

The General Assembly and Scientific Conference 2009 was held on 20th – 24th May 2009 in Manchester and was hosted by the Christie NHS Foundation Trust, one of Europe's leading cancer centres. In the previous 5 years, the OECl annual meetings have been held in Genoa, Copenhagen, Izmir, Athens and Paris.

Highlights of the scientific conference included presentations about cancer prevention research across Europe, including diet and obesity, research on people genetically predisposed to skin and other cancers, and the development of molecular predictors for cancer, in areas such as breast, lung and bowel.

Manchester OECl 2009 Scientific Programme

Cancer Prevention Research Session

This session highlighted some recent advances in cancer prevention research discussing the coordination and collaboration that could be achieved through the major cancer centers.

Richard Sullivan, *SE London Integrated Cancer Centre, Kings Health Partners, Guy's Hospital, London UK: "Cancer prevention research in a European context"*

Jan-Willem Coebergh, *Professor of Cancer Surveillance, Erasmus Medical School, Rotterdam, The Netherlands: "Waging war on cancer"*

Patrizia Pasanisi, *Epidemiology Unit, Department of Preventive and Predictive Medicine, Istituto Nazionale Tumori, Milan, Italy: "The role of diet in cancer prevention"*

Andrew Renehan, *Manchester Cancer Research Centre, Manchester UK: "Cancer and obesity"*

Paolo Radice, *Unit of Genetic Susceptibility of Cancer, Istituto Nazionale Tumori, Milan, Italy: "Identification of individuals genetically predisposed to cancer"*

Chris Harrison, *Medical Director, the Christie NHS Foundation Trust, Manchester, UK: "The next steps"*

Designation and Accreditation of Cancer Centres in Europe Session

This session reviewed progress with designation and accreditation of cancer services in Europe. This was an opportunity to present the programme to members who could not have been updated in the last few months, but also to new and potential members, including UK centres attending the conference.

Joseph Pagano, *Linenberg Comprehensive Cancer Centre, North Carolina, US: "Cancer Centre Accreditation in the USA"*

Julio Celis, *OECl Board, Danish Cancer Society: "Comprehensive Cancer Centres and the need for collaboration"*

Wim Van Harten, *OECl Vice President: "Designating Cancer Services in Europe"*

Mark Baker, *Department of Health, UK: "The UK system of Cancer Peer Review"*

Henk Hummel and Burt Koot, respectively OECI manager WG Accreditation project and Training and E-tools responsible: "The European Cancer Accreditation Programme – Progress so far"

Mahasti Saghatchian, Chair of the OECI Accreditation WG: "The European Cancer Accreditation Programme – The next steps"

Manchester Cancer Therapies Session

This session supplied to participants not attending the Board Meeting the possibility to meet some of the leading cancer clinicians and academics from Manchester. A series of short presentation on cancer developments was made, giving to participants the opportunity to view displays.

Nic Jones, Director of Manchester Cancer Research Centre, Manchester, UK: "The Manchester Cancer Research Centre"

Alan North, University of Manchester, Manchester, UK: "The Manchester Academic Health Sciences Centre"

Olof Sanden, Executive Vice President of Elekta Europe, Stockholm, Sweden: "Developing a Radiotherapy Network"

Sarah O'Dwyer, Consultant Colo-rectal surgeon and Director of Cancer Centre Services Division at The Christie Foundation, Manchester, UK: "Surgical Interventions in Manchester"

John Radford, Director of Research, The Christie Foundation, Manchester UK: "Translational and Clinical Cancer Research in Manchester"

Molecular Predictors of Cancer Therapies Session

This session discussed the development of molecular predictors for cancer therapy, bringing together leading edge researches from the US and Europe, and underlined the opportunities for future collaborations.

Jean-Charles Soria – Institute de cancérologie, Gustave-Roussy, Paris, France : "ERCC1 Expression as a Predictor of Response to Cisplatin"

David P. Carbone, Vanderbilt University, Nashville, Tennessee, USA: "Proteomics and Genomic Biomarkers for Guiding Therapy In NSCLC"

Jonas Bergh, Karolinska Institute, Stockholm, Sweden: "Personalised Medicine in Breast Cancer Patient - Prime Or Not Ready?"

Andrew Hughes, Vice President, AstraZeneca Pharmaceuticals (International), UK: "Know Your Enemy: Determining the Mutation Status of your Cancer: is Intelligence Relevant to Patients, Pharma, Payors and Partnerships"

Tim Maughan, Director, North Wales Cancer Trials, Cardiff, UK: "Predictive Biomarker Studies: Molecular Selection of Therapy in Colorectal Cancer"

Evelyn McKeegan, Abbot, Illinois, Chicago, USA:

"Exploratory Patient Stratification Markers Associated with Sensitivity to ABT- 263 in Small Cell Lung Cancer (SCLC)"



Manchester OECI 2009 Civic Reception - Town Hall 22nd May; from the left: John Stapleton, Andrew Fox, Caroline Shaw, the Mayor of Manchester Alison Firth, the OECI President Marco A. Pierotti, Ulrik Ringborg, Chris Harrison and Lynn Faulds Wood.