



Cancer Mission Europe Meeting IARC, Lyon, France 9 April 2019

MINUTES

Participants:

Anton Berns (Netherlands Cancer Institute and European Academy of Cancer Sciences), Herman Brenner (German Cancer Research Center (DKFZ) and Cancer Prevention Europe (CPE)), Karen Brown (University of Leicester and CPE), Fabien Calvo (Institut Gustave Roussy), Julio E. Celis (Danish Cancer Society), Joakim Dillner (Karolinska University Laboratory and CPE), Francesco De Lorenzo (University Federico II and European Cancer Patient Coalition), Alexander Eggermont (Institut Gustave Roussy and Cancer Core Europe), Angelika Eggert (Charité–Universitätsmedizin Berlin and Paediatric Oncology), Denis Lacombe (European Organisation Research and Treatment of Cancer), Claudia Mayer (DKFZ), Mef C Nilbert (Danish Cancer Society Research Center and CPE), Thierry Philip (Institut Curie and Organisation of European Cancer Institutes (OECI)), Ulrik Ringborg (Karolinska Institutet) and Matty P. Weijenberg (Maastricht University and CPE)

IARC Secretariat: Joachim Schüz (Chair and CPE), Carolina Espina (Rapporteur and CPE) and Isabelle Soerjomataram.

Summary of the discussions:

1) The cancer mission: where we stand and next steps

A network of major European cancer research organizations was convened at IARC to discuss plans to define the Cancer Mission in Horizon Europe (2021-27) that aims at tackling the growing cancer burden in Europe. Missions under this programme (climate change, cancer, oceans, carbon neutrality, and food) should have a scientific, societal, environmental, and economic aspect, and are expected to influence the way European citizens' value science and knowledge. In March this year, EU policymakers agreed on Horizon Europe, although there are still missing crucial details concerning the budget, foreign participation, and the missions. Currently, the Commission is working to establish the Mission boards which will co-design and oversee their implementation, ensure proper involvement of stakeholders, provide content to the call for proposals and evaluation of projects, and monitor progress.

Dr Celis presented a brief overview of the events leading to the creation of Cancer Core Europe and Cancer Prevention Europe Cancer, cornerstones of the Cancer Mission. He highlighted the value of building multidisciplinary communities to address the cancer challenge in partnership; sharing expertise, resources, patients, data, and infrastructures; providing evidence-based advice to inform policy; and interacting closely with policymakers is deemed essential for promoting innovations in the areas of both prevention and health care. These actions are critical for achieving the goal of ensuring "*long-term survival of 3 out of 4 patients by 2030 and long-term decrease in incidence and mortality by prevention*" (see Annex 1_Cancer Mission Celis IARC March 2019). Celis stressed the importance of assessing the organisation and interactions of the various geometries (prevention, early detection, therapeutics, and outcomes research), the role of

distributed infrastructures, as well as the identification of the portfolio of research and innovation activities that will be needed to achieve the mission goals. Governance and translating knowledge to less developed countries are also considered vital components.

2) Updates from each organization

Each organization presented their composition, goals, and activities, and their respective view on the Cancer Mission for Europe (see the presentations in the corresponding Annexes):

- Cancer Core Europe (CCE) (A. Eggermont) - Annex 2_CCE Eggermont IARC March 2019
- Cancer Prevention Europe (CPE) (J. Schüz) - Annex 3_CPE Schuz IARC March 2019
- Organisation of European Cancer Institutes (OECI) (T. Phillip) - Annex 4_OECI Philip IARC March 2019
- Outcomes of research and early detection (U. Ringborg) - Annex 5_Outcomes of research and early detection Ringborg IARC March 2019
- European Cancer Patient Coalition (F. De Lorenzo) - Annex 6_Patients org De Lorenzo IARC March 2019
- European Academy of Cancer Sciences (EACS) (A. Berns) - Annex 7_EACS Berns IARC March 2019
- European Organisation for Research and Treatment of Cancer (EORTC) (D. Lacombe) - Annex 8_EORTC Lacombe IARC March 2019
- Paediatric Oncology (A. Eggert) - Annex 9_Paediatric Oncology Eggert IARC March 2019

3) The how: Achieving long-term survival of 3 out of 4 patients by 2030 – Round table discussion

Drs Celis, Ringborg, and Berns chaired the session and explained that this is the start of a working process. The discussion highlighted the most relevant steps forward:

- (1) To turn the one sentence slogan summarizing the moon-shot mission "*long-term survival of 3 out of 4 patients by 2030 and long-term decrease in incidence and mortality by prevention*" into an attractive and understandable statement for citizens, politicians, and scientists, linking all geometries to the mission in an innovative way;
- (2) To identify and engage key players from each organisation/institution;
- (3) To define the priorities in each area of expertise to achieve the *3 out of 4 survival goal and long-term decrease in incidence and mortality by prevention*: a bottom-up initiative was proposed to convene task forces to deliver a 2-pages concept note, with objectives to produce a shared vision for cancer research that would see an impact in 10 years;
- (4) To achieve an integrated common vision that would take into account the challenges faced by the Member States.
- (5) To develop a strategy to involve all European Member States.

The following list summarizes some of the critical items that were discussed and deemed necessary to include in the strategy:

- Focus in the gaps of each area of research and list activities and tools to bridge them
- Prioritise focus areas where there is European added value and those that are independently funded
- Strategy on all cancers, with a special mention of paediatric cancer
- Measurable impact of the mission linked to the mission goals (e.g. successes in risk factor reduction can be used as surrogates for prevention successes in cancer endpoints)
- Research and innovation activities covering the whole cancer research continuum both for therapeutics and prevention
- Bilateral cooperation, and transfer of knowledge from Comprehensive Cancer Centres (CCCs) to less developed countries
- Implementation of therapeutic and prevention research outcomes into the healthcare by the CCCs
- Personalized prevention
- Artificial intelligence
- Centres of Excellence for each scientific field (not only technology driven)

- Assessment of the balance of private/public funding research to plan for sustainability
- Best practices from national cancer leagues
- Diffusion of information and patient engagement and empowerment
- Education, training and capacity building
- Well-structured and sustainable evidence-based advice to inform policy

ACTIONS:

- 1. CPE secretariat to share all presentations along with a summary of the conclusions of the meeting**
- 2. Each organization to draft in half page 3-4 projects in a multi-European cooperation way to be presented at the next meeting in June 2019**
- 3. CPE secretariat to help set up the next Cancer Mission Europe meeting in June 2019 (at IARC or DKFZ) to build up a 2-page concept note, and a communication and working plan (including funding) to delineate an action plan.**