

**Minutes conference call Advocacy WG
Tuesday 8 July 2014, 15.00 hrs CET**

Participants: Patrick Crombez (PC)(Co-Chair), Birgitte Grube (BG) (Co-Chair), Francoise Charnay-Sonnek (FCS), Sidsel Dragsbaek Holm (SDH), Katarina Lokar (KL), Petra Riemer-Hommel (PRH), Paul Trevatt (PT), Clair Watts (CW), Mariska Mooijekind (MM) (Projects Manager)

Apologies received from: Per Fessé (PF), Sultan Kav (SK), Ineke Lokker (IL)

1. Welcome and introduction

BG opens the conference call by welcoming all participating Working Group members. A special welcome goes out to Ms Sidsel Dragsbaek Holm, who is a new member of the Working Group. All WG members briefly introduce themselves.

BG mentions that she has spoken to Working Group member Sultan Kav (not participating in the call). In this personal conversation SK has expressed her wish to resign from the Working Group. She would however still be interested in participating in a Task Group, should the opportunity arise. There is a potential new WG member who has expressed an interest in joining the group and it is agreed for BG to follow up on this.

ACTION: BG to contact potential new WG member.

ACTION: MM to remove SK from WG membership list and the Advocacy web pages.

2. Proposal for name change from EONS (European Oncology Nursing Society) to ECNS (European Cancer Nursing Society)

A first discussion on this subject took place at the WGs face-to-face meeting of last April, following which KL has prepared a written proposal in support of a potential Board discussion. The rationale for the suggested name change is to be inclusive for non-oncology nurses (cancer nurses). The WG concludes that for a number of reasons it is better for the name to remain the same:

- The vision and mission of EONS already refer to “cancer nurses”
- Strategically it is preferred not to change the name from “Oncology” to “Cancer” as most collaborating partners and other societies have a reference to “Oncology” rather than “Cancer” too

The WG agrees that this is considered to be a communication issue: who is included in the community of EONS? This should be clearly communicated, also on the societies’ home page. A name change is considered to be too much. The WG suggest having more visible communications to non-oncology nurses.

ACTION: KL & PRH will consult all WG members to provide a number of suggestions for inclusive communications. A list of suggestions will be made available for the October conference call of the Working Group.

PT suggests that the Membership Survey, which is currently under development, could be used for this purpose as well.

3. Strategic plan “How to advocate on a European level: Feedback to WG members on meeting with Martine Piccart (ECCO) (action BG & PC)

Martine Piccart, the current President of ECCO, had in her presentation at the “EONS 30-session” at the 2013 ECCO congress in Amsterdam expressed an

interest and willingness to engage and to work together with EONS to advocate on a European level. In response to this, EONS has written a letter to inform MP that the society would very much like to accept this offer. In follow up to this PC and BG have met with Ms Piccart on 5 June and have received the following advice on a strategic plan:

1. To map the current situation in all European countries regarding the recognition of oncology nursing as a specialty. This can be done through a questionnaire amongst all National Member Societies.
2. Determine a core contact person for each National Member Society to work with on a national level.
3. List good reasons why it is important for oncology nursing to be recognised on a European level.
4. Write a position paper on the future role of oncology nurses.

In the meeting the Common Training Framework (CTF) was not discussed. The CTF is considered to be part of the process:

- First part = a survey which is already done. The data available from this survey is from 2008 and therefore may no longer be accurate. Sarah Faithfull was involved in this survey and will be asked for further background information by BG.

The WG members agree that EONS should get in contact with ESNO, who have done a similar survey. **ACTION:** FCS agrees to ask other organisations, including ESNO, about their approach.

The questions will need to be well thought of, not to be repetitive. One of the things that should be included is the question of where nurses learn the specialty: by education or on the job?

The strategic plan will be discussed at the November Advisory Council Meeting. All National Member Societies will be asked to provide the WG with the name and contact details of a representative for the Advocacy WG to work with on a national level.

ACTION: It is agreed that PC, BG and KL will prepare a position paper on the "Future role of oncology nurses". The paper will be written in collaboration with other societies and will be shared before publication. A draft version of the position paper will be provided to the WG for review prior to the conference call of October. After review and discussion by the WG the document Ingrid van de Neucker (Oncopolicy ECCO) and Kathy Redmond (Editor CancerWorld) will be invited to proof read the document.

4. Advocacy web pages: Any updates? (action BG & PC)

BG and PC have reviewed the Advocacy web pages and inform the WG members that an update of the pages is urgently needed. The WG agrees for the chairs to first make the urgent changes and to then consult the WG.

ACTION: PC will email Kate Griffin (the EONS Web Manager) directly. All WG members are invited to provide feedback, any time.

5. A.O.B.

FCS informs the WG members on the ESNO meeting of November, which will address an update of the Common Training Framework. Input from EONS for the meeting is welcomed.

ACTION: FCS will email the WG members with a more defined request on the type of information that is needed.