



Empowering early-career  
professionals in the field  
of oncology

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# OECI ACADEMY MISSION

**Empower junior professionals in the oncological field**

**with the scientific knowledge, technical expertise and soft skills necessary to advance cancer research and patient care.**

The Academy is part of the *OECI Presidential Program 2023-2026* and wants to produce well-rounded scientists who can perform top-level innovative science, secure funding for their research, effectively communicate their findings to a diverse audiences, and lead their teams with confidence and integrity.

*The final goal is to contribute to the global fight against cancer by training the future scientists and leaders in the oncological field.*

# INTERNATIONAL PERSPECTIVE

- ❖ European Society for Medical Oncology
- ❖ American Society of Clinical Oncology

- ❖ European Society for Radiotherapy and Oncology



## SPECIAL ARTICLE

### ESMO/ASCO Recommendations for a Global Curriculum in Medical Oncology Edition 2023

Tanja Cufer, MD<sup>1\*\*</sup> & Michael P. Kosty, MD, FACP, FASCO<sup>2</sup>, on behalf of the Curriculum Development Subgroup—ESMO/ASCO Global Curriculum Working Group

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Available online 23 October 2023

The European Society for Medical Oncology (ESMO) and ASCO are publishing a new edition of the ESMO/ASCO Global Curriculum (GC) with contributions from more than 150 authors. The purpose of the GC is to provide recommendations for the training of physicians in medical oncology and to establish a set of educational standards for trainees to qualify as medical oncologists. This edition builds on prior ones in 2004, 2010, and 2016 and incorporates scientific advances and input from an ESMO/ASCO survey on GC adoption conducted in 2019, which revealed that GC has been adopted or adapted in as many as two thirds of the countries surveyed. To make GC even more useful and applicable, certain subchapters were rearranged into stand-alone chapters, that is, cancer epidemiology, diagnostics, and research. In line with recent progress in the field of multidisciplinary cancer care new (sub)chapters, such as image-guided therapy, cell-based therapy, and nutritional support, were added. Moreover, this edition includes an entirely new chapter dedicated to cancer control principles, aiming to ensure that medical oncologists are able to identify and implement sustainable and equitable cancer care, tailored to local needs and resources. Besides content renewal, modern didactic principles were introduced. GC content is presented using two chapter templates (cancer-specific and non-cancer-specific), with three didactic points (objectives, key concepts, and skills). The next step is promoting GC as a contemporary and comprehensive document applicable all over the world, particularly due to its capacity to harmonize education in medical oncology and, in so doing, help to reduce global disparities in cancer care.

**Keywords:** Global curriculum, medical oncology, training requirements, learning objectives, didactic principles

## Recommended ESTRO Core Curriculum for Radiation Oncologists/Radiotherapists 4th Edition

### Introduction

The European Society for Radiotherapy and Oncology (ESTRO) developed a “Minimum Curriculum for the Theoretical Education in Radiation Oncology in Europe” in 1991. This Core Curriculum was a great success and played a pivotal role in establishing comparable standards for training across Europe. With the marked evolution in radiation oncology technology and methods a second edition was published in 2004. This was endorsed by thirty-five National Societies. It was integrated into legal or national guidelines in several European countries and provided a significant step towards harmonisation across Europe. The third edition published in 2011, endorsed by 28 national societies, changed the focus from theoretical to competency based education defining the minimum observable abilities radiation oncologists/radiotherapists needed for optimal patient outcomes. It was based on the seven roles of a physician identified in the CanMEDS 2005 physician competency framework and was endorsed by the European Union of Medical Specialists (UEMS). Since that time:

- Radiotherapy technology and techniques have continued to develop and to be more widely adopted.
- Survival rates for many cancers have increased increasing the importance of managing survivorship.
- The CanMEDS framework was revised in 2015. The role of “Manager” was changed to “Leader” and there were changes in all the roles emphasising the patient’s perspective and patient safety [1].
- The CanMEDS 2015 framework contained the concept of Entrustable Professional Activities (EPAs), “A key task of a discipline that can be entrusted to an individual who possesses the appropriate level of competence” [1]
- A Delphi survey by the Global Radiation Oncology Collaboration in Education (GRaCE) group defined a leader role curriculum for radiation oncology [2].
- The European Commission Expert Group on Cancer Control established a European Union Implementation Group tasked with exploring the training of clinical cancer specialists with particular emphasis on the interdisciplinary training of doctors in the clinical cancer specialties. They proposed competences in radiation oncology, systemic therapy and surgery that should be acquired by all cancer specialists regardless of discipline.

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# THE EUROPEAN COMPETENCE FRAMEWORK FOR RESEARCHERS



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# EUROPEAN CONTEXT

## ResearchComp Competence Area

- Doing Research
- Managing Research
- Managing Research Tools
- Making an Impact
- Working with Others
- Self-Management
- Cognitive Abilities

## OEI Academy Training

- European policy
- Grantsmanship
- Science methodology
- Intellectual Property Strategy
- Scientific writing
- Communication
- Leadership

# GRANTSMANSHIP

- Grantsmanship is considered the “art” of writing research grant proposals, encompassing technical principles of:
  - **science methodology**
  - **scientific writing and communication techniques**
  - **marketing techniques**
- Grantsmanship can make the difference in the successful funding of a good research project

# OEI Academy – 2025 CALENDAR

## WEBINAR 2

Call for applications and their analysis

*How to find the best funding mechanism for your proposal*  
*Web search engines for grants*  
*How to read a call for applications*

Feb 20

## WEBINAR 1

Research Funding

*Horizon Europe - Mission cancer*  
*MSCA Fellowships*  
*ERC Grants*

*MSCA success story - tips from an awardee*  
*ERC success story - tips from an awardee*

March 20

April 17

## WEBINAR 3

Basic Principles of Grantsmanship

*Grantsmanship*  
*Principles of Scientific Writing*  
*What a reviewer expects - the review process*  
*Basic tips on grant design and funding planning*

## RESIDENTIAL COURSE

Grantsmanship

October

Nov 20

## WEBINAR 5

Grant management

*The grant and consortium agreements*  
*Principles of grant management*  
*Data management*  
*Real world practice of research funding: a case study*

# WEBINAR 1 – FEBRUARY 20 from 2 pm to 5 pm CET

Training session to gain valuable insights on some of the most impactful funding opportunities sponsored by the Horizon Europe program, for early-stage professionals in the oncology field.

- *Horizon Europe - Mission Cancer*. The initiative aims at improving through research the lives of cancer patients and accelerating the development of effective treatments.
- *MSCA Fellowships (Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions)*. Learn about the excellent opportunities provided by MSCA Fellowships for researchers to enhance their skills, gain international experience, and build their professional networks
- *ERC Grants (European Research Council)* Get detailed information on ERC Starting and Consolidator Grants, which offer substantial funding for early- and mid-career researchers with the potential to become future leaders in their fields.

## **Confirmed speakers**

Stojan Sorčan – NCP Horizon Europe MSCA, Slovenia

Colm J O'Rourke - University of Copenhagen, Denmark

Silvia Affò - IDIBAPS, Barcelona, Spain



# RESIDENTIAL COURSE – OCTOBER 2025

Date and place to be announced by April 2025 when the call for applications will open

## **Learning Objectives**

Upon completion of this course, participants will have gained the ability to:

- Comprehend and implement the fundamental elements of a grant application.
- Navigate through all stages of the review process with understanding and confidence.
- Formulate a well-organized research plan that includes a clear and testable hypothesis, defined aims (both specific objectives and long-term goals), a critical literature review, and suitable, feasible methodologies.
- Understand the essential principles of sample size calculation.
- Demonstrate that the proposed research is highly innovative and has significant implications for human health and society.
- Articulate the importance and relevance of the project to the funding agency.
- Craft an engaging biosketch and personal statement that effectively highlight one's qualifications and motivations.
- Detail the resources and infrastructure available at the host institutions, emphasizing how they will support the proposed research.
- Accurately calculate costs and formulate a realistic budget.

## APPLICATIONS & FEES

- Webinars are free of charge for OECI members
- Residential course will be offered by OECI to 25 applicants + partial fellowships will be given to additional 25 participants
- A certificate will be given at the end of the academy for those participating in all the event
- Educational material will be available together with the recorded lectures
- To register: visit the OECI Academy webpage and follow social media  
[www.oeci.eu/OeciAcademy.aspx](http://www.oeci.eu/OeciAcademy.aspx)

# OECI Academy - TEAM



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*“Education is the most powerful weapon  
which you can use to change the world.”*

*Nelson Mandela*