



Special Committee on Beating Cancer

PUBLIC HEARING

**“Saving lives and improving patient outcomes:
Why screening and early detection of cancer matter”**

Brussels, European Parliament, Paul-Henri Spaak 3C50 and remote participation

Thursday, 18 March 2021, 13:45-15:45 and 16:15-18:15

Biographies of speakers



Rui MEDEIROS (RM) is President of ECL- Association of European Cancer Leagues (<https://www.europecancerleagues.org/>) and member of the Board of LPCC - North-Portuguese League Cancer Against Cancer (<https://www.ligacontracancro.pt/>).

Rui Medeiros received his PhD in 2002 from the Medical Faculty of University of Porto and in 2006 his Aggregation Professor Degree at the ICBAS-Biomedical School of University of Porto. RM leads the Molecular Oncology and Viral Pathology Group at the Research Center of IPO Porto (CI-IPOP), and Co-Chair of the Action Network of the European Cancer Organization. RM published 400 papers in international peer-review journals and is solicited as reviewer for several International Grants and Journals.

RM research focus on Biomarkers for stratifying cancer screening and the molecular mechanisms that may influence cancer/response to therapy. His work on Pharmacogenomics/ Precision Medicine on Prostate Cancer has led to the mind-breaking concepts for new important biomarkers and provided new knowledge for the development of Precision Medicine in Cancer.

Furthermore, his pioneer work on HPV virus detection contributed to boost the HPV based cancer screening running at North of Portugal. He was also a pioneer in the introduction since 2006 of a Pharmacogenomics and Molecular Epidemiology Course Unit in the PhD/MSc Programmes of Medicine and Molecular Oncology, Oncology and Pathology and Molecular Genetics. President Executive or Scientific President of important meetings as the 30th International Papillomavirus Conference (HPV 2015), the 2nd Congress of European Society of Pharmacogenomics and Theranostics Congress (2013) and the 7th European Conference on Tobacco or Health (ECToH 2017).

Awarded with several prestigious national and International Awards and Honours namely in the field of Prostate Cancer: Astellas/Yamanouchi European Foundation Award (2005); National Health Sciences Award University of Coimbra/BluePharma (2005); National Award- Portuguese Society of Human Genetics (1999).

Working as volunteer at LPCC and ECL, he is deeply committed to Health Education on Cancer Prevention and to raise awareness to the European Code Against Cancer. (<https://orcid.org/0000-0003-3010-8373>).



Josep TABERNERO holds MD and PhD degrees from the Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona, Spain, and he is currently Head of the Medical Oncology Department at the Vall d'Hebron University Hospital, Director of the Vall d'Hebron Institute of Oncology (VHIO) and Professor of Medicine at UVic-UCC. He has been Principal Investigator of several Phase I pharmacodynamic studies and translational projects with tumor-directed targeted therapies and immune-based therapies.

His research aims at potentiating molecular therapies targeting specific oncoproteins and accelerating more effective personalized cancer medicines for patients displaying genetic lesions or pathway dysregulation.

Dr. Tabernero serves on the Editorial Boards of various top tier journals including *Annals of Oncology*, *ESMO Open*, *Cancer Discovery*, *Clinical Cancer Research*, *Cancer Treatment Reviews*, and *Nature Reviews Clinical Oncology*. He has (co) authored approximately 500 peer-reviewed papers with an H-Index of 95.

He was the President (2018 – 2019) and is currently the Past President (2020-2021) of the European Society for Medical Oncology's (ESMO), and also serves on its Public Policy as well as Cancer Medicines Committees. He is also member of the American Association for Cancer Research (AACR), the American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO). He has also been a member of the Educational and Scientific Committees of ESMO, ECCO, ASCO, AACR, AACR/NCI/EORTC, ASCO Gastrointestinal, TAT and WCGIC meetings



Moziyar ETEMADI grew up in the Chicago area and fell in love with technology at an early age, first making websites for local businesses, then working for a start-up internet service provider that used wireless radios to provide broadband to areas that were still on dial-up. He then spent 12 years in the San Francisco Bay Area, training in electrical engineering and finishing medical school. During this time he found several opportunities to bring state-of-the-art technology to solve an actionable, clinical need – receiving significant funding from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and other philanthropic organizations, and being named Forbes “30 Under 30” Scientists.

He returned to Chicago because a unique opportunity presented itself at Northwestern Medicine – the flexibility to put top notch engineers inside the clinical environment. Mozzi's research team at Northwestern started inside one of the intensive care units (ICUs), with engineers working literally feet away from patient rooms. Together with the nurses, physicians, and other staff of the ICU, his team continued to use advanced technologies to solve active problems in clinical workflow, predictive analytics, and wearable physiologic monitoring.

Most recently, through a large collaboration with Google Research, Mozzi's team contributed to a novel, AI-based algorithm that screens patients for breast cancer. Promising early, retrospective results indicate that this tool can outperform radiologists and can spot cancer sometimes years before the current state of the art. A prospective study was just started in early 2021.



Adam MACIEJCZYK, Dr hab. n. med., is an oncologist, specialist in the field of oncological radiotherapy and director of the Lower Silesian Oncology Center, head of the Radiation Therapy Clinic of the Medical University in Wrocław, president of the Polish Oncological Society, president of the National Association of Public Oncological Centers and Institutes and co-author of the concept of the National Oncological Network (NON).

Dr Adam Maciejczyk specializes in the treatment of childhood cancer. He is a member of the Main Board of the Polish Society of Oncological Radiotherapy (PTRO), as well as the coordinator of the Pediatric Radiotherapy Section in the Polish Pediatric Solid Tumors Group. He is also a member of the European Society for Therapeutic Radiology and Oncology (ESTRO), Pediatric Radiation Oncology Society (PROS).

In addition, he is a member of the National Council for Oncology on behalf of the Polish Society of Oncology, the Scientific Council of the Oncology Center-Institute. M. Skłodowskiej-Curie in Warsaw and the Transparency Council of the Agency for Health Technology Assessment and Tariffs.



Carmen UNGUREAN is working in Public Health since 2000 and has been involved mainly in noncommunicable diseases prevention and control. She has been involved in developing policies for primary prevention of NCDs, implementing national public health programmes and monitoring and evaluation of health status of the population. She has also participated in developing and participating in information, education and communication campaigns.

Since 2007 she has been involved in developing cancer screening programmes and in 2012 became the national coordinator for cervical cancer screening programme in Romania. Member of the Oncology Advisory Commission of the Ministry of Health, member of the cancer screening technical working group for the World Bank's reform of the health system project. In 2016-2019 she has served as personal advisor to State secretary in the Ministry of Health where she was involved in prioritization of health measures to be funded through ESF+, developing the ESF+ funded guidelines for projects and developing policies proposals for cancer control.

Currently implementing regional pilot projects for breast and colorectal cancer screening and the national cervical cancer screening programme in partnership with leading oncology institutes for Romania.

She holds a degree as medical doctor from the University of Medicine and Pharmacy "Carol Davila", Bucharest and a master in public health and public health services management from University of Medicine and Pharmacy "Carol Davila", Bucharest in partnership with the chair of public health from the University of Ticino, Switzerland.



Tanja SPANIC is a professional patient advocate and currently the president of Europa Donna Slovenia and president of European coalition Europa Donna.

She was diagnosed with breast cancer at the age of 26. A year after her diagnosis, she joined Europa Donna Slovenia. Since then, she is an active breast cancer advocate nationally and internationally.

Since 2010 until 2014, she was the head of young breast cancer patients group of ED Slovenia. At the time, this group was one of the few in Europe. Later she became the secretary general of Europa Donna Slovenia, and in April 2017 its president.

In 2010, she participated in the advocacy training in Milano and since then she has actively participated in numerous international meetings and workshops. In 2018 she became a member of Executive board of European coalition Europa Donna and in April 2020 its president.

She has a professional background in veterinary medicine, and she has a PhD in molecular and behavioural neuroscience.



Zorana MARAVIC is Acting CEO of Digestive Cancers Europe (DiCE), previously EuropaColon, the first and only European digestive cancers patient umbrella organization.

At her position, Zorana is responsible for the management of the organization, ensuring the delivery of its mission and goals. Zorana has always worked closely with DiCE Full Members and Associate Members.

In her past role as Director of Operations she was responsible for the co-ordination and support of Member groups, as well as strengthening the network, through establishing relationships with new organisations. During this she has proven her capacity to deliver successfully. Key projects have included:

- A Survey on the Unmet Needs of Patients Living with Metastatic Colorectal Cancer (mCRC). She recruited more than 800 patients and had the results under her authorship published widely

- DiCE events: Masterclass events – an educational annual meeting for Member groups
- Awareness campaigns including European Colorectal Cancer Awareness Campaigns (ECCAM)
- Pharmaceutical industry and independent consortia projects
- Developing patient support materials with the Patient Advisory Committee (PAC)

Zorana also acts as a public speaker on topics such as patient support, biosimilars and CRC screening. From 2016 until 2018, Zorana served as a Board Member of EuropaColon.

Before working in the Not-For-Profit sector, Zorana worked for 10 years in the pharmaceutical industry, primarily in sales and marketing of innovative oncology drugs as well as on oncology clinical trials.

She holds a degree in molecular biology from the University of Belgrade, Serbia. In 2017, at the University of Sheffield, UK she gained an Executive MBA in Health Management.



Enriqueta FELIP is the Head of the Thoracic and Head and Neck Cancer Unit within the Oncology Department of Vall d'Hebron Hospital, Barcelona, Spain. Professor Felip is in charge of thoracic malignancy management, and is responsible for thoracic cancer trials undertaken by the Oncology Department.

Current research lines include the optimization of chemotherapy in early-stage disease, evaluation of new agents and therapies, research into novel pharmacogenomic approaches, the integration of immunotherapeutic approaches in the treatment of lung cancer patients, and the elucidation of potential mechanisms of resistance to tyrosine-kinase inhibitors.

Dr Felip received her medical degree from the UAB, where she also completed her PhD studies in medical oncology. She has been Associate Professor at the Autonomous University of Barcelona (UAB) from 2010 to May 2019. She is nowadays, Professor of Medicine at the Universitat de Vic (UVic-UCC). She is involved in the training of medical students, residents and particularly in mentoring fellows.

Dr Felip is currently a member of the Spanish Lung Cancer Group (SLCG) and the Spanish Society of Medical Oncology (SEOM). In October 2019, Dr. Felip was elected SEOM Vice-President for the following years 2019-2021.

Dr. Felip is also member of the European Society of Medical Oncology (ESMO), the American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO), and the International Association for the Study of Lung Cancer (IASLC). She is nowadays member of the Board of Directors of IASLC (2017-2021). Dr. Felip has been Co-chair of the 20th WCLC Congress that took place last September 2019 in Barcelona. Dr. Felip receives the 1st ESMO *Women for Oncology Award* in 2015.

Dr. Felip is now President of the Oncology Commission at Vall d'Hebron University Hospital and she is as member of the Scientific Advisory Committee of the Parc Taulí Sabadell Hospital.

Dr Felip has been involved in several initiatives with scientific organizations, among them, as Subject Editor of Guidelines Working group ESMO Minimum Clinical Recommendations in lung cancer and Coordinator of the 1st ESMO Consensus Conference in lung cancer. Dr Felip is at present a member of the scientific committee of the SLCG.

Dr Felip is also author of many peer-reviewed articles and book chapters relating to the field of thoracic malignancies.



Hendrik VAN POPPEL, MD, PhD, graduated in General Surgery in 1980, in Urology in 1983 and joined the Academic Unit at KU Leuven in 1985 after his postgraduate training in London, Barcelona, Copenhagen, Mainz and Rotterdam. In 1988, he obtained a PhD in Medical Sciences. He became a Fellow of the European Board of Urology (FEBU) in 1992, full Professor of Urology in 1993, and chair of the department of urology in Leuven in 2002. He was visiting Professor in Aachen (DE), Munster (DE), 's Hertogenbosch (NL), Linz (AU), Barcelona (SP), Jönköping (SE), Marburg (DE), Cardiff (UK), London (UK), Heidelberg (DE), Mainz (DE), Timisoara (RO), Surabaya (ID) and Vienna (AU) where he demonstrated live uro-oncologic surgery for kidney, bladder and prostate cancer. Other live demonstrations took place in Nijmegen (NL), Zaragoza (SP), L'Aquila (IT), Leuven (BE), Brussels (BE), Milan (IT), Torino 2x (IT), Tbilisi (GE), Djaković (RKS), La Vallette (MT) and Alexandria (EGYPT).

He described the original surgical technique for prepubic urethrectomy, percutaneous gastrostomy, lumbal splenectomy during orthotopic kidney transplantation, and of the Leuven "N"pouch for bladder substitution. He performed more than 2500 radical prostatectomies and actually only performs major open oncological surgery for kidney, bladder, prostate, testis and penile cancer.

He was co-founder and chairman of the European Study Group on Sexual and Urological Disorders in Multiple Sclerosis (SUDIMS) between 1991 and 1995, Treasurer of the EORTC Genito-Urinary Group between 1997 and 2011, Board Member of the EORTC between 2004 and 2008, President of the Belgian Association of Urology 2009 – 2010 and Treasurer of the International Consultation on Urological Diseases (ICUD) between 2009 and 2012.

During 8 years he was Director of the European School of Urology (ESU) and became EAU Adjunct Secretary General, responsible for Education, in 2012. He is a member of several international scientific organisations as the American Urological Association (AUA), the Société Internationale d'Urologie (SIU), the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Urologie (DGU) and the American Association of Genito-Urinary Surgeons (AAGUS). He was Board Member of the European Society of Oncologic Urology (ESOU) and the European Society of Surgical Oncology (ESSO). He was co-founder and is now Chairman of the Scientific Committee of Europa Uomo, Faculty Member of the European Society of Medical Oncology (ESMO) and Board Member of ECCO on behalf of the EAU. He attended more than 890 scientific meetings and gave more than 790 lectures at national and international podia.

He has published 210 papers as first author on uro-oncology and has co-authored more than 390 and (co-)edited several books on kidney and prostate cancer.

He is reviewer for 30 urological and uro-oncological journals. He is editorial Board Member of Uro-Oncology, Turkish Journal of Urology, Open Prostate Cancer Journal, Kidney Cancer Journal International, Romanian Journal of Urology, European Urology, Annals of Urology, European Urological Review, African Journal of Urology and Asian Journal of Urology, Belgian Journal of Medical Oncology and Actas Urologicas Españolas

He became honorary member of the Asociatia Romana de Urologie (ARU), the Dutch Urological Association (DUA), the Georgian Urological Association (GUA), the Hungarian Association of Urology (HSU), the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Urologie (DGU), the Chinese Urological Association (CUA), the Polish Urological Association (PTU), the Georgian Association of Oncological Urology (GUA), Taiwan Urological Association (TUA) and Japanese Urological Association (JUA).

He received the Folke Edsmyr Award (for outstanding contribution to the progress of cancer research in Urology) in Stockholm in 1999, the Pieter De Mulder Award (for his significant contribution in Urology for the treatment of renal cell carcinoma) in Lyon in 2015, the Francisco Diaz Medal from the Asociacion Espanola Urologia (en meritos a su destacada contribucion personal al desarrollo de la urologia) in Salamanca in 2015, 1st M.J. Marberger Visiting Professor in Vienna 15-12-2015 and the Distinguished Career Award of the Société Internationale d'Urologie (SIU) in Buenos Aires 2016.

He was promotor, co-promotor or jury member of more than 30 doctoral theses at the Katholieke Universiteit Leuven.