
Final report – 10th World Research Congress of the EAPC

Scientific programme

The oral abstract-driven part of the programme was organised in “streams”, overall topics that delegates could follow throughout the programme.

Plenary sessions

Five outstanding abstracts were selected for presentation in the plenary sessions. Two key note speakers were invited (in addition to the three researcher award winners):

- Irene Higginson – Ventafridda lecture: «Future-proofing Dame Cicely Saunders’ Centenary of Change: Integrating research, education and clinical care»
- David Clark: «On the centenary of Cicely Saunders’ birth – celebration, reflection and further possibilities»

Themed sessions (invited)

- Research methodology – how to’s
- Nursing research in palliative care
- Early palliative care: Where to go from here?
- Caring for palliative care patients at home
- Challenges in the design and application of economic evaluation in palliative care research
- The need for national research programs

Meet-the-expert sessions

Four interactive learning sessions were held on the following topics:

- Paper writing
- Grant application
- RCT’s
- Qualitative research

Free communication abstracts

114 abstracts with high scores were selected for oral presentations in 19 parallel sessions. In addition, a dedicated session for Swiss presentations was held on the first day of the congress.

Method discussion abstracts

12 abstracts with high scores were selected for two method discussion sessions, one on RCT’s and one on qualitative research, which had a stronger focus on methodological challenges and study design.

Poster presentations

About 400 abstracts were selected for poster presentation in one poster set which was available for the duration of the congress. The scientific committee awarded poster ribbons to the top abstracts in each category.

Print only

Abstracts that were accepted, but did not achieve a high enough score for a poster presentation, were published in an online special edition of Palliative Medicine by Sage.

Rejected

Abstracts with an average score lower than 1.5 were rejected by the scientific committee.

Abstracts statistics

A total of 897 abstracts were submitted, from 55 countries. Out of these, 63 were rejected due to a low average review score.

| Category | Number of abstracts |
|----------------------------|---------------------|
| Plenary | 5 |
| Oral | 114 |
| Method discussion sessions | 12 |
| Posters | 402 |
| Print only | 300 |
| Rejected | 63 |
| Withdrawn | 1 |

| Category | Abstracts submitted |
|--|----------------------------|
| Setting-specific | |
| Home – primary care | 36 |
| Nursing home | 36 |
| Hospital | 49 |
| PC unit – hospice | 48 |
| Transmural | 10 |
| Other (e.g. prisons) | 7 |
| Patient-specific | |
| Cancer | 80 |
| Organ failure (heart failure, COPD, kidney failure etc.) | 30 |
| Frail older people | 17 |
| Children and adolescents | 16 |
| People with mental disabilities | 6 |
| Minority groups | 11 |
| Family carers (bereavement) | 38 |
| Volunteers in PC | 10 |
| Several populations | 12 |
| Other populations | 21 |
| Topic specific | |
| Pain | 27 |
| Symptoms other than pain | 56 |
| Psychological care | 23 |
| Social care | 4 |
| Spiritual care | 17 |
| Communication and information | 36 |
| Advance care planning | 46 |
| End of life care, quality of dying | 95 |
| Health policy | 24 |
| Ethics | 16 |
| Education | 25 |
| Health economics | 13 |
| Public health | 34 |
| Electronic health documentation | 3 |
| Educational research | 19 |
| Other | 32 |

Awards

Clinical impact award

Thomas W. LeBlanc

Thomas W. LeBlanc is Associate Professor of Medicine in the Division of Hematologic Malignancies and Cellular Therapy at the Duke University School of Medicine, and Director of the Cancer Patient Experience Research Program (CPEP) in the Duke Cancer Institute. He is board-certified in internal medicine, medical oncology, and hospice and palliative medicine, and his practice focuses on the care of patients with blood cancers. Dr. LeBlanc's program of research focuses on palliative care issues in hematology.

Early researcher award

Anna Collins

Anna Collins is a Palliative Care Research Fellow in the Department of Medicine, St Vincent's Hospital at the University of Melbourne. She has a background in Health Psychology, and recently submitted her PhD on the topic of achieving the integration of palliative care, focusing on patient and community perceptions. Anna previously led a health services research project using a large population-based cancer cohort to test 'transition points' in the illness course to trigger standardised palliative care integration. With over 20 publications in the last 5 years, Anna was awarded the Inaugural Australian Palliative Care Emerging Researcher in 2015 for her early contribution to palliative care research.

Post doctoral award

Lorna Fraser

Dr Lorna Fraser is a Senior Lecturer in Epidemiology, Department of Health Sciences, University of York and the Director of the Martin House Research Centre (www.york.ac.uk/mhrc). Her background is in clinical paediatrics with a strong track record of research in paediatric epidemiology, with a focus on life-limiting conditions and palliative care. She also has expertise in the utilisation of linked routine data sources in health services research.

Participants

In total, 1180 participants attended the congress (including local committee, volunteers and invited guests). See country breakdown below.

| | | | |
|----------------|----|----------------------|-----|
| Albania | 3 | Malta | 1 |
| Argentina | 1 | Mexico | 2 |
| Armenia | 1 | Netherlands | 112 |
| Australia | 37 | New Zealand | 7 |
| Austria | 34 | Nigeria | 1 |
| Belgium | 55 | Norway | 19 |
| Brazil | 6 | Paraguay | 1 |
| Burundi | 1 | Poland | 9 |
| Cameroon | 1 | Portugal | 26 |
| Canada | 16 | Qatar | 1 |
| Chile | 1 | Republic of Korea | 9 |
| Croatia | 1 | Republic of Moldova | 1 |
| Czech Republic | 26 | Romania | 19 |
| Denmark | 32 | Russian Federation | 4 |
| Estonia | 5 | Saudi Arabia | 1 |
| Finland | 14 | Serbia | 1 |
| France | 21 | Singapore | 4 |
| Germany | 96 | Slovakia | 5 |
| Hungary | 3 | Slovenia | 8 |
| Iceland | 4 | Spain | 30 |
| India | 3 | Sweden | 34 |
| Indonesia | 1 | Switzerland | 130 |
| Ireland | 12 | Taiwan | 5 |
| Israel | 5 | Tanzania | 3 |
| Italy | 19 | Thailand | 3 |
| Japan | 26 | Togo | 1 |
| Lebanon | 1 | Turkey | 1 |
| Libya | 1 | United Arab Emirates | 1 |
| Lithuania | 2 | United Kingdom | 115 |
| Luxembourg | 2 | United States | 33 |
| Macedonia | 3 | Uganda | 1 |
| Malaysia | 2 | | |

Professions

| | |
|-------------------------------|------------|
| Administrative | 25 |
| Clergy | 6 |
| Nurse | 166 |
| Nutritionist | 1 |
| Occupational therapist | 4 |
| Physician | 460 |
| Physiotherapist | 6 |
| Psychologist | 35 |
| Researcher | 285 |
| Social scientist | 38 |
| Social worker | 10 |
| Statistician | 5 |
| Other | 108 |

Acknowledgements

Scientific committee

- Luc Deliens (co-chair)
- Per Sjøgren (co-chair)
- Phil Larkin
- Stein Kaasa
- Cinzia Brunelli
- Roman Rolke
- Cristina Monforte Royo
- Sophie Pautex
- Monica Fliedner

Scientific secretariat

- Ragnhild Green Helgås
- Inger Storaker
- Ingeborg Megård Leinan

Local organising committee

- Walter Brunner
- Steffen Eychmüller
- Maud Maessen
- Anja Maurer
- Beat Müller
- Kathrin Sommer
- Myriam Tapernoux
- Lea von Wartburg
- Raoul Wanger
- Sofia Zambrano

EAPC Head Office

- Julie Ling
- Avril Jackson

Professional Congress Organiser: Medworld AG

- Stephan Knuesli
- Nina Hächler

Sponsors and local contributors

- Kyowa Kirin
- Cardiff University
- ConvaTec
- Universität Freiburg
- King's College London / Cicely Saunders International
- Hogrefe

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- SOS Oxygene
 - Switzerland Convention & Incentive Bureau
 - Palliative Care Network
 - Steinbrecher
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 - Palliative ch
 - City of Bern
 - Inselspital
 - Swiss Academy of Medical Sciences
 - Universität Bern

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- Oxford University Press
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EACCME statement

- The 10th World Research Congress of the European Association for Palliative Care, Bern, Switzerland, 24/05/2018-26/05/2018 has been accredited by the European Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (EACCME®) with 14 European CME credits (ECMEC@s). Each medical specialist should claim only those hours of credit that he/she actually spent in the educational activity.
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