



High-level Conference

“BEACON: Mobilising Collaboration among Stakeholders to Optimise the Growing Potential of Data for Tackling Cancer”

Warsaw, Poland

Maria Skłodowska-Curie National Research Institute of Oncology

May 16th/17th, 2024

Background

The theme of Stakeholder Conference will be: “*Mobilising Collaboration among Stakeholders to Optimise the Growing Potential of Data for Tackling Cancers.*”

Cancer remains one of the most significant health challenges in Europe and beyond. In 2020, 2.7 million people in the European Union were diagnosed with the disease, and another 1.3 million people lost their lives to it; worldwide, it accounted for nearly 10 million deaths in 2020, or nearly one in six deaths. Incidence continues to vary across the European Union, from 458/100,000 in Bulgaria to 718/100,000 in Ireland in 2019. Tackling these disparities and improving cancer care depends on a number of factors.

The possibilities of tackling cancer continue to grow at a rapid rate, with a new understanding of the underlying mechanisms combined with new tools for diagnosis and treatment, and with a widening understanding of the powerful societal and personal factors influencing cancer incidence and treatment, ranging from widening use of NGS to more carefully planned screening programs and the ever more intensive and productive use of personalised medicine.

Cancer Care Beacon

In response to this concerning scenario, the EU funded a project entitled Cancer Care Beacon (BEACON) focuses on three iterative pillars: (1) mapping of capacity and capabilities across cancer centers in the European Union; (2) creating decision support tools that will assist our four stakeholders: patients in finding the best centers, providers in sharing resources and expertise, researchers in sharing data, and policymakers in aligning funding allocation with patients' priorities; and (3) getting training and accreditation to reflect the quality of their cancer care.

One of the core outcomes of the event is to develop a roadmap to scale current capacity and capabilities of cancer centers in order to address existing cancer disparities for access and diagnostics for ALL as well as public health Genomics.

Objective:

The conference provides a chance to re-align priorities to evaluate the needs of patients, healthcare professionals and health systems to facilitate improved and safer therapies.



There is also space and necessity for enhanced collaboration between EU regulatory and payer groups. This would have the aim of identifying core outcomes other than survival that can be incorporated into trials, as well as healthcare systems, to generate data throughout the lifecycle. In effect, it allows us to develop this roadmap.

Attendees:

Attendees will be drawn from key stakeholders whose interaction will create a cross-sectoral, highly relevant and dynamic discussion forum. These participants will include public health decision makers, representatives from the Commission, Members of the European Parliament, patient organisations, and European umbrella organizations representing interest groups and associations actively engaged in the field of Personalised Medicine. Each session will comprise panel discussions as well as Q&A sessions to allow best possible involvement of all participants.

Please see the following [link](#) to the BEACON website.



Programme – Day 1

Thursday, May 16th, 2024

Moderator: D. Horgan, EAPM Executive Director

12:00-13:00: registration, coffee, networking

13:00-15:00 Plenary Session I: Setting the Scene: Innovative Solutions for bringing innovation In Healthcare

Significant disparities and inequalities in survival and outcomes from country to country. Some of the reasons for this inequity are: a) the differences in decision-making economic issues, b) poorly implemented or non-existent screening programs, c) missing or limited information and education about cancer, d) patchy provision of cancer services; e) substantial differences in the qualifications and the number of oncologists and specialist healthcare staff, and f) distinct cultural and educational status. The session will examine the different elements of this.

Welcome: **Beata Jagielska**, *Director, Maria Skłodowska-Curie National Research Institute of Oncology (Confirmed)*

Izabela Leszczyna, *Minister of Health, Ministry of Health, Poland (TBD)*

Setting the Scene:

CAN.HEAL: **Marc Van den Bulcke**, *Project Coordinator, CanHeal.(Confirmed)*

OECI: **Iwona Lugowska**, *Early Phase Clinical Trials Unit and Department of Soft Tissue/Bone Sarcoma and Melanoma, Maria Skłodowska-Curie National, Research Institute and Oncology Centre (MSCI), Warsaw, Poland (Confirmed)*

CRANE: **Tit Albreht**, *Scientific Co-Ordinator of the Joint Action on co-ordinator of the Joint. Action Cancon (Cancer Control) (Confirmed)*

BEACON: **Roberto Grasso**, *Psychologist, Applied Research Division for Cognitive and Psychological Science, IEO, European Institute of Oncology IRCCS, Department of Oncology and Hemato-Oncology, University of Milan. (Confirmed)*

Industry Speaker from MSD (TBD)

Q&A

15:00 -15:30: coffee break



15:30 – 17:15: Plenary Session II: Public & Private Sector Collaboration

Setting the Scene:

Daniel Rutkowski, *President of the AOTMiT (Confirmed)*

Panellists

IDERHA: Philip Gribbon, *Head of Discovery Research at Fraunhofer Institute for Translational Medicine and Pharmacology (ITMP) (Confirmed)*

INCISIVE: Gianna Tsakou, *Maggioli SPA (Confirmed)*

EATRIS-ERIC: Anton Ussi, *Operations Director for EATRIS C&S. (Confirmed)*

Equity of Access: Thomas Di Maio, *EU-Canada diagnostic lead, AstraZeneca (TBD)*

Liquid Biopsy: Benjamin Gannon, *Vice President, International Guardant Health (Confirmed)*

JANE: Salvatore Provenzano, *Fondazione IRCCS Istituto Nazionale dei Tumori di Milano (Confirmed)*

Discussion

17:15 – 17.30 Concluding Remarks from Day I & Overview of Day II

Beata Jagielska, *Director, Maria Skłodowska-Curie National Research Institute of Oncology (Confirmed)*

Denis Horgan, *Executive Director, Denis Horgan (Confirmed)*

Marc Van den Bulcke, *Project Coordinator, CanHeal.(Confirmed)*

Conference Dinner at 19.30 for invited Speakers

Programme – Day 2

Friday, May 17th, 2024

09:00 – 11:00: Plenary Session III: Benchmarking in comprehensive cancer care & Allocation of Resources

Setting the Scene: Filip Nowak, *President, National Health Fund - National Health Fund (TBD)*

How can the EU contribute to tackling this?



Cancer Core Europe: **Alejandro Piris**, *Head of the Scientific Coordination/ Management Area at the Vall d'Hebron Institute of Oncology (VHIO) in Barcelona (Spain). (Confirmed)*

ESMO: **Pawel Sobczuk**, *Maria Skłodowska-Curie National Research Institute of Oncology, Warsaw, Poland (Confirmed)*

Role of the EU Health Data Space: **Gabor Belak**, *Programme Officer, DG Connect, European Commission (Confirmed)*

Cancer Mission Hubs: **Hugo Soares**, *Co-coordinator of Establishing Cancer Mission Hubs: Networks and Synergies (ECHO-S). (Confirmed)*

Followed by Q&A.

11:00 – 11:30: **Coffee**

11:30 – 13:00: **Plenary IV: Focus on Central Europe**

Exploring the Data: **Aline Machiavell**, *Data Scientist, SporeData (Confirmed)*

CAN.HEAL & BEACON Session

France: **Frédérique Nowak**, *Operational coordinator of the French Genomic Medicine Initiative 2025, INSERM (Confirmed)*

Belgium: **Marc Van den Bulcke**, *Project Coordinator, CanHeal. (Confirmed)*

Spain: **Rossana Alessandrello**, *Value Based Procurement Director, AQUAS (Confirmed)*

Germany: **Ulrike Weirauch**, *Science Manager at Fraunhofer Institute for Cell Therapy and Immunology IZI, Business Unit Diagnostics (Confirmed)*

Germany: **Stephan Ossowski**, *Institute of Medical Genetics and Applied Genomics, University of Tübingen, Germany (Confirmed)*

Followed by Q&A.

13:00 – 14:00: **Lunch**

14:00– 15:30: **Plenary V: Focus on Central Eastern Europe**



BEACON: **Dario Monzani**, *Researcher, Department of Psychology, Educational Science and Human Movement (SPPEFF), Università of Palermo, Italy. (Confirmed)*

Poland: **Iwona Lugowska**, *Early Phase Clinical Trials Unit and Department of Soft Tissue/Bone Sarcoma and Melanoma, Maria Skłodowska-Curie National, Research Institute and Oncology Centre (MSCI), Warsaw, Poland (Confirmed)*

Hungary: **Erika Tóth**, *Head of the Tumour Pathology Center at the National Institute of Oncology in Budapest, Hungary (Confirmed)*

Bulgaria: **Jasmina Koeva**, *President of the Bulgarian Alliance for Personalised and Precision Medicine (Confirmed)*

Romania: **Delia Nicoară**, *Public Health Specialist at The Oncology Institute "Prof. Dr. Ion Chiricuță", Cluj-Napoca, Romania (Confirmed)*

Industry: Novartis (TBD)

15:30 -16:00: Coffee

16:00 -17:00: Closing Session: Looking towards the EU Elections

Dariusz Wieczorek, *Minister of Science - Ministry of Science and Higher Education (TBD)*

Beata Jagielska, *Director, Maria Skłodowska-Curie National Research Institute of Oncology. (Confirmed)*

Marc Van den Bulcke, *Project Coordinator, CanHeal. (Confirmed)*

Roberto Grasso, *Psychologist, Applied Research Division for Cognitive and Psychological Science, IEO, European Institute of Oncology IRCCS, Department of Oncology and Hemato-Oncology, University of Milan. (Confirmed)*