From the EONS News Team

EONS and Elsevier Donate Books to Romanian Cancer Association

Discussions between Jan Foubert and Olga Gridland during the Patients Forum held in conjunction with the recent ECCO conference in Barcelona have lead to a donation of journals and books to P.A.V.E.L., the Romanian Childhood Cancer Parents’ Association. Elsevier donated cancer journals and textbooks to P.A.V.E.L. to be used by doctors, nurses and patients and their families. For more information about P.A.V.E.L. please visit their website at http://www.asociatiapavel.home.ro/.

EONS, Eusoma, ESSO Training Programme

Jan Foubert and Yvonne Wengström on behalf of EONS, are collaborating with Eusoma (the European Society of Mastology), ESSO (the European Society of Surgical Oncology to develop an educational programme to train specialist health care professionals to better deal with patients with breast cancer. The aim of this programme is to allow young clinicians and nurses to improve their theoretical knowledge and practical skills in the management of patients with breast cancer. According to individual specialty, a core team made up of health professionals from various disciplines who have undergone specialist training in breast cancer beyond that given in general training will then be created.

A call was issued to solicit participants for a one-month training in a European breast cancer care unit that will take place between January and April 2008. The response to this call was hugely successful. A total of 16 nurses from Serbia, Romania, Turkey, Slovenia, Greece, UK, Germany, Israel, Malta, Spain and Bulgaria applied for the training course.

All applicants were very motivated nurses who expressed a willingness to improve their knowledge and a desire to extend their network to include colleagues working in other European countries. The selection of the five most appropriate candidates posed a real challenge for the reviewers of the applications but had to be done.

The nurses chosen by the panel of reviewers to participate in this training programme are:

Adamovic Marjia (Serbia), Kaligaric Lara (Slovenia), Kamptisi Antzouletta (Greece), Kodzopeljic (Serbia), and Vella Elisabeth (Malta).

Jan and Yvonne would like to thank all applicants for their efforts and hope that they will continue to participate in EONS activities. For those who were selected to participate in this exciting multidisciplinary training programme, the reviewers extend their congratulations and encourage them to make the most of this opportunity to learn more about nursing care of the cancer patient and to extend their network of European colleagues.

Former EONS President Agnes Glaus is awarded Distinguished Service Award

Dr. Agnes Glaus has received the “MASCC Distinguished Service Award” at the MASCC 20th Anniversary Symposium which was held in St. Gallen, Switzerland in June 2007. The MASCC Distinguished Service Award is the highest honor that MASCC can bestow. It acknowledges an individual who has made extraordinary contributions to the society. The award was given in recognition of Dr. Glaus’s many years of outstanding work and contributions to the organization.

Dr. Glaus has devoted her professional career to the area of supportive care both in her daily clinical work as well as in her research and teaching activities. It is especially fitting that she receives this award. In 1987 she was the co-initiator of the first international conference in Supportive Care in cancer. She shared a vision with a number of other individuals that a multidisciplinary and multi-professional approach to helping patients and their families through the rigors and adverse effects of treatment and cancer itself was as important as finding a cure for cancer.

Since then, Dr. Glaus has been the co-organizer of four supportive care conferences including the conference held in 2007. Agnes has been a MASCC member since 1990, has served on the MASCC board since 1998 and has been a tireless contributor to the success of the Society’s journal as Associate Editor and reviewer.

Her profile as an international leader in oncology nursing has enormously helped MASCC as she has reached out to other cancer societies to help advance the supportive care agenda and to recruit new members for MASCC. As Past President and founding member of the Swiss Oncology Nursing Society and as Past President of the European Oncology Nursing Society, Agnes’s leadership has significantly raised the profile of cancer nursing and its role in supportive care throughout Europe and beyond.

EONS extends heartfelt congratulations to Agnes on the awarding of this much-deserved recognition for her achievements!

Dr. Paul Hesketh, President of MASCC, presented Dr. Agnes Glaus, co-chair of this year’s symposium, with the MASCC Distinguished Service Award during the opening ceremony.
Call for Applications for EONS Mentoring Grant 2008

About the Mentoring Grant
The EONS Mentoring Research Grant Program has been established to support oncology nursing research conducted by novice and experienced researchers. The grant, which totals €10,000, is provided as financial support for a research project conducted over one year.

Five such grants are available for interested nurses to pursue a research project under the mentorship of an experienced researcher. The aim of the proposed study should fit within the research priorities as established by the European Oncology Nursing Society. A detailed description of the EONS research priorities is provided on the EONS website.

Who may apply?
European oncology nurses with at least a BSN, preferably a Master’s degree, in nursing. Applicants must be individual members of EONS, or are willing to become an individual member of the Society.

Application submission Deadline
Applications should be submitted to the EONS Secretariat no later than February 15th, 2008. The grant will be awarded 1 April 2008.

More information on the grant as well as the application form can be downloaded from EONS website.

Call for Applications for EONS Major Research Grant 2008

About the Research Grant
The EONS Major Research Grant has been established for European oncology nurse researchers, educated beyond a Master’s degree, to conduct research. The aim of the study should fit within the research priorities set up by the European Oncology Nursing Society. A detailed description of the EONS research priorities is provided on the EONS website. The grant will be awarded for a project lasting two years. The grant is €30,000. Preference will be given to research proposals which involve multiple centres.

Who may apply?
European oncology nurses with at least a Master’s degree, preferably a PhD, in Nursing. Applicants must be individual members of EONS, or are willing to become an individual member of the Society. Experience in conducting research is necessary, and proof of at least two publications published in a peer-reviewed journal where the applicant is the first author are required for consideration for the grant.

Application submission Deadline
Applications should be submitted to the EONS Secretariat no later than February 15th, 2008. The grant will be awarded 1 April 2008.

More information on the grant as well as the application form can be downloaded from EONS website.

TARGET– an EONS Training Initiative on Targeted Therapies
Needs assessment surveys have shown that European cancer nurses have limited experience with the new targeted therapies and many lack knowledge about how to meet the needs of patients receiving these novel treatments. There are few existing educational materials on this topic and many of those that are available are not up-to-date. EONS has decided to partner with Merck KGaA on an exciting educational initiative that aims to bridge this gap. The TARGET project has the goal of enhancing European oncology nurses’ understanding of the role and relevance of targeting the Epidermal Growth Factor Receptor (EGFR) in cancer care.

The TARGET materials are now available in English, Dutch, French, German, Italian, Spanish and a number of courses have been carried out or are planned in Belgium, Estonia, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Israel, the Netherlands, Portugal, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and the UK.

In 2007, 16 courses were either conducted or are planned to take place. Approximately 350 nurses have participated in these courses. From the evaluations received, the majority of participants judged the quality of the course materials to be very good and the course itself was judged to be valuable or very valuable.

As part of the requirements for successful completion of the course, participants undertake a dissemination project. In this project, the participant outlines plans to share their new knowledge with colleagues and with patients thus spreading the interest of the course to as wide a group as possible. The affect of the dissemination of knowledge is reflected in the following note received from the Israel course organizer:

I would like to inform you that the dissemination project of the first Israeli TARGET course was completed successfully: the Hebrew nursing guidelines for administration and management of side effects of Erbitux were approved by the Sheba Medical Centre management; the patient education booklet was approved as well. All three are now in current use in this centre. We hope that in the future we will be able to implement these materials in other medical centres as well.

For more information on the structure of the TARGET course and on the time, date, and location of the next course, please visit the EONS website at ttp://www.cancerworld.org/.

The TARGET project is supported by an unrestricted grant from Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany. For the future, it is planned to develop a TARGET update programme which will become a multi company sponsored project.

The objective of Involve, the new initiative from sanofi aventis in oncology, is to engage oncology nurses in the therapy management of patients with cancer.

The first event of Involve, the EONS accredited educational programme in breast cancer, which took place on September, 23rd 2007 in Barcelona before the start of ECCO14, was a big success with a world wide attendance of around 160 participants. The programme was split into 2 sessions. The first was a plenary session, with simultaneous translation, on advances and symptom management in surgery, chemotherapy and radiation therapy focussing on breast cancer treatment, illustrated by a patient journey. The second session was more interactive, sharing nurses’ experiences and based on case studies.

At the end of the event, an Involve EONS approved meeting-in-a-box was distributed to the attendees to facilitate the dissemination of the knowledge and best practice sharing in the treatment and management of breast cancer to facilitate local implementation at country level.

We would like to express our sincere thanks for the active participation of nurses, expert speakers and in particular for the patient who shared her journey with the group.