

## **PancreOS - Pancreatic Cancer Overall Survival Registry European Parliament Event**

18 NOVEMBER 2020

### **Message to participants from Mrs Joanna Kopcińska, MEP (ECR, Poland)**

“I would like to welcome you all at the event on the occasion of the World Pancreatic Cancer. This year, World Pancreatic Cancer Day, takes place tomorrow, on November 19th.

The European Parliament has a strong evidence-based and solid foundation for its scrutiny and its suggestions for the Europe’s Beating Cancer Plan, the EU Cancer Mission being closely associated with initiatives such as the new EU Pharmaceutical Strategy and EU4Health Programme. Moreover The Europe’s Beating Cancer action plan is expected to be published by the Commission on Wednesday, 9 December 2020 so 2 weeks from now.

Member States and the EU institutions should act together to overcome the barriers to innovation, including recognising the real value of new treatments and making access to them easier, boosting research across Europe, and including all stakeholders – particularly patients.

According to the study prepared by ENVI Committee “Strengthening Europe in the fight against cancer” in the EU, the organs most commonly affected by cancer are breast, colorectum, prostate and lung, with more than 300,000 new cancer cases each in 2018. Of these cancers, lung cancers are the deadliest, accounting for more than 150,000 yearly deaths in the EU, followed by far by breast and pancreas cancers, which are associated to more than 80 000 deaths in 2018 in the EU. According to statistics from 2019 Pancreatic cancer is the fourth leading cause of death from cancer in Europe, claiming more than 90 000 lives each year.

The impact of this disease on quality of life and costs is huge, as it causes a substantial burden in Europe, with nearly a million aggregate life-years lost annually

In the same time, about 30,000 new cases of pancreatic cancer are diagnosed in the United States each year. This is leading to the analytics facts founding that pancreatic cancer costs amounted to \$2.6 billion in total health care costs, accounting for 1.8% of the entire cost of caring for all cancer patients.

There is not ONE necessary tool to improve quality of care in cancer patients. Cancers are a non- communicable disease, which has more dramatic prevalence rather than others, what makes that it has to cured in the most holistic approach. Each pancreatic cancer tumor is

different, which may affect treatment options. Why? Because some pancreatic cancer tumors have unique characteristics, like genetic alterations, that make them especially susceptible to certain treatments. These biological features can be identified through a scientific test called molecular profiling. Knowing about a tumor's unique characteristics can help patients and their healthcare team select the treatment options — including clinical trials — best suited to the patient. This specific approach has to be embedded the highly specialised psychological counselling. Therefore, in this particular understanding of the holistic approach, the testimonies of a patient survivor is important to know how to keep an emotional balanced surrounding in the treatment cancer disease.

I am looking forward to hear also all remarks on Concrete obstacles and plan of action for PancreOS that are to presented and discussed.

I wish everyone the deep and fruitful debate.”

*Mrs Joanna KOPCIŃSKA is a Polish Member of European Parliament. She hold the vice presidency of the European Special Committee on Beating Cancer, and she is a member of the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety.*