

**Dear Colleagues,**

This is the first edition of the OEI Accreditation and Designation Newsletter. The aim of the newsletter is to inform health care institutions, management and professionals, and other stakeholders in cancer care, cancer research or accreditation, about the activities and progress of the OEI Accreditation and Designation programme.

In this edition of the OEI Accreditation Newsletter general information about the OEI Accreditation Programme is outlined as well as the ongoing activities.

The OEI Accreditation programme offers a system with a set of quality standards and an assessment process to cancer institutions within Europe. The system helps to assess the organizational and professional performances delivered to cancer patients. The outcome of the assessment provides institutions a transparent input for continuous quality improvement and therefore a higher quality of care for patients.

**1. OEI Accreditation background**

The mission of the OEI is to serve as a linking organisation, coordinating interdisciplinary cancer treatment and improving the quality of cancer care. The OEI launched the Accreditation Programme in 2002 to fulfil one of its goals: to provide cancer patients within Europe an equal access to high quality of cancer care. There have been two rounds of pilot projects from 2006 till 2008. In the first pilot four cancer centres used a tool for self-assessment of the centre. In the second pilot project four cancer centres used the improved self-assessment tool and auditors visited the centres for assessment on site. The pilot projects provided input for improvement and development of the current accreditation system, self-assessment tool and the standards.

**2. OEI Accreditation subjects and principles**

The Accreditation Programme standards cover the following areas:

- general standards, strategic plan and general management
- screening, primary prevention and health education;
- care;
- research, innovation and development;
- teaching and continuous education;
- information and involvement of patients.

Through the Accreditation Programme the OEI promote the following principles to take into account: patient focussed, improvement in safety of care, continuous quality improvement, involvement of the cancer centres professionals, and the continuous improvement of the assessment process.

**3. OEI Accreditation and Designation Group**

In July 2009 the new organizational structure of the OEI Accreditation and Designation group has been approved during an OEI board meeting. The group exists of an accreditation and designation board and five subgroups.

- Board: M. Saghatchian (chair), D. de Valeriola, R. Otter and W. van Harten.
- Responsible for accreditation: H. Hummel, F. Boomsma and C. Harrison.
- Responsible for designation: W. van Harten, I van Gessel, M. Rossielle.
- Responsible for partnerships: M. Pierotti, U. Ringborg, T. Tursz.
- Responsible for education: A. Paradiso.
- Responsible for indicators: this group starts in 2010.

Delegates from the groups outline the Management Unit, they meet every month with delegates from the board. The Management Unit exists of:

- H. Hummel (Programme manager),
- F. Boomsma (Accreditation coordinator),
- I. van Gessel (Designation coordinator),
- C. Tableau (secretariat)
- Subcontractor B. Koot (designer and administrator of the self-assessment e-tool).

Dear All,

Since September 1<sup>st</sup> 2009 I am working as OECI Accreditation Coordinator.

I am responsible to accompany the applicant and participating cancer centres through the process of accreditation. Henk Hummel will support me with information and advice in all phases of the project.

My background. I started my career as a nurse. In 2006 I graduated as Master in Science with the specialisation of Health Policy, Economics and Management. After graduation I worked for the Dutch Standardization Organization (NEN). In 2008 and 2009 I worked as nurse on an Intensive Care Unit.

Femke Boomsma



#### **4. Accreditation programme planning**

From the moment of application by a cancer centre the timetable of the accreditation process starts. Within one month after application the OECI will notify the approval of participation. Then, an explanatory visit will be planned. Delegates of the OECI Accreditation and Designation group will visit the centre to explain the accreditation aims, timelines, expectations, responsibilities and processes, and the electronic self-assessment tool. The centres have six months to complete the self-assessment by the e-tool. The self-assessment will be analysed by the board of the OECI Accreditation and Designation group, they will decide whether or not the centre has the minimum level of quality arranged to participate in peer-review. If the centre does participate in peer-review a date will be planned and a team of auditors will be arranged and prepared. For a figure with the timetable, click: <http://oeci.selfassessment.nu/downloads/pdf/Timelines%20of%20the%20Audit%20process%20Oct%202008.pdf>.

#### **5. Currently in the programme**

The cancer centres that currently participate in different phases of the accreditation process are:

- Three centres are working on the self-assessment from May-November 2009: Instituto Portugues de Oncologia do Porto, Instituto Portugues de Oncologia de Coimbra, Fundacion Instituto Valenciano de Oncologia.
- Two explanatory visits are planned: Netherlands Cancer Institute (Amsterdam), University Hospital Brussels.
- Activities for the other centres are planned in 2010: The Christie NHS Foundation Trust (Manchester), Helsinki University Central Hospital, Institute Gustave Roussy (Villejuif), and Institute J. Bordet Brussels.

#### **6. Information for auditors**

A team of auditors will perform the peer reviews. Each team exists of four auditors, including a chair, one coordinator and one secretary.

In November a full new group of auditors will be trained. Then, thirty-one auditors are trained.

The auditors who are selected to perform the peer reviews in the centres in Porto, Coimbra and Valencia are selected. They will be invited and informed by e-mail.

OECI Accreditation coordinating secretariat

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## 7. Agenda 2009

Autumn	Explanatory visit at Netherlands Cancer Institute Amsterdam
Autumn	Explanatory visit University Hospital Brussels

## 8. Agenda 2010

01 February	Preparation meeting auditors for peer-review Instituto Portugues de Oncologia do Porto
15 February	Preparation meeting auditors for peer-review Instituto Portugues de Oncologia de Coimbra
08 March	Preparation meeting auditors for peer-review Fundacion Instituto Valenciano de Oncologia
28 till 02 March	Peer-review in Instituto Portugues de Oncologia do Porto
14 till 16 March	Peer-review in Instituto Portugues de Oncologia de Coimbra
18 till 20 April	Peer-review in Fundacion Instituto Valenciano de Oncologia

## 9. ECCO/ESMO Congress 2009 in Berlin

The OECI was present at the ECCO/ESMO Congress 2009 in September in Berlin. They had a booth at the conference floor. Many people visited the booth and showed their interest in the accreditation programme, e.g. the Chief Executive Officer of the American Association for Cancer Research Ms. Foti. And in the presentation of the Deputy Head of Unit Health Strategy of the DG Health and Consumer Protection of the European Commission, Mr. Fahy, mentioned the importance of a tool for accreditation in cancer care.

## 10. How to apply to the Accreditation Programme?

The OECI is trying to interest more centres to apply in the Accreditation Programme. If your centre is interested in the OECI Accreditation Programme please contact the OECI Accreditation Coordinator Femke Boomsma at any time. She can provide the cancer centres with further information about application and participation in the Programme.

### Contact information

For information or any other question about the Accreditation Programme please contact Femke Boomsma or search on the website <http://oeci.selfassessment.nu> or [www.oeci.org](http://www.oeci.org)

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### Next newsletter

The next newsletter will contain the following subjects:

- Explanation of the Designation project
- Introduction of Ingeborg van Gessel, Coordinator of the Designation project
- Update of the accreditation programme

And more...