



“Inspire action. Take action. We can. I can.” is the motto for World Cancer Day on 4 February 2017.

ESOP (European Society of Oncology Pharmacy), with over 3,000 members in 52 countries, is playing its part in the 3-year campaign, because oncology pharmacy is an important component in the multi-professional team.

ESOP has declared 2017 Pharmacy Oncology Year: at countless events across and beyond Europe, there is clear potential and an evident will to step up the battle against cancer.

We are doing this through:

- Our appeal to politicians, industry and active health professionals to apply the **Yellow Hand** symbol to all packaging and containers used for transporting hazardous drugs. Prevention from contamination makes a vital contribution towards fighting cancer.

- **MASHA (Management of Safe Handling Procedures)** – ESOP’s pivotal research project designed to identify contamination in the working environment of pharmacists, technical assistants, nurses and physicians – helps to recognise gaps in the process and to optimise workflows.

- **EPIC (Empowering pharmacists to improve health care for oral chemotherapy patients)**, the three-year study taking Germany, Slovenia and Estonia as examples, is being conducted with the EU to generate proposals not only for the safe handling of oral cancer drugs, but also to promote correct administration and greater adherence, thereby helping to enhance therapeutic success.

- Successful treatment goes hand in hand with a rising number of chronic patients. Assisting them to lead a fulfilled life increasingly calls upon pharmacists to work closely with patients in their community by offering advice and support.

- Imbalances in provision for cancer patients are increasing worldwide. We resist this by calling for political action to counter drug shortages and excessive prices.

ESOP seeks not only to fight the causes of cancer, but also to ensure patients can obtain the right care thanks to improved training for oncology pharmacists. To this end, we provide seminars and webinars around the globe.

The people living in our member countries must be able to rely on a consistent standard of specialist support. With this in mind, we have defined common quality guidelines (QuapoS= Quality Standard for the oncology pharmacy service) and translated them into 30 languages. Transparency and sustainability govern our conduct, making us dependable partners in health care.

ESOP Executive Board

