "Meet the Professor" locations. The concept of having an industrial exhibition proved once more successful, as 19 pharmaceutical companies and manufacturers of oncology products were present and great interest was shown.

Recapitulating we had a very interesting and successful meeting and are looking forward to next year.

*Together for future:  
Prof. Günter  
Wiedemann,  
Klaus Meier and  
Claus Roland*





## Speciality in Oncology Hospital Pharmacy in Spain

### Paula de Juan-García (Spain)

Recently in Spain, the way to “hyperspecialization has been opened: Hospital Pharmacists (HP) have given the first step towards specialization.

Until this moment, Oncology has been a topic to which we dedicated part of our time in the Hospital Pharmacy. Usually in every hospital there is a HP responsible for that area. But we are aware that times are changing and that Oncology requires a degree of specialization in order to reduce errors and to optimize outcomes in the cancer patient.

That’s the reason why two years ago, GEDEF0 (Spanish Group of Specialists in Oncology), SEFH (Spanish Society of Hospital Pharmacist) and two pharmaceutical companies (Amgen and Bristol Myers Squibb) called for the first grants to get the Board of Pharmacist Speciality in Oncology Pharmacy.

“Oncology Pharmacists recommend, design, implement, monitor and modify pharmacotherapeutic plans to optimize outcomes in patients with malignant diseases.”

This is a degree that certifies for the speciality in Oncology Pharmacy in the United States.

This grant consists in a 9-month course for which all the material to study for the exam is given. 20 HP are selected between the candidates to the grant. They meet regularly during the 9-month course in order to discuss and review different topics in Oncology (Pharmacology, pathologies, management of adverse effects, methodology for clinical trials...) together with an expert in the matter, whether an Oncologist or a Hospital Pharmacist.

After this 9-month course, the exam, organised by BPS in US, takes place. As Madrid is a recognised site for examination, the exam is taken there, although the examiners and the questions are supplied by BPS organization. The exam consists in 200 test questions in English, and to pass the exam a 70% of right answers is required.

Nowadays, there are 1583 Oncology Pharmacists all around the world (Spain, UK,

Australia, Germany, China...). Spain is the second country after US in BPS in Oncology.

Although we have given the first step, there is still a long way to go. The second step is to get the recognition of Spanish Health Authorities of the specialization of Oncology Pharmacy.

*Paula de Juan-García, Hospital Pharmacist, BPS in Oncology.*

*MD Anderson Oncological Center, Madrid, Spain.*



*Spain meets Germany in Luxembourg*



## Oncology in Malta

### Fiona Fenech (Malta)

Cancer patients in Malta are treated in St. Luke's Hospital and Boffa Hospital. St. Luke's Hospital is the main hospital in Malta; it is an acute general hospital with a capacity of 800 beds. On the other hand Boffa Hospital is a Dermatology and Oncology hospital with a capacity of 60 beds. Thus there are two Oncology Pharmacy Units. Boffa Hospital caters for solid tumours, whilst St. Luke's Hospital caters for all paediatric cases and haematological cancers. In total the two hospitals prepare around 600 to 700 doses a month. The set up in St. Luke's is a temporary one as the plans are to have a full-clean room technology set-up at Mater Dei Hospital (a new hospital being currently built in Malta), which will replace the temporary units.



*St. Luke's Compounding Team (where I work; standing from left myself, Alan, Renata and sitting down from left Daniela, Anita) – Apart from oncology the unit also offers other compounding services.*

The pharmacists work closely with doctors within each of the Oncology firms (paediatric and adult). We keep schedules of chemotherapy regimens for each patient and doses are prepared on the same day they are to be administered. All prescriptions (which were designed by our Unit) are received in duplicate and checked by the pharmacist against approved protocols. Worksheets and labels for each dose are prepared and double checked.



*Negative pressure isolator*

Doses are reconstituted within a designated room where a negative pressure isolator is situated (see picture above). A maximum of twenty four hour shelf life is given to all chemo doses, unless chemical stability is less than twenty four hours.





The room is divided in two sections; part hosts the isolator and the other part hosts all the items required for reconstitution i.e. chemo drugs, syringes etc. The two parts are divided by a partition. The operators within this room wear appropriate garments to upkeep the room status. Full garments worn include overshoes, mob hats, overalls and gloves.

### **Intravenous cytotoxics preparation at the University Hospital/ Landspítali in Reykjavík Iceland**

**Thorir Benediktsson (Iceland)**

Every IV cytotoxic solution that is administered on the oncology wards at the hospital is prepared at the hospital pharmacy. The preparations are done under aseptic conditions by pharmacy technicians under the supervision of a pharmacist. The cytotoxic solutions are prepared in a closed room with negative pressure and the work is performed in a laminar air-flow cabinet. The preparation area consists of three rooms, where only one room can be opened at a time due to the pressure difference; A dressing room, a room between the dressing room and the preparation room, and the preparation room itself where the LAF cabinets are located and the cytotoxic solutions are made.

On a typical working day there are three pharmacy technicians who work in the preparation room. Outside the preparation area there are one pharmacist and one pharmacy technician.

The procedure when a cytotoxic solution is prepared is as follows; a prescription is received from the oncology ward by fax, which is then recorded into a computer database and a worksheet is printed out that contains the patient's name and the preparation

The isolator is cleaned before reconstitution work starts and the items required for each dose are set up. All items are disinfected before being introduced within the isolator. Records of the batches of the items used are kept. After reconstitution each dose is packed and labelled accordingly.



*A pharmacy technician enters a cytotoxic prescription into the computer-database*



*A pharmacy technician prepares the LAF bench for the first cytotoxic-preparation of the day*



*A team of well trained pharmacy technicians*



*Cytotoxics ready to be put into the sluce where they are received by the pharmacy technicians in the preparation room*

procedure of that cytotoxic. The pharmacist checks the prescription, compares it with the worksheet and signs it. Then the pharmacy technician brings out the cytotoxics and other solutions that are needed for the preparation and writes down the batches and expiry dates on the worksheet.



*Cytotoxics solutions ready to be sent to the oncology ward*

After that the pharmacist checks if the products are correct and puts them inside a sluce where they are collected by the technicians in the preparation room. After the preparation is finished the pharmacist receives it through another sluce and compares the label on the IV bag with the worksheet and that the correct bag has been used.



*Pharmacy technician compares the label on the bag with the worksheet*

If that proves to be correct the pharmacist signs for it and the solution is sent to the ward in a sealed box that has a cytotoxics warning label on it.

The number of cytotoxics preparation increases every year. In 2003 the number of preparations was just

under 10.000 compared to 8.000 in 2002. In the first nine months of 2004 there have been made around 6.500 preparations.

*November 2004,  
Thorir Benediktsson,  
pharmacist at Landspítali,  
National University Hospital in Iceland.*



*Pharmacy technicians preparing cytotoxics solutions in the LAF bench*

*The third technician assists by handing into the LAF bench and receives prepared solutions from the LAF bench*



*Prepared cytotoxics inside the sluce where the pharmacist receives them*



**NZW Europe Program**  
**28<sup>th</sup>/29<sup>th</sup> January 2005**  
**Hamburg, Germany**



■ **NZW Europe** Friday 28.01.05

Zeit	Titel	Referent	Ort
13.15-13.30	Welcome	Klaus Meier and Camille Groos	Hamburg/ Luxemburg
	Chair:	Prof. Dr. Bernd Meibohm	Memphis, USA
13.30-14.00	Present situation of oncology pharmacy in France	Prof. Alain Astier	Paris, France
14.00-14.30	Oncology pharmacy activities in the Czech Republic	Irena Netikova	Prague, Czech Republic
14.30-15.00	Current situation of Pharmacy Students in the EU	Anita Molenda	Krakow, Poland
15.00-15.30	Update breast cancer	Terri Davidson	Duluth, USA
15.30-16.00	Pause		
	Chair:	Thomas Garms	Hamburg
16.00-16.30	The Controls on the preparative service in Wales and chemical contamination levels	V'Iain Fenton-May	Cardiff, UK
16.30-17.00	Research and Development activities of FECS	Prof. Dr. Robert Mader	Wien, Austria
17.00-17.30	Advances in Cyprus	Stavroula Kitiri	Nicosia, Cyprus
17.30-18.00	Automated filling of syringes under laminar air flow condition	Werner Henke	Aschaffenburg, Germany

■ **Hauptvorträge** Saturday 29.01.05

Zeit	Titel	Referent	Ort
	Chair:	Prof. Dr. Bernd Meibohm	Memphis, USA
08.30-08.45	Welcome	Klaus Meier	Hamburg
08.45-09.15	Standard in Europe, 2 <sup>nd</sup> meeting	Michael Höckel	Hamburg
09.15-10.15	Chronooncology	William Hrushesky	Albany, USA
10.15-11.00	Chemotherapy Toxicities	Imad Treish	Amman, Jordan
11.00-11.30	Pause		
11:30-12.15	Treatment of Brain Tumors	Dr. John Kuhn	San Antonio, USA
12.15-12.45	Basic pharmacological principle in treatment of cytotoxic induced emesis	Per Hartvig	Uppsala, Schweden



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### ■ NZW Europe Saturday 29.01.05

14.00-14.25	Dosageoptimization	Prof. Anna Wiela-Hojenska	Wroclaw, Poland
14.25-14.50	Tailored chemotherapy – can drug effects be predicted for the individual patient	Dr. Dorothee Dartsch	Hamburg, Germany
14.50-15.15	Fungal Infections in Cancer Patients	PD Dr. Andrew J. Ullmann	Mainz, Germany
15.15-15.40	Combined Radiotherapy – State of the art	Prof. Dr. Wolfgang Wagner	Osnabrück, Germany

### ■ Workshops Saturday 29.01.05

14.00-15.30	Chronooncology	William Hrushesky	USA
16.00-17.30	Basic Pharmacogenomics	Dr. John Kuhn	San Antonio, USA
	Proteasome Inhibition in Hematologic Malignancies: Clinical update and Practical Applications	Terri Davidson	Duluth, USA

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**1**

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QUICKNEWS

Nationalities

Cyprus

Czech Rep.

Poland updated on 25.11.2004

**2**

Adoptive Immunotherapy in Chimeras with Donor Lymphocytes.

Hans-Joachim Kolb, Christoph Schmidt, Xiao Chen, Anja Waszczowski, Marie Roskow, Martin Weber, Wolfgang Guenther, Georg Ledderose, Michael Schleuning.

Clinical Cooperative Group Hematopoietic Cell Transplantation, Dept. of Medicine II, University of Marburg - Grosshadern, and GSF-National Research Center for Environment and Health, Munich, Germany.

1 National sites

2 New article in cpd

3 New forum

**3**

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