



EuropaColon

*united against digestive cancers*

Annual Review 2017

# EuropaColon Mission

“EuropaColon is committed to preventing deaths from colorectal and digestive cancers and improving the quality of life and support for those affected by these diseases.”

Since 2004 EuropaColon has been leading the campaign to raise awareness and promote early diagnosis and best treatment for all colorectal cancer patients and is acknowledged as the voice of the colorectal cancer patient community. Since 2015 EuropaColon is working to support other digestive cancers. Through its Affiliate and Associate groups EuropaColon is actively working to prioritise and raise the profile of colorectal and other digestive cancers and to promote and encourage increased awareness of the symptoms and prevention of these cancers. EuropaColon continues to campaign for the introduction of Formal Population Screening Programmes and conformity to EU Guidance and Policies throughout Europe.

 [www.europacoln.com](http://www.europacoln.com)

 [www.facebook.com/europacolnhq](https://www.facebook.com/europacolnhq)

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## Our 4 Key Goals

To reduce the number of European citizens affected by colorectal cancer

To diagnose colorectal cancer at an early stage

To ensure access to best treatment and care for all colorectal cancer patients in Europe

To support novel and innovative research into colorectal cancer



**Mr Geoffrey Henning**  
Director Digestive Cancers  
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**Mr Keith Spencer**  
Director Special Projects  
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**Mr Derek Vitali**  
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**Mrs Zorana Stokic**  
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# Message from the CEO and the Medical Director

2017 saw the tide turn for EuropaColon as many of the difficulties encountered in the previous year were left behind us. This enabled us to look at the broader picture and the issues and opportunities offered by biosimilars, minimally invasive and robotic surgery alongside the growing importance of real world data and the role of patients in the collection of this data.

There were some noticeable achievements for EuropaColon with the revised and improved format for the Annual Affiliate and Associate Masterclass. The new format alongside the ESMO World Congress on Gastrointestinal Cancer appears to be a logical fit for EuropaColon. Everyone was very well looked after by the organising committee and conference organisers and we extend our thanks to them all.

The launch of European Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month (ECCAM) went smoothly with considerable activity from the Groups raising the bar ever higher. Hopefully their hard work will make more people realise that though minimal efforts, by adjusting their lifestyle and being more aware, they could prevent this cancer from affecting them or their family.

Early in the year saw the publication of the Essential Requirements for Quality Cancer Care: Colorectal Cancer. This important new project from ECCO (European CanCer Organisation) brought 25 clinical Societies to the table to discuss and agree the Essential Requirements for the treatment and management of colorectal cancer. EuropaColon was honoured to represent

**Mrs Jolanta Gore-Booth**  
Founder/CEO EuropaColon  
UNITED KINGDOM



the patient perspective. We continue to work with ECCO in agreeing Indicators to measure the delivery of these Essential Requirements across Europe.

2017 was a significant year for EuropaColon as we launched the first ever European Survey on the Unmet Needs of Patients Living with Metastatic Colorectal Cancer (mCRC). The goal to recruit a minimum of 1,000 patients from 12 countries was almost met by the end of 2017 with over 600 patients already recruited. It was evident that all the contributors clearly understood the significant changes that could be actioned with these survey results. We are especially grateful to all the clinicians who went out of their way to help. We felt that we had made great headway with our clinical colleagues as they recognised the value of EuropaColon's work.

As ever it was so rewarding to see new Groups join our ever expanding patient advocacy community. During the year we were delighted to welcome Poland and Russia plus a new partner in Romania.

We were delighted to partner DG JRC when launching a new initiative European Commission Initiative for Colorectal Cancer (ECICC). This will follow in the footsteps of the recently completed Breast Cancer (ECIBC) project. The programme involves work on several different aspects of the colorectal cancer pathway, from screening through to end of life care and includes a quality assurance scheme for all pathway care processes. Work to develop colorectal cancer guidelines under the auspices of DG SANTE will be delivered in close collaboration with EuropaColon and many other important stakeholders. We look forward to working with the JRC on this very important project.

Our plans for the expansion into digestive cancers gained momentum when we contributed to the ECCO

**Professor Eric Van Cutsem**  
Medical Director EuropaColon  
Professor of Internal Medicine,  
University of Leuven and  
Head of Digestive Oncology  
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discussions on the Essential Requirements for Oesophago/Gastric Cancer, due for publication in 2018. Our own work began in earnest with the preparation of a survey for patients with these cancers due to be launched in April 2018.

Our challenge was managing the increase in meetings we were invited to attend and often speak at. The increase put a lot of pressure on our limited resources and we will have to manage this expectation in the future. It was however rewarding to be able to attend these meetings and raise the profile of EuropaColon.

As the year drew to an end we began the important task of re-registering EuropaColon in Belgium and planning a multi stakeholder meeting to kick start our new 10 year strategy.

Looking back over the past 13 years, I have to admit with all honesty that when I first started EuropaColon, I never dreamt we would be in the position we are in now. It is only thanks to our great team and all those that supported us during what has at times been a bumpy journey that we have arrived here.

I look forward to the coming years and seeing EuropaColon continue growing.

**Jolanta Gore-Booth**

**Professor Eric Van Cutsem**

## Expert Patient Advisory Group (EPAG)

In 2017 there were two meetings of the Expert Patient Advisory Group – one during EuropaColon’s 2nd Masterclass (July-Barcelona) and the second at ESMO (September-Madrid). Most of the work at the meetings revolved around EuropaColon’s patient education website that is being developed for launch in 2018. Having helped to develop content for the Survey on the Unmet Needs of Patients Living with Metastatic Colorectal Cancer (mCRC) many of the group members then assisted with patient recruitment in their countries.

The Group also helped during the year with other projects by giving their input and sharing their experiences and thoughts. Many of the group members participated and represented EuropaColon at important meetings e.g. EMA hearings and presented or spoke at different conferences.

At EuropaColon’s last Board Meeting in 2017 the decision was taken to expand the EPAG to a caregiver representative as well as to welcoming other digestive cancer patients.



**Anthony Rossi**  
Malta Colorectal Cancer  
Awareness Group  
EPAG Member  
MALTA

**Dora Constantinides**  
PASYKAF  
EPAG Member  
CYPRUS



**Mrs Barbara Moss**  
Chair Expert Patient  
Advisory Group (EPAG)  
UNITED KINGDOM



## Survey on the Unmet Needs of Patients Living with Metastatic Colorectal Cancer

2017 was a significant year for EuropaColon as we launched our Survey on the Unmet Needs of Patients Living with Metastatic Colorectal Cancer (mCRC). The goal was to recruit a minimum of 1,000 patients from 12 countries (Austria, Belgium, Cyprus, Hungary, Italy, The Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Serbia, Spain, Turkey and UK). By the end of 2017 more than 600 patients were recruited and in four of those countries (Hungary, Poland, Serbia and Spain) the target number of 100 patients was reached (in some cases more). This could not have been achieved without the amazing help of patients, clinicians, nurses and our Groups. It was evident that all the contributors clearly understood the significant changes that could be actioned with these survey results. Recruitment will continue in 2018 until target numbers have been reached. EuropaColon intends to publish the survey results and using this valuable information to work with its member groups to ACTION change and support for this patient population.

## #ECCAM17 - We Are United Against Colorectal Cancer



EuropaColon’s ECCAM17 campaign aimed to raise awareness on the inequalities that exist in different European countries in the diagnosis, treatment and care of patients living with colorectal cancer. With the theme “We Are United Against Colorectal Cancer” EuropaColon wanted to highlight the importance of all stakeholder engagement (i.e. patients, carers, healthcare professionals, politicians, ministries, media and others) in the fight against the disease.

The campaign was launched at the meeting in the EU Parliament in Brussels on the 1st of March. On EuropaColon’s web-site and social media five patient stories were promoted during March illustrating different issues that patients are facing. Many of EuropaColon’s Member Groups have translated the material into their own languages and used them to raise these problems in their own countries. To build on the interaction of the Groups we produced a “We are supporting...” poster where a personal message could be added and shared on social media. The Twitter campaign proved to be hugely successful reaching over 18,000 people across Europe.

# EuropaColon 2nd Annual Masterclass

The 2nd EuropaColon Masterclass took place in Barcelona in June alongside the 19th World Congress on Gastrointestinal Cancer.

Representatives of the Affiliate and Associate Groups from 23 European Countries attended the two day meeting, along with the members of the Expert Patient Advisory Group. The agenda included 17 guests speakers from across the EU and the USA alongside 10 speakers from within the EuropaColon community.

The meeting covered a wide range of topics many identified because of previous discussions with the Groups. Comprehensive medical updates were delivered by Professors Van Cutsem, D'Hoore, Sobrero, Sharma, Middleton, Gilgorov and Leja. For the first time the Masterclass included a new module on digestive cancers. The aim being to raise awareness of digestive cancers and to increase the number of groups embracing these cancers.

Video and presentations are available at: [www.europacoln.com](http://www.europacoln.com)



EuropaColon's 2nd Annual Masterclass  
June 2017 - Barcelona



Launch of ECCAM at EU Parliament  
February 2017 - Brussels



# EuropaColon Networks Across Europe

## EuropaColon Rus



2017 was a very important year for EuropaColon Russia as this was the year that they officially registered their organisation.

They received the official status of a charity organisation later in the year and launched their website. [www.europacolom.ru](http://www.europacolom.ru)

## Colores



**#ECCAM17** – Several meetings were organised throughout the month on topics which included new advances in the treatment of CRC and financial support opportunities for cancer patients. The Organisation also took part in a Patients' Rights Day in Kuopio. In order to raise awareness of CRC, an oncologist and a CRC patient were interviewed on a TV show "Good Morning Finland". The message was that even if you are not genetically predisposed or if you're not obese or old – you can still be diagnosed with CRC!

**Rehabilitation** – A most important activity in 2017 were two rehabilitation courses organized in partnership with The Finnish Cancer Society and The Cancer Society of South-West Finland. The events were held over a weekend and the invited attendees were CRC (and other digestive cancer patients) and their carers. A peer-support trained couple presented at both courses which were free of charge and these events were so successful that two five days courses are planned for 2018.

**Partnerships** – In 2017 the Organisation broadened their collaboration with the medical industry and increased collaboration with local Cancer Societies as well as with local hospitals. In particular, in Helsinki, they are working with OLKA which is the Association providing peer support in hospitals.

## Bowel Cancer UK



**New Research** – In December BCUK launched their research strategy, "Unlocking the Key to the Cures: Our research strategy 2017-2022", detailing their key priority research areas over the next five years. The strategy was based on their landmark Critical Research Gaps in Colorectal Cancer Initiative which identified key gaps in bowel cancer research. The research paper was published in a leading international academic journal GUT.

The Organisation's "Never Too Young" Campaign together with several other partners published new research and a risk assessment tool to support GPs to identify the symptoms of a serious bowel condition for patients aged under 50.

Never Too Young



Since **2013** we've been leading the change for younger bowel cancer patients



The campaign aims to improve the diagnosis, treatment and care of those **under 50**



In May they launched a partnership with the Royal College of Surgeons of England awarding £500,000 funding for bowel cancer surgical research to establish the UK's first Colorectal Cancer Surgical Research Chair and establish a network of the Charity's Colorectal Cancer Surgical Research Fellowship. This was followed by the opening of the first round of grant applications with plans to invest up to £500,000 into further bowel cancer research.

## Improving Services for People with Lynch Syndrome

30 leading clinicians and scientific experts published a letter in the British Medical Journal calling for urgent improvements in the diagnosis and care of people with Lynch Syndrome. The letter coincided with the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) recommending that everyone in England newly diagnosed with bowel cancer should be tested for Lynch Syndrome. The Organisation together with ten leading clinical experts in bowel cancer and genetics called on the national Bowel Cancer Screening Programme (BCSP) to take responsibility for screening people with Lynch Syndrome for bowel cancer in England.

## Advanced Bowel Cancer Patients in UK Denied Surgery

To coincide with World Metastatic Colorectal Cancer Day on the 27 September, BCUK published a report on the survey results of advanced bowel cancer patients. The survey demonstrated that stage four bowel cancer patients are losing out on the opportunity to live longer because NHS clinical specialists are not included in treatment decisions and as a result are denied surgery that could extend their life.

## EuropaColon España



### *The Organisation celebrated its 10th Anniversary*

On the 1st of March EuropaColon España held its 10th Anniversary Meeting – Jornada X Aniversario EuropaColon España: Juntos Frente al Cáncer Colorrectal. The meeting hosted patients, oncologists, surgeons, nurses and many others. It dealt with issues such as the importance of prevention and early detection, CRC treatment strategies and new treatment options.

**Emotional Intelligence Workshop** – An Emotional Intelligence Workshop for CRC patients led by Carlos Hué was organised in Zaragoza. The workshop was split out in five different meetings. Each meeting dealt with five different emotional aspects. Approximately 35 CRC patients took part in the workshop.

**Awareness Raising** – In its effort to raise awareness on CRC across Spain, EuropaColon España, have set up a new group in Galicia. The group will hopefully fulfill the expectations of CRC patients in that region.

### APOZ and Friends



The work of APOZ and Friends is focused on the patient's direct benefits from receiving information related to the psychological and social aspects of their disease management process. To achieve these goals, all relevant stakeholders are involved – nurses, doctors, psychologist, social worker and, above all, patients. At the Centre of Unmedical Care, created at the Adjaped City Clinic, they work daily with patients in the hospital teaching them how to live with the disease, how to overcome difficulties during active treatment and how to adjust their behavior and understanding in order to become a successful partner of the medical team.

### Estonian Cancer Society



#### *The Organisation celebrated its 25th Anniversary*

2017 was a very important year for the Estonian Cancer Society as it celebrated its 25th anniversary. During the year many special events were organised but the most important was the 12th Cancer Conference, held in Tallin, a one day event targeting 150 medical specialists across Estonia. At the conference the current CRC situation in Estonia was presented along with those of other most prevalent cancers.

### AgaliaZO Society of Volunteers Against Cancer



**#ECCAM17** – The Organisation took part in the campaign #ECCAM17: We Are United Against Colorectal Cancer by posting messages and patient stories to AgaliaZO's Facebook page, translated in Greek. It was estimated that the posts reached 1'500 people.

**Prevention** – On the 2nd of May on Agistri Island AgaliaZO organised an information day about CRC focusing on prevention. The programme included a presentation and discussion with attendees on how to recognise symptoms of the disease and “guided tours” through the Inflatable Colon.

### Association France Côlon



**Survey** – The Organisation published a first national survey of CRC patients' experiences covering various topics from discovery of the disease and announcement of the diagnosis through the professionals encountered during the care received and the usage of clinical trials to the strategies used to maintain moral and the quality of life.

**Screening** – The Organisation successfully advocated with other key stakeholders for FIT CRC screening tests to be sent through the mail to people between the ages of 50-74 year who did not go to see their GP to get the test. It is predicted that this should happen sometime in 2018 and initially only for a selection of people who are most likely to do the test if it is received through the mail.

### EuropaColon Latvia



**Lobbying** – The focus of EuropaColon Latvia was on working with the health institutions and other patients' organisations as well as the Parliament with the aim to improve treatment and care for all cancer patients.

### EuropaColon Portugal



**#ECCAM17** – As part of ECCAM17 activities, for the 3rd year in a row, EuropaColon Portugal in partnership with Holon Pharmacies, offered free CRC testing in 130 pharmacies across the country and raised awareness on the importance of early detection of the disease with a strong media campaign. The results showed that approximately 8% of the tests were positive and potentially detected CRC.

**School Food Education Programme** – Carrying on from previous years the Organisation managed to maintain this important programme in several schools in the city of Porto. They reached thousands of students teaching them the importance of improving their eating habits from a young age.

**Policy** – EuropaColon Portugal was nominated to be members of the National Health Committee, the main committee for all health matters that need to be discussed and decided in Portugal.

**Digestive Cancers** – On the 16th November EuropaColon Portugal joined in the World Pancreatic Cancer Day with events to raise awareness of the disease in Portugal.

### PASYKAF



**#ECCAM17** – The Organisation launched a TV spot which was broadcast in mass media for a week and on social media throughout the month. They held a press conference with the Ministry of Health which commanded impressive coverage. PASYKAF also held an event with the Lions – “Walk and Support” in Nicosia, Limassol, Larnaca and Paphos. Throughout the month they also held numerous TV and Radio talk shows.

**Healthy Living** – The Organisation held numerous presentations during the year on the importance of healthy lifestyle, nutrition, exercise, smoke free

environment and alcohol consumption in schools, communities, organisations, companies etc.

They held a two day conference on colorectal cancer under the auspices of the Ministry of Health, in collaboration with the Cyprus Dieticians and Nutritionists Association.

**Screening** – PASYKAF held meetings with officials of seven National Communities and the Ministry of Health to present and promote the Colorectal Screening Programme prior to launching on the 17th of February and 29th of August.

Professor Halloran, a screening expert from the UK met with Ministry of Health officials to help and advise on the Colorectal Cancer Screening Programme in Cyprus.

**Living with Cancer** – PASYKAF ensured that GI cancer patients receive nursing and palliative home care support and services. Services included psychosocial support, physiotherapy, transportation and that members of the family /carers get trained when needed.

The Rehabilitation Centre at Moniatis started its operation beginning of May 2017 and in addition to other cancer groups it welcomed two groups of colorectal cancer survivors in July and one in November for a five day stay free of charge.

## EuropaColon Polska



*The Organisation was founded in March 2017 and received official registration in October*

**Meetings** – EuropaColon Polska participated in numerous conferences and meetings – 1st International Congress of Patient Empowerment in Warsaw; 2nd International Conference on Personalized Medicine in Cracow; POLMED's three workshops of PATIENT ORGANIZATIONS' SKILLS ACADEMY in Warsaw and at a press conference in Warsaw "You do not notice us – oncological patients are still on their way".

**Policy** – They met with The Polish Patient Rights Advocates and took part in the meetings of the Parliamentary Teams of the Polish Sejm: in March 2017 they inaugurated their public presence at the Parliamentary Oncology Team meeting and later at the Parliamentary Team for Patients' Rights. Both events were dedicated to colorectal cancer challenges in Poland and mainly tackled the problem of lack of access to treatments as stated in the ESMO Guidelines.

**Awareness Raising** – Supported an awareness campaign "Stop Cancer" dedicated to CRC in September 2017. Initiated work on various social media channels with great success.

**CRC Survey** – The Organisation took part in EuropaColon's Survey on The Unmet Needs of Patients Living with mCRC and were the first country to complete recruiting 100 mCRC patients in three weeks!

## EuropaColon Slovakia



*The Organisation celebrated its 10th Anniversary*

**#ECCAM 2017** – During ECCAM17 they held their annual educational seminar for volunteers.

EuropaColon Slovakia also set up online patient support for mCRC patients.

**Awareness Raising** – August to December the Organisation visited 30 cities with their Inflatable Colon under the banner "This is a day for your health".

**Patient Support** – EuropaColon Slovakia runs patient support centers in the National Oncological Institute in Bratislava and Kosice. Their volunteers are specialists in psychology and social support. On an annual basis, more than 1000 patients visit these centres and in 2017, the centres were moved closer to the chemotherapy and surgical oncology department.

**Policy** – EuropaColon Slovakia became a member of the working group of the Ministry of Health with the aim of

helping to produce a National Cancer Plan, a National Registry and Screening Programmes.

## EuropaColon Slovenia



*The Organisation celebrated its 10th Anniversary*

**Digestive Cancers** – EuropaColon Slovenia broadened its scope of activities to include all digestive cancers.

**Awareness Raising** – Organised three lectures for the general public with the aim to raise awareness of the screening programme and increase screening compliance. Together with the ambassadors of the Slovenian CRC screening programme held several lectures on CRC and early diagnosis, for the army and some other companies.

**Primary Care Doctors** – In November organised a workshop for primary health care physicians and nurses on how to best support CRC patients in the recovery process. Issues such as nutrition, stoma, treatment side-effects and psychological help were covered.

**Update on novel treatments** – More than 170 participants attended a symposium on novel treatments in CRC.

## POLA



**Awareness raising** – The Organisation organised a large-scale social campaign "Tackling the fight against cancer". The year long campaign was initiated by POLA and the National Health Insurance Fund in partnership with all Lithuanian network providers as well as the largest national news portal. The ambassador of the campaign was the Minister of Health. The Campaign was presented at a press conference at the Parliament of Lithuania. Within this campaign several activities were carried out – each mobile phone user received a SMS with a reminder on the importance of timely health checks to prevent cancer. Also, weekly articles on cancer were published, posters were put up, social



advertising clips on TV and radio to remind people to check their health by participating in screening programmes.

**Patient Support** – POLA carried out a project “Strengthening of POLA and its members”, which received financial support from the Ministry of Social Security and Labour. During the project, three training courses were organized for POLA members attracting more than 650 participants – patients, patient advocates, psychologists, healthcare professionals. Also within this project POLA started providing free legal and psychological consultation service for POLA members.

**Patient Doctor Communications** – With the aim to strengthen partnerships with healthcare professionals POLA initiated an international conference “How to Improve Communication Between a Doctor and a Patient” which was held in the Parliament of Lithuania. Speakers from Lithuania, United Kingdom and France discussed the importance and need of cooperation between the doctor and the patient as well as the ways of solving the lack of it. The conference was attended by patients, patient advocates, healthcare professionals and policy makers.

### **Stichting Darmkanker Nederland**



#### **Launched a new organisation – Stichting Darmkanker Nederland**

The Organisation intends to develop as a central point for CRC patients in the Netherlands. The initiative “Together Against CRC” (Samen Tegen Darmkanker) was started as a collaboration between PLCRC, DCRA and team colorectal cancer of IKNL.

**Research** – The Organisation supports The Prospective Dutch CRC cohort which is a study facilitating scientific research into CRC. Its aim is to achieve better outcomes both in terms of overall survival and in quality of life.

Patients give informed consent for the collection of clinical data and optionally for the biobanking of tissue and blood, for health-related quality of life questionnaires and to be invited for future studies.

### **National Health Screening Programme**



**#ECCAM 2017** – In March, the National Screening Centre, together with Malta ColoRectal Cancer Awareness Group (MCRACG), organized a stimulating seminar for health care professionals as well as a seminar in Gozo for the general public promoting CRC screening.

**Awareness Raising** – Numerous activities were carried out with the aim of raising awareness of the importance of CRC screening. Information leaflets were produced and distributed and throughout the year there was participation in multiple radio and TV programmes.

**Policy** – A new cancer plan was launched with plans for gradual expansion for the next five years as per European Guidelines.

### **Familienhilfe Darmkrebs**



**#ECCAM17** – Familienhilfe Darmkrebs organised the 3rd Patient Information Day at the Haus der Universität in the centre of Düsseldorf. The main focus was on the hereditary forms of CRC. The questions of the general way of being and coping with illness in the face of CRC were raised and discussed. There were many renowned scientists as speakers and discussion partners for the event.

The Organisation also presented an information brochure entitled: “Only the others get colorectal cancer, right?” The subtitle says that the right precaution is particularly important. The information is supported by testimonies from patients who tell their story that CRC can be survived, but that screening is the best choice.

**Awareness Raising** – Familienhilfe Darmkrebs actively participates in an annual rowing regatta. This is an event organised in cooperation with the Cancer Society of North Rhine-Westphalia and the University Tumour Centre on the Düsseldorf Rhine harbour. 70 boat crews from science, patients and industry take part in this event.

### **Kanserle Dans Derneği (Dance with Cancer)**



**Awareness Raising** – The Organisation worked closely with the Turkish Gastroenterology Assoc. (Türk Gastroentoloji Derneği) to create awareness amongst the population of digestive cancers such as CRC and Pancreatic Cancer. They held several meetings attended by more than 1,500 participants, with the objective of emphasizing the importance of early detection and also to provide information about these cancers. The meetings were accompanied by an Inflatable Colon and there was big media coverage of all meetings.

### **Stop Darmkanker**



**Awareness Raising** – The Organisation held its 1st Stop Darmkanker Fundraising Gala Evening. The Stop Darmkanker team with 100 runners took part in the Antwerp 10 Miles Run. They also held a fundraising Golf Tournament in Hasselt with 145 participants.

**The Inflatable Colon** went on the road for 67 days to more than 30 towns and cities.

Launched 1st National “NoXcuse” school campaign: 11 schools made a 30 second video-clip about colon cancer awareness. The winning clip was seen on prime-time national TV reaching more than 1 million people.

**BluePharmacy** – This awareness campaign was held in 320 pharmacies during the month of March – selling more than 30.000 blue ribbons

## Digestive Cancers

The shift of EuropaColon into digestive cancers during 2017 progressed according to plan. The new strategy was finalised and first steps taken to opening up the Organisation to this important and new area of work.

Work with pancreatic cancer had already started in 2016 and we continued support for Pancreatic Cancer Europe and the World Pancreatic Cancer Coalition. A new session was also introduced into the annual Advocacy Masterclass to present digestive cancers to our Groups. There was a very positive response from a number of them who have since begun to work with this cancer.

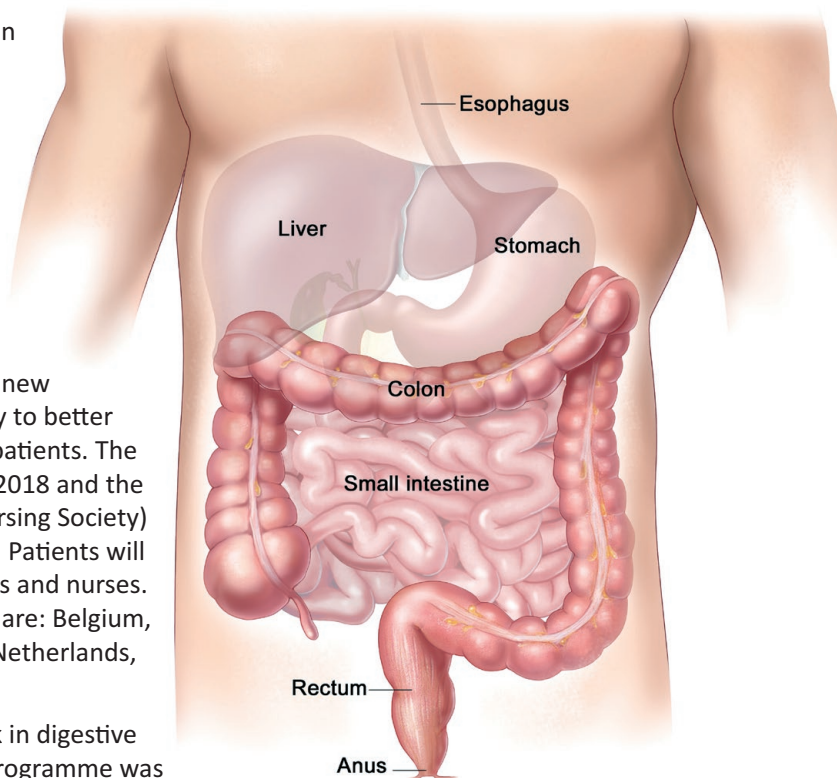
Work in oesophago/gastric cancer began early in the year with the meeting of the ECCO Expert Working Group. Their aim, of this second year of Essential Requirements for specific cancers, was to set parameters that can be expected by patients and clinicians. The intention is to publish the Essential Requirements for oesophago/gastric cancer in early 2018.

The next step for EuropaColon in these new cancers was to begin preparing a survey to better understand the unmet needs of these patients. The launch of the survey is aimed for early 2018 and the Board of EONS (European Oncology Nursing Society) agreed in December 2017 to support it. Patients will be recruited by invitation from clinicians and nurses. The countries we are aiming to work in are: Belgium, Cyprus, France, Germany, Italy, Latvia, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Russia, Spain and UK.

As the year unfolded the plans for work in digestive cancers expanded and a more robust programme was

developed for implementation in 2018. Plans include, in addition to the survey, a pilot programme offering support for patients and carers. At a policy level it is intended to complete a heatmap to set out the treatment and relevant policy issues for oesophago/gastric cancer.

This has been a very poorly supported population of patients but EuropaColon is hopeful that these new initiatives will change the landscape over the next few years.



## Conferences and Meetings Attended:

Amgen; Colomed; Celgene; Clinical Pathways European CanCER Organisation Patient Advisory Committee, (ECCO PAC), ECCO Oesophago/Gastric Essential Requirements; European Society of Surgical Oncology (ESSO); European Society of Colo-Proctologists (ESCP); and Technology in Colorectal Surgery; European Federation of Pharmaceutical Industry Association (EFPIA) – Patient Think Tank, Oncology Forum, Regional Roundtable meeting; European Association of Personalised Medicine Congress (EAPM); European Patient Forum (EPF) Annual General Meeting, Cross Border Health Care Meeting, EPF Access working group and launch; European Society of Medical Oncology Congress (ESMO); Healthy Stomach Initiative (HSI); International Society For Pharmacoeconomics and Outcomes Research Masterclass (ISPOR); Novartis; Pfizer; Pancreatic Cancer Academy; Sandoz; Servier; Shire; United European Gastroenterology (UEG Week); Working Group of European Cancer Patient Advocacy Network (WECAN); World Pancreatic Cancer Coalition (WPCC).

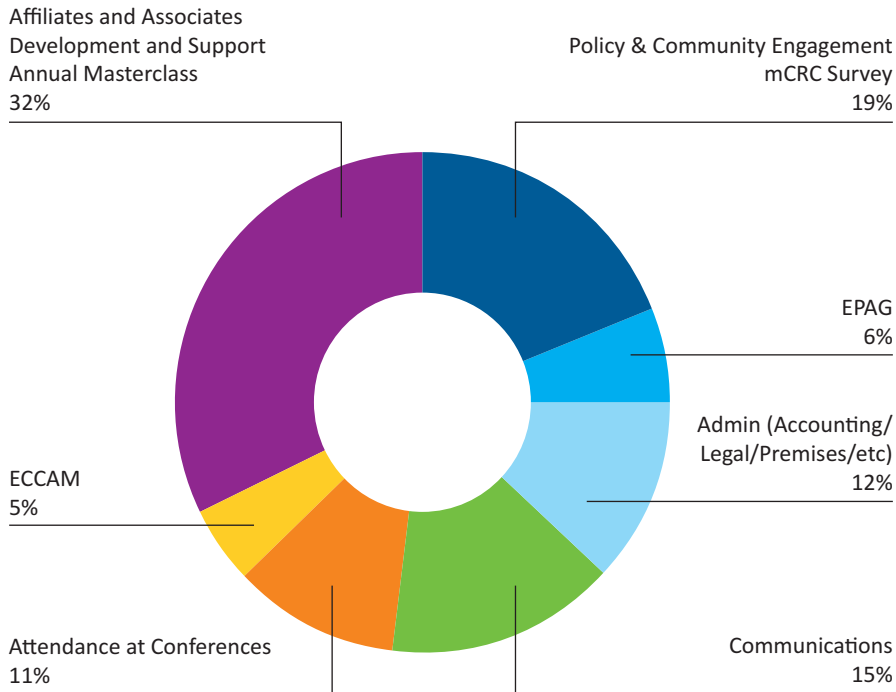


# Finances

EuropaColon is a Not for Profit Organisation, during the year we receive funding for specific projects for a wide range of activities as can be seen from this review.

Our ideas for exciting new projects often exceed the funding available forcing us to trim some plans and abandon others. The need to constantly prioritise our work keeps us lean and hopefully dynamic.

The graph gives an overview of the work delivered in 2017.



# Sponsors

EuropaColon would like to thank all our sponsors for their generous support in 2017 and we look forward to working with them again in 2018.

## Funding Partners



## Collaborating Partners





EuropaColon

[www.europacolon.com](http://www.europacolon.com)

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