

OECI Working Group on Health Economics

Mission and vision WG

The mission of the OECI Working Group on Health Economics (HE) is the creation of optimal conditions for coverage of innovative cancer treatments and adequate implementation in clinical practice. Involvement of HE and Health Technology Assessment (HTA) expertise in early stages of translational oncology research will contribute to that aim.

The objective of this working group is to raise awareness and improve the expertise on health economic- and technology assessment related issues and -methods in cancer research and -services. An important driver is the relatively limited awareness that seems to exist within research- and clinical groups in the translational cancer research community on the increasing importance of technology assessment and health economics. Exchanging knowledge, establishing a network of experts within- or related to OECI member institutions, initiating cooperation and research and participation in EU-wide projects are important instruments.

Report on past- and ongoing activities

The board of the OECI WG is composed by Michael Schlander (DKFZ/Ge.), Lionel Perrier (Lyon/ FR.), Edit Pörnczy (NIO/Budapest/ HU), Davide Gallegati (Meldola/It.), Valesca Retel, coordinator (NKI/NL) Wim van Harten, chair (NKI & Rijnstate/NL)

The Board HE meets 3 times per year. During these meetings, we initiate activities, discuss ongoing projects, prepare broad working group sessions, explore topics of interest (such as Cancer Mission & Beating Cancer plan related) and prepare presentations and/or sessions for the Annual Days meeting.

The working group HE meets 2 times per year. During these meetings, we give an update on activities, give follow-up and discuss ongoing projects and explore topics of interest.

The OECI board and working group on health economics has initiated- and participated in the following activities:

Raising awareness on HE issues and participating in publication activities in recent years:

- Budget Impact Analysis of Next Generation Sequencing:
 - Poster published at ECCO congress 2017
 - Ref: [https://doi.org/10.1016/S0959-8049\(17\)30469-0](https://doi.org/10.1016/S0959-8049(17)30469-0)
- Paper in ECancer medical science on the importance of close cooperation with Health technology Assessment expertise in oncology
 - Ref: <https://doi.org/10.3332/ecancer.2016.686>
- Paper on OECI and European Cancer Patients Coalition (ECPC) on the budget restrictions and patient perspectives on cancer drug costs
 - Ref: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jcpc.2019.100195>
- Paper in Cancer Research and Communications and Science in Society of Nora Franzen
 - Ref: <https://doi.org/10.1158/2159-8290.CD-21-1153>
 - Ref: <https://doi.org/10.1158/2767-9764.CRC-21-0031>

A close cooperation with the European Fair Pricing Network (EFPN) is established and appreciated by the 13 funding charities, Cancer funds in 13 European countries.

[Home - European Fair Pricing Network \(efpn.eu\)](http://efpn.eu)

Specific activities in 2021/2022/2023:

- A survey on Targeted Combination Treatment was executed through the WG and EFPN network. This will likely lead to a comment /short report kind of paper on the situation in eight EU countries, for which we think submission to a journal with interesting scoring on Impact Factor is appropriate. This paper will have a strong OECI WG affiliation profile and will be submitted from April 2022 onwards.
- A survey on “socioeconomic consequences (SEC) of cancer and its treatment” (OECI one shot project combined with EFPN input, in close cooperation with the group of Michael Schlander, DKFZ Heidelberg). Activities such as drafting the survey, translating questionnaires in 15 languages, obtaining IRB approval in 11 countries, constructing a survey link, etc. etc. proved quite an effort but is established. All involved CCCs as well as active survey links on patient organization websites are active now collecting data. The data will consist of at least 200 respondents per country in 15 EU-countries, and this will be the first large SEC inventory on European level with which OECI can distinguish itself. This will lead to different papers on the socioeconomic consequences of cancer in various EU countries, validation of the survey instruments and comparisons on the findings within different countries.
- A task force was initiated and launched (Professional Society for Health Economics and Outcomes Research) on the development of SEC measurement instrument standards through the WG, with Michael Schlander from DKFZ as a chair. Representatives from eight OECI member institutes are participating and -apart from the expertise on the subject round the table- the database resulting from the SEC survey will undoubtedly be an useful source to bring this topic further with OECI in a leading role. This taskforce will connect to both ISPOR- and EORTC groups active in this field and expects to produce standards for SEC research in cancer within 2 years.

A project will be started to uniform the definitions and increase comparability of cost definitions that are used in the OECI/EU cancer domain, led by Lionel Perrier and Valesca Retel.

We organized a session during the OECI Annual days, of 2019 on Technology Assessment of innovative cancer treatments. In 2021 there was a session with international acknowledged speakers on Health Economics and drug pricing that was attended by an audience of around 80. For 2022 (in Valencia), the session is planned about Costs and Consequences of Personalized Cancer Treatment, with a focus on socioeconomic consequences.

The liaison with the European Fair Pricing Network, supported by 13 EU Cancer Charities leads to strong visibility of OECI in various settings. The launch November 30th, 2020 gave podium to the president of OECI and was attended by over 400 participants. Including representatives of cancer Charities and the EU commission. The link with EFPN also increased visibility of the OECI President in the EU parliament in a session on “The

importance of research in medicines prices". In publications of the EFPN, the affiliation of authors with OECI will be made visible.

Future Roadmap

- SEC report & paper. We foresee the delivery of reports and paper on the broad EU survey among cancer patients in the second quarter of 2022. We plan to present this on a podium (congress, invited meeting, EU MP session) which more broadly presents the findings, as this will likely be a chance to strengthen the OECI profile in advocating the patient's position.
- SEC methodology report & paper. As this is a more fundamental approach, we will expect to have a number of meetings in 2022 and 2023. A possible liaison with EORTC has to be explored and a consensus statement can be expected in the course of 2023.
- Targeted Combination Treatment paper follow up. After publishing the results of the first survey as a comment, we plan to follow this up with specific HE/HTA activities, in view of the surge this TCT seems to take.
- Survey on the effectiveness of national policy arrangements in view of a comparison of actual drug costs in 2022 is planned for 2022/23. We plan to generate input for EU policy making in the field of combined purchasing and EU political moves to improve transparency on drug cost elements.
- Input in Work Packages for EU Beating Cancer Plan- or Mission calls in which OECI Health Economic presence is useful and presents added value. It might be useful to establish an OECI core group monitoring the progress of those calls, identifying options for a useful OECI role and input in one of the core OECI policy fields. This then includes proposal-writing input.
- A Session in annual days 2022 and 2023 with topics related to the activities of the working group. In 2022 Costs and Consequences of Personalized Cancer Treatment. In 2023 on pricing and financial sustainability of the cancer care provision in EU countries in view of the progress of the "Beating Cancer Plan".
- Three WG board- and two broad WG meetings (in addition to the annual meeting session) per year.

Prof Wim H. van Harten MD PhD Chair.

Valesca P.J. Retel PhD Coordinator.