

Speakers' Book

COCIR Online Event on

Towards eradicating cervical cancer

in the context of the [International HPV Awareness Day](#)

Thursday, 9 March 2023 – 14.00-16.00 CET

via TEAMS

Europe's Beating Cancer [Plan](#), the European vehicle aiming to tackle cancer, aspires to ensure that 90 % of the EU population who qualify for breast, cervical and colorectal cancer screenings are offered screening by 2025.

It also foresees European support to Member States, to help them put in place national screening programmes based on the latest scientific evidence, to improve prevention and early detection - also - of cervical cancer.

In addition, the Council, with its Recommendation of [December](#) 9th, 2022 urges the Member States to consider personalising their cervical cancer screening and HPV vaccination programmes – as the human papilloma virus (HPV) can cause cervical cancer.

Evidently, though early detection with medical imaging devices is a significant part of the cancer care continuum, so is treatment - both in terms of computer-guided surgery and radiotherapy.

Against this backdrop, COCIR uses two best practises - a pilot programme on cervical cancer screening programme in Spain and a case in radiation therapy - to trigger a wider discussion among EU and national policy makers, patients and scientists.

The aim is to explore questions such as:

- How can the EU foster Member States compliance with the European guidelines, and translate Europe's Beating Cancer Plan into impactful actions that benefit women, healthcare professionals and healthcare systems alike?
- What are the investments needed to ensure equal and universal access to high-quality screening in the European Union?
- Taking into consideration that 5 out of 10 patients needing radiotherapy do not receive it, how could the EU support awareness raising of the benefits of radiotherapy, and access to it?

Moderation: Xavier Bosch - Catalan Institute of Oncology

Draft Agenda

- **Introduction** & housekeeping rules by *Moderator* (10 min)
- **Welcome** by *Dr Bernt Bieber, COCIR President* (5 min)
- **Keynote speech:** *Dr Partha Basu, Head of Early Detection at WHO/IARC* (15 min)
- **Best Practice** in cervical cancer HPV **screening:** The Spanish experience, by *Dr. Marcial Garcia-Rojo*
Hospital Universitario de Jerez de la Frontera, Andalucia (15 min)
- **Best Practice** in cervical cancer **treatment** by *Prof. Dr. Primoz Petric* best practice in brachytherapy (15 min)

- **Panel Discussion**
 - ↪ EU Representative: *Domenico Fiorenza*, DG SANTE, Health in all policies
 - ↪ Patient Representative: *Dr. Rui Medeiros*, ECL
 - ↪ Representative national level: *Ondřej Májek*, Head of Foreign Affairs at the Czech Institute of Health Information and Statistics, Czechia
 - ↪ Representatives medical society: *Dr. Rojo and Prof. Dr. Petric*
- **Concluding remarks** by COCIR SG (5 mins)

Publications: July 2020: COCIR [paper](#) on cancer; June 2019 The Life Savers [Study](#)



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Moderator

Name: Dr Xavier Bosch

Title: Senior consultant to the Cancer Epidemiology Research Program (CERP)

Organisation: Catalan Institute of Oncology (ICO)

Biography

F. Xavier Bosch (MD, MPH) is senior consultant to the Cancer Epidemiology Research Program (CERP) at the Catalan Institute of Oncology (ICO) in Barcelona, Spain. He also serves as Chief of International Affairs at ICO and is the Executive Director of the ICO/IARC Information Centre on HPV and Cervical Cancer. Dr Bosch is the editor in chief of the journal Papillomavirus Research (PVR) and the editor of the international newsletter HPV Today, served as guest editor for the HPV MONOGRAPH series and is the organizer and current Director of an e-learning effort in oncology and notably on e-courses on cervical cancer prevention. He served as epidemiologist at the International Agency for Research on Cancer (Lyon, France 1982-1993) and as visiting scientist at the National Cancer Institute (Washington, USA 2002).

Dr Bosch was at the origin of the IARC program of epidemiological studies that demonstrated causality in the HPV and invasive cervical cancer relationship, established the role of the environmental co-factors for carcinogenesis among HPV positive women, and described the international variation of HPV types in cervical cancer.



Keynote Speech

Name: Dr Partha Basu

Title: Head of Early Detection, Prevention & Infections Branch at IARC

Organisation: IARC - International Agency for Research on Cancer/World Health Organization

Biography

Dr Partha Basu joined the Screening Group of the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) in March 2015. He practiced Gynecological Oncology for 20 years and was the Head of the Department of Gynecological Oncology at Chittaranjan National Cancer Institute, India before joining IARC.

Dr Basu obtained his MD in Obstetrics & Gynecology from Indira Gandhi Medical College, India and post-graduate fellowship in Gynecological Oncology from Imperial College, London. He is a PhD in Clinical Oncology from West Bengal University of Health Sciences, India. Dr Basu's research areas include evaluation of new strategies for control of non-communicable diseases, reporting performance of cancer screening programs in different countries, assessment of novel treatment methods for cervical precancers, evaluating less than three doses of HPV vaccine, evaluation of CBE and ultrasound as alternative breast cancer screening tests, implementation and evaluation of pilot colorectal cancer screening programs etc.

Dr Basu has 82 publications in international peer reviewed journals and has authored 22 books/book chapters. He has contributed to several WHO guidelines and served as consultant to the Ministries of Health in India and several South Asian countries and also to United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA).



Panel discussion

Name: Dr Marcial Garcia-Rojo

Title: MD, PhD, Head of Department

Organisation: Hospital Universitario de Jerez de la Frontera, Cádiz

Biography

Dr García-Rojo is Head of Department at Hospital Universitario de Jerez de la Frontera, in Cádiz, Spain. He is the Past-President of the European Society of Digital and Integrative Pathology, and past-President of the Ibero-American Association for Telemedicine and Telehealth (IATT). Dr García-Rojo is the former chair of the European project EURO-TELEPATH, Anatomic Telepathology Network, Action IC0604 of the European Cooperation in the field of Scientific and Technical Research (COST). He received his PhD from Universidad Autónoma, Madrid. Dr García-Rojo's main research areas are medical informatics standards in digital pathology and molecular pathology.

He has published three books on medical informatics, five electronic publications (CD/DVD) and is the author of 23 book chapters and 125 scientific journal papers.



Panel discussion

Name: Prof. Dr Primoz Petric

Title: Associate Professor of Brachytherapy at Aarhus University Hospital (DK), Senior Physician at Zurich University Hospital, Clinic for Radiation Oncology

Organisation: Zurich University Hospital

Biography

Dr Primoz Petric is Associate Professor at Aarhus University Hospital, Denmark, and Senior Physician at Zurich University Hospital's Department of Radiation Oncology, since 2020. From 2019 to 2020 he worked as Senior Consultant at the Department of Radiation Oncology of the Institute of Oncology Ljubljana. In 1998 Dr Primoz Petric obtained his Medical University Diploma (Medical Doctor) from University of Ljubljana, Slovenia. In 2005 he completed his Master of Science (MSc) in the field of Head & Neck Oncology at the University of Ljubljana, where he then obtained his PhD Diploma (Doctor of Science) in the field of Gynecologic Oncology. Dr Primoz Petric is specialized in radiotherapy of gynecological and breast cancers, brachytherapy of various tumor types, using MRI and/or CT for personalized irradiation, intracavitary and interstitial brachytherapy with real-time Ultrasound guidance.



Panel discussion

Name: Domenico Fiorenza

Title: Policy officer at DG SANTE, European Commission, Unit B1: Cancer, Health in all policies

Organisation: European Commission

Biography

Mr Fiorenza is Policy officer at DG SANTE, Unit B1: Cancer, Health in all policies, since October 2022. Mr Fiorenza started his career as Healthcare Assistant at LVR-Klinik Langenfeld, where he worked for five years. From 2013 to 2016, he was student assistant for the European Greens Party (Bündnis 90/Die Grünen). He completed an internship for the WHO Regional Office for Europe in 2019, and a traineeship at the European Commission in 2022. Before starting his position as Policy Officer at the European Commission, Mr Fiorenza worked as Program Manager for Aidshilfe NRW from 2015 to 2022.

Mr Fiorenza holds a bachelor's degree in Politics and Society from The University of Bonn, and a master's degree in Political Science from the University of Cologne.



Panel discussion

Name: Dr Rui Medeiros

Title: Coordinator of the Molecular Oncology and Viral Pathology GRP

Organisation: Portuguese Oncology Institute of Porto (IPO Porto)

Biography

Dr Medeiros is the Coordinator of the Molecular Oncology and Viral Pathology GRP of the Portuguese Oncology Institute of Porto (IPO Porto). He is also an invited Professor at the Medical School of Porto University and the Health Sciences faculty of Fernando Pessoa University. Dr Medeiros is also Member of the Board of the NRN-LPCC Portuguese League Against Cancer and Co-Chair of the European Cancer Organisation's HPV Action Network. Dr Medeiros has authored and co-authored more than 400 peer-reviewed papers and acts as a reviewer for several scientific journals. He obtained a PhD in Human Biology, Oncology and Molecular Epidemiology from the Faculty of Medicine of Porto (FMUP) in 2002) and went on to achieve Professor status (Agregate) in 2006 at the University of Porto ICBAS Medical School. His current research and clinical interests are vaccines, viruses & Cancer Research and pharmacogenomics. He was awarded with prestigious national and International Awards and Honours, including: The European Cervical Cancer Prevention Award (European parliament/ECCA) (2009), Astellas/Yamanouchi European Foundation Award (2005); National Health Sciences Award University of Coimbra/BluePharma (2005); National Award- Portuguese Society of Human Genetics (1999) and Rotary Club Award for Oncology (1998).



Panel discussion

Name: Ondřej Májek

Title: Head of Foreign Affairs

Organisation: Czech Institute of Health Information and Statistics

Biography

Dr Ondřej Májek is the leading biostatistician of the Czech National Cancer Screening Registry at the Institute of Biostatistics and Analyses, Faculty of Medicine, Masaryk University in Brno, Czech Republic, and the Head of Department of Foreign Affairs at the Institute of Health Information and Statistics of the Czech Republic. He is also the scientific lead of the National Screening Centre at the Institute. He received his master (mathematical biology) and doctoral (oncology) degrees at Masaryk University. His research interests include evaluation of population risks of cancer and predictions of its future burden, population-based cancer survival analysis, assessing cost-effectiveness of screening programmes, monitoring of early performance indicators, and use of modelling methods for assessing programme effectiveness.



Name: Dr Bernt Bieber

Title: COCIR President and Senior Vice President Direct Sales at Siemens Healthineers

Organisation: Siemens Healthineers

Biography

Bernt Bieber is responsible for global direct business of Germany based Siemens Healthcare GmbH with large international end customers and distributors, focus on EMEA.

He has 30+ years experience in various management positions with Siemens Healthineers in Sales and Marketing, including international key account management, global sales responsibility for Magnetic Resonance systems and area sales management in Germany.

He also spent 3 years as expatriate manager in USA.

From 2009 to 2011, Bernt Bieber was a member of the advisory board of “Initiative Gesundheitswirtschaft Rhein-Main”, an initiative to increase public awareness of the economic impact of healthcare industry in Frankfurt area.

He holds a Doctorate in Social- and Economic Sciences.



Name: Annabel Seebohm

Title: Secretary General

Organisation: COCIR

Biography

Annabel Seebohm is the COCIR Secretary General since June 2022. She joined COCIR from the Standing Committee of European Doctors (CPME), where she held the position of Secretary General. Prior to joining CPME, Annabel was head of the Brussels office of the German Medical Association (GMA) and legal advisor in the joint legal department of the GMA and the National Association of Statutory Health Insurance Physicians (NASHIP). From 2007 to 2016 she was also general counsel of the World Medical Association (WMA).

Annabel studied law at the University of Bonn, undertook her judicial service training in Hamburg and obtained a Masters' degree from the University of Auckland, New Zealand. She is admitted to the Berlin Bar and a Member of SCIANA, the Health Leaders Network.