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EuropaColon

united against digestive cancers

EuropaColon's newsletter brings together a collective of what's been happening within our communities and the world of colorectal cancer

Dear Friends and Colleagues

Welcome to our first newsletter of 2017. We wish you all a very healthy, happy and successful 2017. EuropaColon for one is glad to see the end of 2016 as this was a particularly difficult year for us at HQ and I know that some of our groups also struggled to keep going. However, it was not all bad news and some good did come out of it!!

Here are a few of our highlights: our biggest success was without doubt the beginning of a hopefully fruitful partnership with the European Commission. We had a very successful meeting with Health Commissioner Andriukaitis in May and this led to a number of invitations to attend various Commission initiatives.

Our presence has also become a lot more visible with many Medical Institutions and as ever we have attended, presented or exhibited at numerous Conferences and Exhibitions. We have begun working with the European Society of Surgical Oncology (ESSO) helping them to set up a Patient Advisory Committee. We were delighted to see the birth of EuropaColon Germany and EuropaColon Italy, well done Wolfram Nolte and Massimo Conio in San Remo (more news to follow in our next edition).

During the year, one of our most important pieces of work was to write a new strategic plan for 2017-2020. We have taken a fresh approach and beside our continuing work of building up our presence in Europe we have proposed 4 major projects: the EuroScreen project on screening; the Unmet Needs of mCRC Patients survey; a childhood obesity programme; and hopefully a new and very important CRC project with the Joint Research Council, an arm of the EU Commission.

Globally the team have travelled to the US; Egypt and Brazil and also extensively across Europe attending and speaking at a variety of meetings. Finally, but by no means least thanks to everyone who helped to make ECCAM such a great success... **WELL DONE!**

We start 2017 with great hope that it will bring us all a lot closer to making the world a better place for patients with CRC with more informed citizens and empowered patients.



"Our presence has become a lot more visible with many medical institutions"



Latest News from the EuropaColon Community

Serbia's Survey for Patient Needs

Very often we hear that there are not sufficient funds for a project to be launched. Even more often our groups tell us that working with physicians and increasing membership are equally important tasks but they do not have the capacity to increase their visibility and strengthen their networks.



It is for this reason that we are so proud of the Serbian Colorectal Cancer Patient Association (Udruženje pacijenata obolelih od raka debelog creva). They have both gained membership and improved their relationship with physicians across Serbia with a single project with a budget of €30 EUR and a very small team, headed by their Medical Director, Dr Kovcin.

They prepared a survey for colorectal cancer patients with the aim to better understand what is the perception of the importance of Patient Association. In addition, they asked patients what type of information they needed and what was the quality of information that they already receive.

The survey was done with great help from the network of oncologists, across Serbia. More than 180 patients responded to the questions and besides the learnings from the results, equally important was the fact that the physicians recognised the importance of a Patient Association and the necessity to work in collaboration. We will keep you posted once the results are published as well as the future steps of this small but very successful group.

EuropaColon will be following news and updates from ECCAM in the March Issue

A Warm Welcome to Red Pants - Germany

EuropaColon is happy to announce another Association in Germany as of January 2017. Red Pants ("Rote Hose") was established more than three years ago with the aim to raise awareness of colorectal cancer.

For more information about Red Pants (Rote Hose), visit <http://www.rote-hose.org/en/>

As our network grows we hope to continue to ever increase our support of patients across Europe.



Upcoming EuropaColon Events

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|----------------------------|---|
| March 2017 | ECCAM 2017: European Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month
Good luck to all of you with you ECCAM initiatives! |
| 1 st March 2017 | Parliamentary meeting: 'Evolutions, Obligations & Imperfections'
EuropaColon launches ECCAM 2017 in Brussels |
| 29 th June 2017 | 2nd Masterclass
Barcelona, Spain |

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