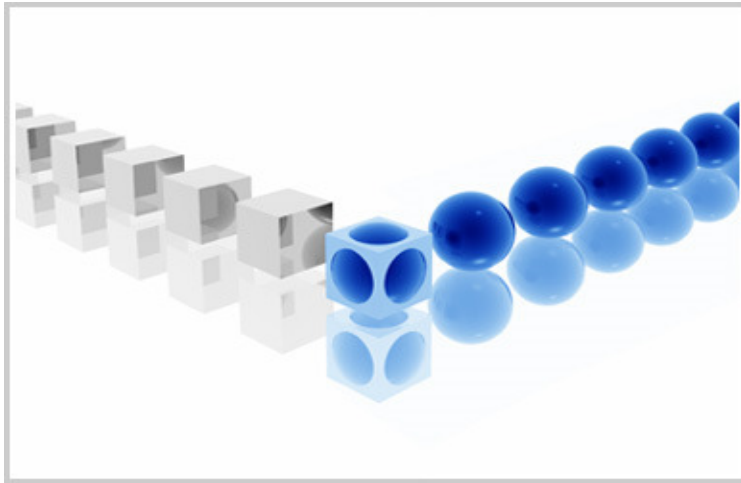


OECE Accreditation and Designation Newsletter Vol. 5, December 2010



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From the chairwoman

Dear OECI Members, Dear Colleagues,

The last weeks have been very fruitful for the OECI Accreditation and Designation Group, since they have brought us new perspectives and openings for the future of our activity.

In October, we had the opportunity to take part in the ESMO's annual conference where the OECI was very actively present through the OECI's booth next to all our other European cancer societies.

But for the first time, we had the opportunity to hold a joint ESMO/OECI workshop that was co-organised by our two organisations.

Professor David Kerr, ESMO President, co-chaired this workshop with myself and offered us with a very proactive and, as always, brilliant participation.

The workshop was very successful and a lot of our European colleagues from many areas, various countries, and various types of institutions as well as some patient's representatives even from the United States took part in this workshop.

Once again, it appeared clearly that a programme aimed at standardizing and harmonising the care provided to cancer patients around Europe is a critical need expressed both by the professionals and the patients.

Designation is still an area of intensive and sometimes emotional discussions as it is may be viewed as an initiative to distinguish the elite, whereas it is in fact an attempt to better describe the various cancer services that are available in our countries and allow to better understand the specific needs, requirements or difficulties for each type of institutions.

Moreover, we took the opportunity of the Milan conference for a brainstorming meeting with ESMO's representatives in order to prepare some common activities around Accreditation with ESMO's certification programme and more largely between the OECI and ESMO which are two organisations with very similar objectives

for the cancer community but different approaches that can be mutually very helpful.



The ESMO's conference was followed by the ISQua's conference in Paris, where all the professionals working in the field of quality control and accreditation meet. A special session was dedicated to Accreditation and quality initiatives in the field of cancer and we presented the OECI's Accreditation and Designation Programme which triggered a lot of interest from participants.

It appears clearly that duplication of similar initiatives or the growing number of accreditation programmes is a threat for the medical community that will not be able to fulfill all the procedures required by those programmes. Our efforts should be aimed to the development of joint initiatives that will avoid participation in too many different programmes, and allow our quality programme to have as much impact as possible on the quality of life and care of the patients in the most efficient way.

In the meanwhile, the Management unit is of course still working hard in order to get more and more centres participating in the programme and during the last weeks we could finalize the accreditation of Porto, Coimbra, Valencia and Manchester.

Last but not least, our group is now working with a brand new committee: The Accreditation Committee. This committee is chaired by Prof. Chris Harrison and he is in charge of following all the activities linked to the accreditation process in the cancer centres from their application to the report. This committee will play a very central role in reviewing all documents and providing the Accreditation Board with the necessary support in order to allow us to take

the right decisions concerning all the centres in the programme.

I wish to thank Chris for his faithful support to our group and all the members that will be helping him in this activity.

Finally, this year is ending with very good news for the Accreditation / Designation Group: as you may know, we have been participating in the EurocanPlatform 7th Framework Programme proposal with a work package and have been informed by Prof. Ulrik Ringborg, who is coordinating this project, that the project has been accepted by the European Commission. As of January 2011, this programme will be launched and I will be pleased to give you more information about our participation in the next newsletter.

Until then, I wish you lots of light and success for the end of this Year.

**On behalf of the Accreditation/Designation Group,
Best wishes,**

Dr. Mahasti Saghatchian

Experiences of a cancer centre: OECI peer review visit in The Netherlands Cancer Institute-Antoni van Leeuwenhoek hospital (October 2010)

It's always exciting when your organization is being turned upside down and inside out because of an accreditation visit. The preparation demands a thorough self-assessment and in this phase various items for improvement can already be detected and actually improved as input for further activities. When an audit team speaks to numerous people in your organization during the review visit and looks into all kinds of departments to form an opinion about procedures and activities, it is rewarding to see that items are working well and stimulating to hear of possible weak spots. Most workers want to be proud of their organization, and we really want others to acknowledge our strengths too. Thus it was good to hear that the audit team that visited us on October 19th and 20th did recognize our strong points but also identified our

improvement points, now brought to our attention again by these objective auditors. Although the accreditation visit asked a lot of our organization in terms of planning, preparing documents and fitting all activities in an appropriate schedule, the participants and the Board of Directors thought it was worth it; participants enjoyed informing the audit team about their department and all the work that is being done. The audit team could appreciate this and the results of the visit were very positive. We are now looking forward to the final report that will help us to further improve on our road to excellence in care, services and research.

Wim van Harten, Director NKI-AVL in Amsterdam, The Netherlands and President Elect OECI

Eva Euser, Quality advisor NKI-AVL and accreditation coordinator

Chairman of an audit team: Chris Harrison's experiences

Whilst I know my own cancer centre really well I was slightly apprehensive about chairing the audit visit to another of Europe's best known and prestigious organisations. However there was no need to worry. With the help and support of a great team of auditors and the guidance of Femke and the rest of the OECI team all the arrangements fell easily in to place. We had prepared well beforehand and had a good idea of those standards that we wanted to explore in more detail at the visit. By dividing the work up we spread the workload between us and allowed each member of the team to play an important role. We were received very warmly by everybody at the NKI and I can truly say that whilst the days (and nights) of the visit were packed full of activities, visits, discussions and debates about whether standards had been met it was a thoroughly enjoyable and worthwhile experience.

Some years ago I organised a peer review visiting programme to over 40 healthcare organisations treating cancer patients in the north west of England. Whilst this process was mainly aimed at benefitting the organisations being reviewed one of the main outcomes was the education and understanding of the auditors themselves. My experience of the OECI process

is the same. Visiting and reviewing another organisation is an enormous privilege and responsibility. There is mutual benefit in being visited by people from outside and in visiting other centres.

My role as chair was particularly exciting. Trying to take an overview of the institution and provide fair but helpful feedback is a challenge and a real opportunity to learn. I would thoroughly recommend both the excellent auditor training course and participating in audits as a way of making a contribution to improved cancer care and developing one's own experience.

Finally my thanks to the auditor team and particularly Femke for making things go as smoothly as they did.

Chris Harrison, Medical Director, The Christie NHS Foundation Trust in Manchester, UK

OECI's participation on the 27th ISQua Annual International Conference in Paris, October 10th-13th.

Two members of the OECI Accreditation programme had the opportunity to promote the programme during the conference in Paris. Mahasti Saghatchian, chairwoman of the group was invited as speaker in an international workshop (*Quality improvement and control in Cancer services*) with speakers from Australia, Denmark and the Netherlands.

The OECI Accreditation Coordinator, Femke Boomsma, was speaker in an International session with speakers from Ireland, Iran, England and Canada. She presented the OECI's designation schedule for cancer institute's complemented with the OECI Accreditation programme for increasing quality in cancer care.

You can find both presentations on our website: oeци.selfassessment.nu

About ISQua

In 1985, a group of health professionals gathered in Udine, Northern Italy to discuss the assurance of quality of medicine. Many of the original group had been deeply influenced by Avedis Donabedian. Since 1986 the Society has

grown through the Annual International Conference Programme and Journal. Each year the conference is held in a different city in the world in association with governments and other key organizations. The Society is a non-profit, independent organisation, managed by an Executive Board which is elected every two years. Current Board members are from North American, European and Asia/Pacific regions.

Vision & Mission:

Driving continual improvement in the quality and safety of healthcare worldwide through education, research, collaboration and the dissemination of evidence-based knowledge.



ISQua's annual international conferences provide a stimulating 'must attend' annual forum with exchange of information and updates on practice and policy development. Delegates include national health policy leaders and decision-makers, researchers, healthcare professionals in all disciplines, administrators, clinical organisations, standards and accreditation organisations, health care networks, providers and consumer organisations.

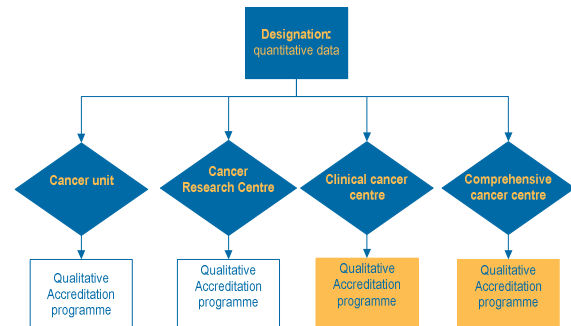
Henk Hummel, OECI Accreditation Programme Executive Manager

Merging of the OECI Accreditation and Designation Programme: One effort, two benefits

From September 2010 onwards, the OECI accreditation programme will be offered as a joint programme together with the designation project.

In June 2010 the OECI Board and General Assembly approved the designation instrument

that has been developed through a pilot project (2009-2010). The developed instrument makes it possible to categorize four types of cancer institutes and to offer a specialized accreditation programme for each kind of designation type:



The basis for the specialized accreditation programme are the current OECI Quality Standards. The 'clinical cancer centres' and 'Comprehensives Cancer Centres' will be assessed during the peer review visit according to the full set of standards. For the 'cancer units' the OECI Accreditation/Designation Groups is working on a selected set of standards from the existing standards that should be achievable by this designation type. The current standards are not yet applicable for centres that are designated as 'cancer research centre'. Special standards for cancer research centres will be developed.

The difference between accreditation and designation is that the first is that accreditation is based on qualitative standards, while designation is based on quantitative criteria. The two programmes complement each other because the designation type is input for the kind of accreditation programme and the designation type will be examined during the peer review site visit for accreditation.

How does it work?

When an institute is applying to the programme it judges itself as one of the four designation types. After the application is approved, the institute provides the quantitative data needed for the designation. The result of the designation type in compare with the own judgement of the institute will be discussed with the institute during the explanatory visit, as well as the proceeding of the programme. The institute starts the self assessment for accreditation as the agreed designation type.

For more information please visit the [accreditation/designation website](#).

Claudio Lombardo's 24th Anniversary with the OECI

On June 17th in Budapest, the 32nd OECI General Assembly, kindly organized by the local National Institute of Oncology, took place. It was my 24th anniversary as OECI Delegate of the National Institute for Cancer Research of Genoa but the first experience in my new role of OECI Liaison Officer and Secretariat Coordinator, a task which the Organization assigned to me on July 1st 2009.

When I started my commitment with the OECI I was already an experienced investigator but the youngest OECI Delegate, moving from the lab to the management of the Scientific Secretariat and International Affairs Department of my Institute.

At that time, the General Assembly was just the yearly meeting point of outstanding Directors of CCCs, an encounter still unable to define common strategies and to implement programs for the only one existing network of European CCCs.



In 2010, the Board assigned to me the editing of the first OECI General Report, a book realized in collaboration with the Board itself and with the Working Groups' Chairpersons. The book contains a chapter related to the OECI history in order to remember to the early generations and to learn a lesson from the past before to plan the future.

In the past 24 years I've been committed in the Organization with different roles, participating to the Program Committee, being co-opted member of the Board and chairperson of the Education and Training Working Group. In 1999 I

suggested to the OECI to launch a network among a selected number of European Comprehensive Cancer Centers in the format of a European Economic Interest Grouping. The new Grouping, generated by the OECI, was established in Brussels the following year, giving the origin to the LINC, the Liaison Network for Cancer. LINC, which should be considered as the ancestor of the European cancer platform recently recognized by the EC as a network of excellence, become soon after the New OECI, a Grouping actually comprising 73 members.

After 24 years of voluntary collaboration I can definitively state that the balance is positive even if I believe it is time to deeply invest in young generations and new ideas. The OECI Accreditation and Designation action is an example of the initiatives to be promoted. This action will certainly contribute to stress the need to build a concrete comprehensiveness in the approach to cancer care so to guarantee to patients a complete and guided support during the hard path of the disease.

The care of a complex disease must be organized in structures where a community of experts works with harmony humanity and, when needed, controlled hardness. These structures are represented by the CCCs where the translation of research results to care must be guaranteed by the specifically designed OECI Accreditation System.

I hope to have the honor to continue to serve the Organization with the staff of 5 young officers working actually in the Coordinating Secretariat and Liaison Office.

**Claudio Lombardo, IST – National Institute for Cancer Research – Genoa, Italy
Special Assistant to the OECI President
Head OECI Liaison Office and Coordinating Secretariat**

Progress of Centres in the programme

In the self assessment period:

- HUCH Helsinki, Finland
- Vilnius University, Lithuania
- Institute Jules Bordet Brussels, Belgium

Recently finished the self assessment period:

- IPO Lisbon, Portugal

Draft report received for comments and feedback:

- The NCI-AVL Amsterdam, The Netherlands (19/20 October)

Final report approved:

- IVO Valencia, Spain
- The Christie Manchester, United Kingdom

Writing improvement plan:

- IPO Porto, Portugal
- IPO Coimbra, Portugal

Planning explanatory visit:

- Institute Gustave Roussy, Villejuif, France
- King's Health Partners Integrated Cancer Centre, London, UK

Other applied centre:

- Rikshospitalet University Hospital Oslo, Norway
- UZ Brussels, Belgium (postponed)

Events and activities 2010/2011

Nov 11-12	Booth during the OECI International symposium 'Trends and Developments in Survivorship Care' in Amsterdam, The Netherlands
Nov 12-13	OEI-ESO Course - Biobanking for Cancer Research: Rules and Roles in Bari, Italy
Nov 18-20	Supported by the OEI: Excellence in Oncology; cutting edge findings in clinical practice, Athens, Greece
March 7-9	1 st EACR-OECI Joint training Course: Molecular pathology approach to cancer, Amsterdam, The Netherlands
June 17 th	OEI Scientific Conference – Organisation of CCCs: innovation and development of personalized cancer medicine, Amsterdam
June 18 th	OEI General Assembly and Working Groups Reports, Amsterdam

How to apply to the Accreditation Programme?

When your centre is interested in the OEI Accreditation, please contact the OEI Accreditation Coordinator at any time or go to oei.selfassessment.nu and fill in the 'Expression of interest form'.

The OEI Accreditation and Designation Group wishes you a warm and joyful Christmas

And lots of success in 2011