

Minutes face-to-face meeting Advocacy WG
Thursday 9 June 2016, 09.00 – 16.00 hrs
Blackstone Room, Royal Marsden Hospital, London, United Kingdom

Participants: Patrick Crombez (PC) (Co-Chair), Graca Braz (GB), Sidsel Dragsbaek Holm (SDH), Per Fessé (PF), Katarina Lokar (KL), Aoife McNamara (AMN), Johan de Munter (JdeM), Petra Riemer-Hommel (PRH), Theologia Tsitsi (TT), Clair Watts (CW) (Executive Director), Mariska Mooijekind (MM) (Working Groups Manager)

Apologies received from: Birgitte Grube (BG) (Co-Chair), Paul Trevatt (PT)

In attendance: Daniel Kelly (DK) (EONS President)

1. Welcome

BG has sent her apologies for not being able to attend due to unforeseen circumstances at work. PRH is flying in on the day and will join the meeting as soon as she can.

All Working Group members introduce themselves. The three new WG members are welcomed: Johan de Munter, Aoife MacNamara and Theologia Tsitsi. Another new WG member, a 12th, has been selected to join: Halldóra Hálfánardóttir. She will be contacted by MM soon.

PC emphasises that he is aiming for great progress from the various Advocacy Task Groups the coming year, following this face-to-face meeting. EONS has engaged in an Oncopolicy Project set-up by ECCO and the EONS President, Professor Daniel Kelly, will attend part of this meeting to personally inform the group about the scope of the project. The role of the WG is emphasised by PC: the EONS Advocacy Working Group represents cancer nurses' views at an EU level, should build on establishing MoUs with other oncology societies, and should produce Position Statements that are useful and relevant to the Society and its' members.

2. EU Cancer Nursing Day

** PRH joins the meeting while this subject is being discussed **

The EONS Board has decided on 18 May 2017 to hold the 1st European Cancer Nursing Day. This coincides with a 25th anniversary event of the Estonian National Cancer Nursing Society and the EONS Board Meeting which is scheduled to be held in Estonia. EONS will organise an Educational Day for Estonian cancer nurses on 18 May and will launch the EU Cancer Nursing Day at that time. It has been agreed for it to be an annual event which is to be celebrated on the same date every year. The day does not necessarily need to be celebrated by means of a physical event, such as a congress or a workshop. The celebration can very well be done digitally by using websites, newsletters, Twitter, Facebook. The Working Group agrees to prepare a digital

package to enable the National Member Societies and their members to actively engage with the 2017 celebration.

There is some discussion about the date selected as the date is considered to be rather close to the international nursing day. The date has however been selected and cannot be changed as the event in Estonia is already being planned for. It is agreed that the date could be reconsidered in the future, if considered necessary.

A Task Group is set-up:

Chair: GB

Members: AMcN, JdeM, PRH

The TG will have the task to prepare a toolkit for next year's 1st European Cancer Nursing Day. The group agrees that the toolkit should be aimed at the individual cancer nurse, rather than at the National Member Societies. The Toolkit will contain digital files, which will be made available on the EONS website. The toolkit should focus on cancer nursing, not on EONS as a society. A logo should be developed to celebrate the day and a Position Statement could be included in the package. It is suggested that the theme could focus on one of the Working Groups, varying every year.

All agree that it will be important to interact with the Communication WG on this subject. GB will ask the Communication WG to become involved in the planning and development. International EONS partners should also be invited to assist in the communication. And the national member societies could be invited to register their activities or event(s) for the day with EONS.

It is suggested that over time the celebration could perhaps grow into an international cancer nursing event. This is however not an aim or priority at this time.

Post-meeting note:

At informal discussions after the meeting it is agreed that the theme of the first European Cancer Nursing Day should be: the role of cancer nursing, with the slogan: "Every cancer nurse counts". The toolkit for 2017 should be built around the Position Statement on the role of cancer nursing, reasons why the role is important, oncopolicy (perhaps an early outcome of the project), how to advocate.

3. Oncopolicy Project

EONS President, DK, attends the meeting to personally inform the Advocacy Working Group about the Oncopolicy Project, which has been set-up by the ECCO Board. The ECCO Board has agreed on a current focus on work force issues and specifically on the recognition of oncology nursing in Europe. A sub-committee of the ECCO Board forms the Oncopolicy Committee.

DK will lead Oncopolicy Project on the EONS side. The Research Working Group has proposed the project acronym of: **RECaN**, **R**ecognising **E**uropean **C**ancer **N**ursing. The project is part-funded by ECCO and part-EONS funded. For phases 1 and 2, funding has been secured. Outside funding is trying to be secured both for phase 3 and for additional funding for phases 1 and 2.

A letter to all National Member Societies has been sent, informing them of the scope of the project. The project is set-up in 3 phases that will take place in the coming 2-3 years, in total. Phase 1 is a systematic literature review. This has already started and runs from now – January 2017. A team of 2 researchers from Scotland have been contracted and a first meeting took place. The aim is to collect evidence on the importance of cancer nursing. Mary Wells, co-Chair of the Research Working Group, has prepared a summary of Monday's meeting. MM will share the document with WG members. The findings of phase 1 will be presented at January 2017 ECCO meeting.

Phase 2 will cover a number of case studies. Two countries where cancer nursing is considered to be well developed and organised will be selected, potentially Sweden and the UK. Two countries where the benefits of specialist cancer nursing is considered to be less well recognised and organised will be selected, potentially Germany and Estonia. EONS will link with the relevant NMSs. The outcome of the case studies will be presented in a way which is useful to advocate. It is aimed to publish the outcome of each of the phases in the best quality publication(s) and the final aim is for the project to lead to change.

The Advocacy Working Group will play a large role in phase 3 of the project. The WG will have to consider and decide on how the information, the outcome of the project, is used best and whom the information should be shared with and distributed to. It will be very important to try and put in place meetings with opinion makers, something that should be worked on from now onwards.

It is suggested that it would be helpful for an Advocacy WG representative to attend the 2nd f-t-f meeting of the Research WG / strategic review. This meeting will be held in November of 2016. It is agreed that PT will attend the meeting.

An Advocacy RECaN Task Group is set-up:

Chair: PC

Members: KL, SDH, TT

DK invites the Advocacy WG to nominate a representative of the group to actively participate in phases 1 and 2 also, in preparation of the work of phase 3. The WG agrees that this should be PC in his roles of co-Chair of the Advocacy WG and Chair of the Advocacy RECaN Task Group.

** DK leaves the meeting **

4. Representation of EONS on EU level

- ESNO
- EAPM
- Paul Trevatt's participation in the EU Task Force "Expert Group on Cancer Control"
- Andreas Charalambous' participation in the ECCO Task Force on "Cancer Care Quality"

PC presents slides on the representation of EONS on EU level in which the above listed is addressed. The slides will be distributed to the WG members.

Many networking meetings usually take place in Brussels, which PC often attends as he is based in Brussels. JdeM, who is also based in Belgium, act as his alternate and start to share attendance at future networking events. It is agreed to also prepare a list of specialties of the Working Group members to be able to judge who would be the most suitable person, the best representative of the group to attend a specific meeting.

5. Inclusive Communications

TG Chairs: PC & PF; TG Members: SDH, KL & PRH

PF presents the survey results by means of PowerPoint slides. Almost 75 % of the responses came from Iceland and therefore the outcome of the survey is considered not to be representing a European view.

The Working Group discussed the option of re-opening the survey, with the aim to increase data set to give a more representative result. It is however agreed to leave as it 'as is' and to focus on the other Working Group projects. Perhaps the survey will be repeated at a later stage.

The WG agrees for MM to contact Alison Leary and Steve Rowett, who have done the collection and data analysis, to see if the rough data on Iceland can be isolated easily, at little or no cost. If so, the data can be provided to the Icelandic Cancer Nursing Society for their use and information.

6. EONS Core Curriculum update

7. PF, who represents the Advocacy WG on this Task Group of the Education WG, updates the other WG members on the progress made. The deadline for sending in the first comments was 1 June. A conference call to discuss the feedback received will be held on 16 June. The project is considered to be progressing well. PF will share further updates on the project with the WG. The Education WG aims to launch the updated version in March of 2016.

8. Advocacy web pages

The WG members agree that it will be useful to do a quarterly review of the Advocacy web pages. JdeM & PF agree to execute this task the coming year. MM will provide JdeM and PF with the contact details of both Kate Griffin and Steve Rowett, the website Editor and the website IT Specialist.

PC made a few suggestions for the current web pages:

- Place “EU Directives” under “EU and EONS”
- “EU and EONS”: update with info regarding ESNO & EAPM
- Delete ‘useful links’ and integrate the links in the relevant text / web pages

9. **AOB**

The group agrees to hold another face-to-face meeting later this year, in November 2016. The week of Monday 21 November is identified and it is agreed to link the meeting with the next face-to-face meeting of the Research Working Group, in which PC will be participating also. There is a preference from the WG members to hold the meeting on a Monday or Friday and not on a Tuesday. MM will coordinate with the Research WG.

MM is to ask Steve to set up EONS Link for Advocacy Working Group.

10. **Position statements**

It is agreed for KL to ensure that the position statements on:

- Education (BG)
- Transcultural Issues (PC)

will be finalised. PC will contact BG about finalising the “Education” Position Statement. Furthermore he himself will finalise the “Transcultural Issues” Position Statement. Both will be shared with the Working Group members for feedback, before a (draft version) is being shared with the EONS Board, for approval. It is the aim to finish both Position Statements and have them available before the October Advisory Council Meeting. KL is willing to ensure both will be available in time.

At the 2015 face-to-face meeting the Working Group during the meeting actively worked on the Position Statement on the “Role of cancer nurses”. This however moved to the background and was never finalised. MM will look up the most recent version (June 2015) and send it to PC in order for this document to also be finalised.

PC informs the Working Group that ISNCC has expressed an interest in developing a Position Statement together with EONS. PC will write to ISNCC to obtain information on the proposed topic and aim.

KL has prepared a guideline on the development of new Position Statements. MM will contact CW and invite her to review KL’s document.

End of Meeting

