

## Societies' profiles



The EORTC is a unique pan-European non-profit clinical cancer research organisation established in Belgium in 1962 which operates as an association under Belgium law.

The original founding members of the EORTC were pioneers of high-quality multidisciplinary cancer research and the EORTC mission today remains the same. The EORTC develops, conducts, coordinates and stimulates high-quality translational and clinical trial research to improve the standards of patient cancer care. This is achieved through the development of new drugs and other innovative approaches, and the testing of more effective therapeutic strategies, using currently approved drugs, surgery and/or radiotherapy in clinical trials conducted under the auspices of a vast network of cancer researchers.

The EORTC research network of more than 2,500 scientists and oncologists from 32 countries and over 300 university hospitals facilitates and ensures the timely passage of experimental discoveries into state-of-the-art treatments by reducing the time for research breakthroughs to reach clinical use.

EORTC research spans the entire spectrum from translational and drug development research to large, prospective, multi-centre, phase III clinical trials that evaluate new cancer therapies and/or treatment strategies as well as patient quality of life. Approximately 50 EORTC protocols are permanently open to patient recruitment and each year more than 5,500 new patients – over 85% from within the EU – receive their cancer treatment as part of an EORTC clinical trial protocol. A further 30,000 patients continue to be followed on a yearly basis and the EORTC clinical study database now contains outcome data for over 160,000 cancer patients.

Alongside the EORTC scientific and clinical programme, the EORTC collaborates with a number of international organisations, including the US National Cancer Institute (NCI), the American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO), the American Association for Cancer Research (AACR), the US Food and Drug Administration, the US Office for Human Research Protection of the National Institutes of Health, the European Medicines Evaluation Agency and many other national and international research groups worldwide.

EORTC funding is provided for by the EORTC Charitable Trust supported by several national cancer leagues (including cancer league from Denmark, Germany, United Kingdom, The Netherlands, France, Norway, Switzerland, Sweden, Belgium, Hong Kong and Italy), the “Fonds Cancer”, private donations, the Belgian National Lottery and, for specific research projects such as European Tumor Bank, the European Commission. The pharmaceutical industry primarily provides unrestricted educational grants and on occasion, full sponsorship for EORTC-led studies that develop and evaluate new therapeutic agents. The EORTC Headquarters (170 Staff members) in Brussels has received continuous core financial support for 35 years from the US National Cancer Institute.

Her Royal Highness, Princess Astrid of Belgium is the Honorary President of the EORTC Charitable Trust.

For further information, please visit the EORTC Website at: <http://www.eortc.be>



The National Cancer Institute (NCI) is a component of the National Institutes of Health (NIH), one of eight agencies that compose the Public Health Service (PHS) in the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS). The NCI, established under the National Cancer Act of 1937, is the Federal Government's principal agency for cancer research and training. The National Cancer Act of 1971 broadened the scope and responsibilities of the NCI and created the National Cancer Program. Over the years, legislative amendments have maintained the NCI authorities and responsibilities and added new information dissemination mandates as well as a requirement to assess the incorporation of state-of-the-art cancer treatments into clinical practice.

The National Cancer Institute coordinates the National Cancer Program, which conducts and supports research, training, health information dissemination, and other programs with respect to the cause, diagnosis, prevention, and treatment of cancer, rehabilitation from cancer, and the continuing care of cancer patients and the families of cancer patients. Specifically, the Institute:

- Supports and coordinates research projects conducted by universities, hospitals, research foundations, and businesses throughout this country and abroad through research grants and cooperative agreements.
- Conducts research in its own laboratories and clinics.
- Supports education and training in fundamental sciences and clinical disciplines for participation in basic and clinical research programs and treatment programs relating to cancer through career awards, training grants, and fellowships.
- Supports research projects in cancer control.
- Supports a national network of cancer centers.
- Collaborates with voluntary organizations and other national and foreign institutions engaged in cancer research and training activities.



## American Society of Clinical Oncology

Founded in 1964, the American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO) is the world's leading professional organization representing physicians who care for people with cancer. With more than 27,000 members, ASCO is committed to improving cancer care through scientific meetings, educational programs and peer-reviewed journals. ASCO's mission focuses on:

- Advancing the education of physicians and other professionals in the care of patients with cancer and supporting research and the development of clinical cancer researchers;
- Fostering communication among cancer-related medical subspecialties and the exchange of a wide range of ideas related to cancer, including its biology, prevention, diagnosis, staging, treatment, and psychosocial impact;
- Advocating public policy that ensures patient access to high-quality cancer care and that supports increased clinical cancer research; and
- Assisting oncologists in addressing the challenges of the modern-day practice of oncology.

Because ASCO is committed to supporting the lifelong learning of oncologists – be it fellows or established practitioners – the Society offers resources to enhance the professional development of members across the continuum of their medical education. Programs such as ASCO University, the Quality Oncology Practice Initiative, and the Global Oncology Curriculum provide oncology professionals with information and skills to improve every aspect of their practice.

The ASCO Annual Meeting provides an exemplary forum for the discussion of cutting-edge scientific and educational developments in oncology. More than 4,000 abstracts were accepted to the 2009 Annual Meeting, with nearly 2,300 being presented at the meeting and more than 1,700 publish/online only. The Best of ASCO® International meetings deliver highlights from the Annual Meeting in local settings around the world.

In addition to the Annual Meeting, ASCO also sponsors several disease-specific thematic meetings each year, such as the Breast Cancer Symposium, the Gastrointestinal Cancers Symposium, and the Genitourinary Cancers Symposium.

ASCO publishes two journals: the *Journal of Clinical Oncology (JCO)* and the *Journal of Oncology Practice (JOP)*. First released in 1983, *JCO* now disseminates significant clinical oncology research in both print and electronic formats. It consists primarily of original reports, complemented by editorials, commentaries, reviews, and other works that relate to the care of patients with cancer. *JOP* provides oncologists and other oncology professionals with information, news, and tools to enhance practice efficiency and promote a high standard for quality of patient care.

As the philanthropic affiliate of ASCO, The ASCO Cancer Foundation funds research and education programs both in the U.S. and abroad. The Foundation's charitable mission is founded upon four core tenets: research is at the heart of progress against cancer; cutting-edge knowledge is essential when it comes to treating people with cancer; getting good cancer care starts with getting good cancer information; and all cancer patients deserve access to the best possible care.

Cancer.Net (<http://www.cancer.net>) is ASCO's award-winning patient information website. Cancer.Net offers more information about more than 120 types of cancer and cancer-related syndromes to help patients make informed health-care decisions. Other highlights include information about clinical trials, coping, and survivorship, as well as podcasts and Spanish-language resources.

For more information about ASCO, visit <http://www.asco.org>. To learn more about The ASCO Cancer Foundation, visit <http://www.ascocancerfoundation.org>.