



Co-funded by
the European Union



INTERACT EUROPE

Guidebook for trainees, centres and mentors

Date: May 2023

Abstract: INTERACT-EUROPE brings together 33 partners from 17 countries aiming to develop a European inter-specialty cancer training programme involving all main oncology disciplines and professions, cancer centres and patient groups, based on relevant needs assessments. The project will foster a patient-centric approach to quality cancer care through the promotion of multi-disciplinary and multi-professional team working.

This guidebook aims to provide all trainees, and their mentors, recruited for the pioneer cohort of the INTERACT-EUROPE project, with essential information to assist their participation in the online and live training programmes.

DISCLAIMER: Co-funded by the European Union. Views and opinions expressed are however those of the author(s) only and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Union or the European Health and Digital Executive Agency (HaDEA). Neither the European Union nor the granting authority can be held responsible for them.



TABLE OF CONTENTS

<u>EXECUTIVE SUMMARY</u>	4
<u>THE PIONEER COHORT: THE RECRUITMENT PROCESS</u>	4
<u>THE PIONEER COHORT: THE PROGRAMME OF EDUCATION</u>	6
<u>THE EDUCATION PROGRAMME: PRACTICAL DETAILS FOR YOUR PARTICIPATION</u>	8
<u>INTER-SPECIALTY CANCER TRAINING IN EUROPE: THE STORY SO FAR</u>	13
<u>HOW THE INTER-SPECIALTY CANCER TRAINING CURRICULUM WAS CREATED</u>	14
<u>THE INTER-SPECIALTY CANCER TRAINING CURRICULUM IN SUMMARY</u>	16
<u>WHAT HAPPENS AFTER THE PIONEER COHORT EVENT IN SEPTEMBER 2023?</u>	16
<u>FURTHER INFORMATION</u>	17
<u>POINTS OF CONTACT</u>	17



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The INTERACT-EUROPE consortium would like to congratulate and welcome you for being among the trainees of the pioneer cohort of the INTERACT-EUROPE project to create an inter-specialty cancer training program across Europe.

This guidebook is designed to provide you all with relevant information on the INTERACT-EUROPE programme, including the development of the curriculum, and relevant details on the training sessions taking place in July and September 2023.

The guidebook also contains relevant contact points that you can reach out to for any further questions in the next months.

Please note that for this phase of the project we have established a pioneer cohort only. However, the European Cancer Organisation¹, together with a consortium of 40 organisations, has applied to the EU4Health funding programme for a second stage of the INTERACT-EUROPE project. If the application is successful, “INTERACT2” will:

Create a fully resourced online learning environment to support trainees to complete all aspects of the inter-specialty cancer training programme that can be completed via online methods;

Deploy a “train the trainer” methodology to enable over 100 cancer centres across Europe to fully implement training and education connected to the full suite of competencies described within the EU inter-specialty cancer training programme, including those elements requiring rotation within a cancer centre.

Subject to results of the above-mentioned funding call, trainees participating in the pioneer cohort of the EU inter-specialty cancer training programme will therefore be contacted later in 2023 with further information to support their completion of the training programme in 2024 and 2025.

The pioneer cohort: the recruitment process

As a first phase of the INTERACT-EUROPE project, the European Cancer Organisation and the European School of Oncology have recruited a pioneer cohort of trainees and cancer centres to get involved in the inter-specialty cancer training programme.

The eligibility criteria for pioneer cohort trainees included:

- Possess a recognised² professional qualification in medicine or nursing.
- Have practised in the professional role of oncology surgery, medical oncology, radiation oncology or cancer nursing for at least two years.

¹ www.europecancer.org

² ‘Recognised’ in this context refers to the professional qualifications of medicine and nursing as recognised within the EU’s Professional Qualifications Directive (Directive 2005/36/EC).

For the pioneer cohort, the applicant must possess fluency in English to be able to participate fully in the initial training activities (online and live educational events).

- Alongside a copy of their CV, be able to provide a signed letter of recommendation³ from their employing institution or training organisation, indicating:
 - The institution's support for the candidate's involvement in the training programme, including the provision of time for the candidate to participate in the pioneer programme's online and live training events.
 - The institution's assurance that the candidate meets the above-described criteria.
 - The named mentor within the centre who will support the applicant in completion of the inter-specialty cancer training programme.

The recommended profile of the trainees was those at an early stage in developing their speciality.

Moreover, to assist the conduct of an assessment of automatic translation technology's use in the inter-specialty cancer training programme, applicants for participation in the pioneer cohort who possess fluency in one or more of the following languages were especially encouraged to apply: French, German, Slovene and Spanish.

The eligibility criteria for pioneer cohort cancer centres included:

- Applications for involvement are welcomed from cancer centres, hospitals of general medical focus, and university hospitals.
- The applying centre must:
 - Demonstrate commitment to developing multidisciplinary cancer care within the centre, and their associated network if relevant, including with the professions in focus of the inter-specialty cancer training programme (cancer centres, hospitals of general medical focus, universities).
 - Demonstrate commitment to the provision of appropriate mentor/trainee participation, including certification of learning by the trainee.
 - Demonstrate commitment to provide trainees with the time and support required to complete the programme.

The above demonstration can be provided within the supporting letters requested to accompany a prospective trainee's application.

Following admission of a trainee/s to the inter-specialty cancer training programme, the centre is expected to be readily contactable by the programme coordinators on such matters as assurance of learning and requests/requirements related to the trainee's mentorship.

Centres participating in the inter-specialty cancer were strongly encouraged to achieve a balanced representation of trainees from their centre, ideally composed of at least one cancer surgeon, one medical oncologist, one radiation oncologist and one cancer nurse. This will best support the ethos of conducting shared learning across the multidisciplinary cancer care team.

³ The letter of recommendation has to be signed by an individual in an authoritative position within the applicant's centre e.g., a Head of Department.

Participation in the pioneer cohort was limited to around 40 persons on a first come first served basis. The call for applications has been made public on the ESO website at [this](#) link.

The pioneer cohort: the programme of education

The pioneer cohort will take part in an online event with pre-recorded online sessions held in English and translated into four European languages (French, German, Slovenian and Spanish) which will be made available on [e-ESO](#), the online platform of the European School of Oncology.

The online sessions will be available from July 2023. In this way, the online introductory event for the pioneer cohort will serve as an early preview before the INTERACT-EUROPE live educational event which will take place on 20-21 September 2023 in Lisbon, Portugal in collaboration with Champalimaud Foundation. Selected trainees and cancer centres will be offered free participation for both events. The online event, with automatic translation, is also being conducted as part of a test of the current useability of automatic translation for oncology education purposes.

The core aspects of the inter-specialty cancer training programme curriculum that will be focused upon in both events are:

- Communication with patients
- Communication with colleagues during multidisciplinary team (MDT) meetings
- Leadership skills

The online learning programme

INTERACT-EUROPE: Introduction	Kim Benstead, Chair of Accreditation Council of Oncology in Europe (ACOE), Co-Chair INTERACT-EUROPE Niall O'Higgins, Professor Emeritus of Surgery University College Dublin, Co-Chair INTERACT-EUROPE
Patients' Perspectives on Education and importance of Communication	Kathy Oliver, Chair and Co-Director of International Brain Tumour Alliance
How to communicate clearly with patients	Luzia Travado, Head of Psycho-Oncology Unit, Champalimaud Clinical Centre, Lisbon
Effectively utilise verbal, written and digital modes of communication to provide information, education and support in an emphatic, clear, understandable, and caring manner while maintaining confidentiality	Luigi Grassi, Professor and Chair of Psychiatry, University of Ferrara

Understanding the roles and value of all health care professionals in an MDT	Olivia Pagani, Riviera-Chablais Hospital, Interdisciplinary Oncology Service
Negotiate overlapping responsibilities for shared care of patients	Matti Aapro, Board Member Union for International Cancer Control (UICC) and AllCan, European Cancer Organisation Past-President
How to run effective and efficient meetings	Bernardo Vasconcelos, Coach and Trainer
Discuss how your leadership style may impact team working	Bernardo Vasconcelos, Coach and Trainer

An updated version of the online programme can be found [here](#).

The in-person education programme

20 September 2023

13:30 – 14:30	Arrivals & registration	
14:30 – 14:45	Welcome & Introduction	<p>Kim Benstead, Chair of Accreditation Council of Oncology in Europe (ACOE), Co-Chair INTERACT-EUROPE</p> <p>Niall O'Higgins, Professor Emeritus of Surgery University College Dublin, Co-Chair INTERACT-EUROPE</p> <p>Luzia Travado, Head of Psycho-Oncology Unit, Champalimaud Clinical Centre, Lisbon</p>
14:45 – 16:00	MDT meeting of the Breast Unit at Champalimaud	Fatima Cardoso, Director of Breast Unit, Champalimaud Clinical Centre, Lisbon
16:00 – 16:30	Coffee Break	
16:30 – 19:00	Parallel Workshops:	
	Communication with colleagues (Group A)	Luzia Travado, Head of Psycho-Oncology Unit, Champalimaud Clinical Centre, Lisbon
	Communication with colleagues (Group B)	Luigi Grassi, Professor and Chair of Psychiatry, University of Ferrara
20:00	Dinner	



21 September 2023

08:30 – 10:30	Parallel workshops:	
	Leadership Skills (Group A)	Bernando Vasconcelos, Coach and Trainer
	Communication with patients (Group B)	Luigi Grassi, Professor and Chair of Psychiatry, University of Ferrara
10:30 – 11:30	Coffee break	
11:30 – 13:00	Parallel workshops:	
	Communication with patients (Group A)	Luzia Travado, Head of Psycho-Oncology Unit, Champalimaud Clinical Centre, Lisbon
	Leadership Skills (Group B)	Bernando Vasconcelos, Coach and Trainer
13:00 – 13:30	Discussion and Closing remarks	Luzia Travado, Head of Psycho-Oncology Unit, Champalimaud Clinical Centre, Lisbon
13:30 – 14:30	Lunch	
14:30 – 15:00	Departures or transfer to Champalimaud Clinical Centre (Optional Activity)	
15:00 – 16:30	Visit Champalimaud Clinical Centre (Optional Activity)	
16:30	Transfer back to hotel	
	Departures or 2 nd night	

An updated version on the event programme can be found [here](#).

The education programme: practical details for your participation

The online learning programme

Pre-recorded educational lectures (in English) will be made available in July 2023, via the e-ESO website. An email will be sent to all selected participants in July informing them when the sessions are available.

To access the sessions, each participant should login to the e-ESO platform using the same credentials used for submitting their application to the pioneer cohort.





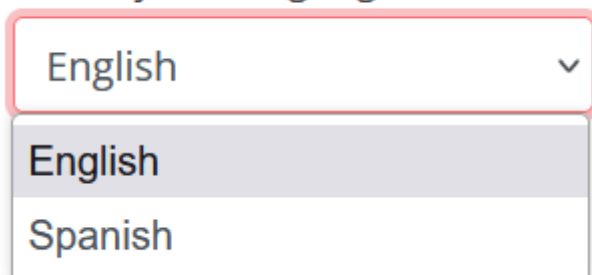
The screenshot shows the website interface for the INTERACT EUROPE course. At the top, there is a navigation bar with the logo, search bar, and links for 'ABOUT', 'EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES', and 'OPPORTUNITIES'. A blue arrow points to the 'Register' and 'Login' buttons. Below the navigation bar, the course title 'INTERACT EUROPE - Communication and Leadership course' is displayed, along with the dates '01 Jul 2023 - 21 Sep 2023' and a 'Back to the main event' link. A red '01 JUL 2023' badge is visible. The main content area shows 'Block 1' with tabs for 'Description', 'Programme', and 'Faculty List'. Under 'Description', two lecture titles are listed: 'INTERACT EUROPE: Introduction' and 'Patients' Perspectives on Education and importance of Communication', each with its date and expert names.

The lectures are in English, subtitles and a transcript are available to download.

Part of the INTERACT-EUROPE project is to design and test an automatic translation system for educational materials. Four languages were chosen for this system: French, Spanish, German and Slovenian. Subtitles and transcriptions will be also provided in these languages.

If you speak one of these languages, we ask you to view the sessions in that language and check the related transcriptions. You can select the language you wish to view.

Select your language




A dropdown menu for language selection. The selected option is 'English', which is highlighted with a red border. Below it, 'Spanish' is visible as another option.

You will be able to give us feedback on the quality of the translations in the evaluation form. If you don't speak one of the languages above, then you can view the recordings and download the transcriptions in English.

The lectures can be viewed at your own pace and in your own time, however they should be completed before the in-person event in September. Your viewing progress can be seen via the progress bar in the top right-hand corner.



Course progress 4%



Course progress 100%



Once all the sessions have been viewed, a popup will appear below the progress bar giving access to the Evaluation questionnaire and Learning test. These should be completed before the in-person event.

 Evaluation questionnaire
 Self assessment test

The in-person education programme

The in-person event will be held in Lisbon, Portugal on 20 and 21 September 2023.

Venue

[Hotel3kEuropa](#)

Av. da República 93,
1050-190 Lisbon, Portugal

Tel - [+351 21 192 6050](tel:+351211926050)

The course will begin at 14:30 on 20th September in **meeting room Europa**. The registration desk will open at 13:30, where you can collect your event badge and sign in for the course. You will need to sign an attendance form each day at the registration desk.

The course will finish at 13:30 on 21st September, followed by lunch at the hotel.

Attendance to the entire programme is compulsory.

Optional Activity

A visit to Champalimaud Clinical Centre has been arranged at the end of the course. This is an optional activity for those who would like to see how the centre is run. A transfer will be organised from the hotel to the Centre and back. It is expected that we will return to the hotel by 17:00.



Accommodation

Accommodation for up to 2 nights (20 & 21 Sept) has been organised and paid for at the event venue ([Hotel 3k Europa](#)).

You are requested to inform the organisers of the number of nights you require via the logistics form that was sent with your confirmation email.

Travel arrangements

A contribution towards your travel costs to Lisbon will be reimbursed using the EU [Flight Calculator](#).

Participants should organise and pay for their own travel. The contribution towards travel costs will be refunded after the event and receipts to all costs will be requested to be entitled for the refund. Therefore, you are kindly asked to keep a record of these.

The event will begin at 14:30 on 20th September 2023 and finish at 13:00 on 21st September 2023. Please ensure you arrive and leave Lisbon following these timing.

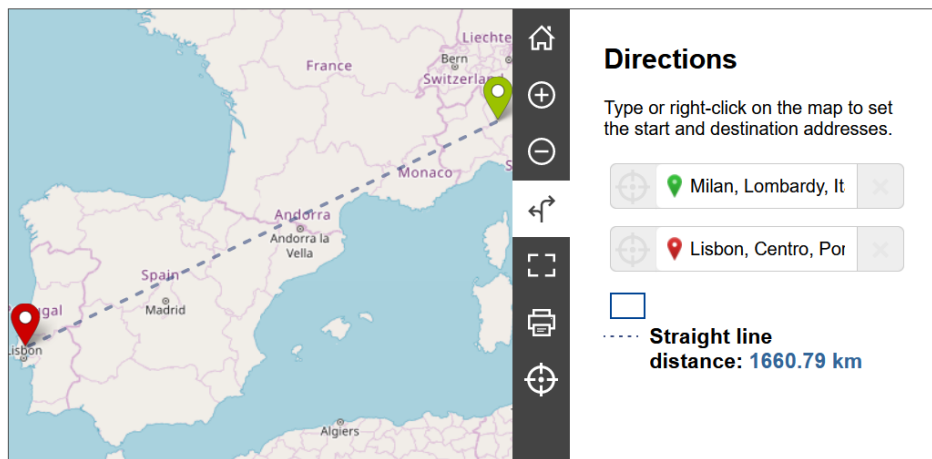
Reimbursement procedures

An online reimbursement form will be sent to you after the event. You will only be able to claim back travel costs as stated on the EU travel calculator, depending on where you are travelling from.

For example: Travelling from Milan, Italy to Lisbon, Portugal up to a maximum of 295 euros would be reimbursed.

Flight calculator

For flights of more than 400 km:



Directions

Type or right-click on the map to set the start and destination addresses.

- Milan, Lombardy, It
- Lisbon, Centro, Por

Straight line distance: 1660.79 km

Webtools | © EC-GISCO | Leaflet | © OpenStreetMap contributors | Disclaimer

Table: Unit cost amounts per distance band

Distance Band (in km)	Amount in EUR per return trip
400-600	196
601-800	209
801-1200	221
1201-1600	230
1601-2000	295

Event Dedicated website

An 'Event Dedicated' website, will be created for the in-person event. On the website you will be able to find information regarding the event, including the Speaker's CVs, Conflict of interest, presentations and the learning test and evaluation at the end of the course.

Details on how to access the Event Dedicated website will be shared with you via email before the in-person event in September.

Evaluation

As this is a pilot event, the evaluation is extremely important to determine the level of learning achieved, the useability of the automatic translation system during the online sessions, and the organisation of the course itself.

A learning test will be sent to you before the course starts to assess your initial level of knowledge. Further learning tests will be available online after both the online and in-person part.

An evaluation form of the online part will be made available on the e-ESO website, once the sessions have been completed.

The evaluation of the in-person event will be made available on the event dedicated website at the end of the course.

Accreditation

Participants will be issued a certificate of attendance (**minimum attendance: 75% of the online part + 100% of the in-person event**). An online evaluation questionnaire and learning assessment test will need to be completed for both parts (online & in-person) to receive the certificate that will be sent by email.

Application for CME recognition has been submitted to the [Accreditation Council of Oncology in Europe](#) (ACOE).

Inter-specialty cancer training in Europe: the story so far

While the need for multidisciplinary and multiprofessional cancer management to achieve the best patients outcomes [has been widely recognised](#), there is more than most healthcare ecosystems across the European Union (EU) could do to facilitate and support this need. The education and training provision for oncology professionals education and training is a key area of opportunity for better embedding principles and foundational knowledge in support of multidisciplinary cancer care. Indeed, highly distinct education and training programmes for various oncology specialities and disciplines can result in missed opportunities for inculcating stronger mutual understanding and cooperation between the various cancer care professionals.

The INTERACT-EUROPE project⁴ to create an EU inter-specialty cancer training programme aims to foster a patient-centric approach to quality cancer care through the promotion of multi-disciplinary and multi-professional team working. The project seeks to advance the foundations of knowledge and understanding that different professions involved in cancer care have of each other.

Healthcare professional organisations involved in the project have now developed a [curriculum](#) for an inter-specialty training programme that reflect valuable inter-specialty competencies across surgical, medical, radiation, nursing and radiology oncology, based on relevant needs assessments and subject to several rounds of stakeholder consultation.

The INTERACT-EUROPE curriculum does not seek to replace or supplant the programmes already in place. Rather it aims at refining and enhancing programmes by improving understanding and appreciation of the value and limitations of each modality of treatment and their respective advantages and disadvantages in the sequencing in the treatment of patients with cancer.

More information about the INTERACT-EUROPE project is available at: <https://www.europeancancer.org/eu-projects/impact/interact-europe>.

⁴ <https://www.europeancancer.org/eu-projects/impact/interact-europe>

How the inter-specialty cancer training curriculum was created

The Work Package 2 of the INTERACT-EUROPE project is associated with ‘*Training Needs Assessment and Curricula Development*’. The Work Package is led jointly by the European Society of Surgical Oncology (ESSO) the European Society of Surgical Oncology (ESO), and the European Society for Radiotherapy and Oncology (ESTRO).

To develop the inter-specialty cancer training curriculum, the following phases of learning needs analysis were undertaken:

<p>Scoping review of interprofessional education in oncology</p>	<p>The aims of the scoping review of the literature were:</p> <p>To understand the extent and type of evidence in relation to interprofessional education in oncology.</p> <p>To identify how interprofessional education has been defined and the methodology underlying its implementation.</p> <p>To identify the teaching and learning methods, including assessment, that have been used.</p> <p>The curriculum does not attempt to cover all the oncology curricula for the specialties. Therefore, for example, there is not a separate basic science section, as trainees are expected to cover this in their specialty training.</p>
<p>A survey exploring the value of possible enabling competencies</p>	<p>The competencies were developed from:</p> <p>A review of relevant published curricula including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interdisciplinary training for cancer specialists [5] • ESSO core curriculum committee update on surgical oncology [6] • ESTRO core curriculum for radiation oncology/radiotherapy 4th edition [7] • Clinical oncology module for the ESTRO core curriculum [12] • European training curriculum for radiology [13] • EONS Cancer Nursing Education Framework (2018) [14] • European training requirements for the specialty of medical oncology [15] • Leader role curriculum for radiation oncology [16] • European Pain Federation core curriculum for the diploma in pain medicine [17]
<p>Short survey looking at the perceived value of an inter-specialty curriculum in oncology</p>	<p>The survey demonstrated that the community of cancer professionals and patient advocates thought that the inter-</p>

	specialty cancer training programme was a very valuable concept.
Qualitative study investigating respondents' knowledge, experience and valuing of interprofessional education	<p>A qualitative survey including 8 open questions. The aims of this were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To gather the participants experiences of inter-specialty training. To identify the challenges and barriers in delivery of the training. To explore whether participants considered inter-specialty training was necessary and their reasons for this. <p>The questionnaire was shared with European specialty societies, who forwarded it to members of their education boards, curriculum committees and trainee committees, and to the ECO Patient Advisory Committee (ECO PAC), who also forwarded it to their members.</p>

The inter-specialty cancer training curriculum in summary

The curriculum aim is to provide education and training to enable trainees to learn to work more effectively with different specialties and professions to deliver better care and to provide psychosocial and nutritional support for cancer patients.

A scoping review, qualitative and quantitative survey were undertaken. The quantitative survey results are reported here. A questionnaire asked respondents including members of education boards, curriculum committees, trainee committees of European specialist societies and the ECO Patient Advisory Committee to score 127 proposed competencies on a 7-point Likert scale as to their value in achieving the aims of the curriculum. Two stakeholder meetings discussed the results and developed the final competencies. A consultative document, shared with stakeholders and available online, requested views regarding the other components of the curriculum.

11 competencies were revised, three were omitted and three added. The competencies were organised according to the CanMEDS framework with 13 Entrustable Professional Activities, 23 competencies and 127 enabling competencies covering all roles in the framework. Recommendations regarding the infrastructure, organisational aspects, eligibility of trainees and training centres, programme contents, assessment and evaluation were developed using the replies to the consultative document.

The aim of assessment in this programme is formative. In the pilot study it will include: MCQs at the end of each online session. An assessment plan will be developed for the future programme. This may comprise:

- Workplace based assessments during the face-to-face component. Examples of these include:
 - Case based discussions (CBDs)
 - Mini-clinical evaluation exercise (mini-CEX)
 - 360-degree appraisal
 - A reflection on the working of the MDTs they have observed will be discussed with their tutor
 - Audits in their institution investigating the percentage of patients discussed at MDTs

What happens after the pioneer cohort event in September 2023?

The European Cancer Organisation, together with a consortium of 40 organisations, has applied to the EU4Health funding programme for a second stage of the INTERACT-EUROPE project. If the application is successful, “INTERACT2” will:

- Create a fully resourced online learning environment to support trainees to complete all aspects of the inter-specialty cancer training programme that can be completed via online methods.
- Deploy a “train the trainer” methodology to enable over 100 cancer centres across Europe to fully implement training and education connected to the full suite of competencies described within the EU inter-specialty cancer training programme, including those elements requiring rotation within a cancer centre.



Subject to the results of the above-mentioned funding call, it is therefore anticipated that trainees participating in the pioneer cohort of the EU inter-specialty cancer training programme will therefore be contacted later in 2023 with further information to support their completion of the training programme through 2024 and 2025. Learning and education undertaken as part of the INTERACT-EUROPE pioneer cohort programme in 2023 will be expected to count towards the completion of the full inter-specialty cancer training programme.

Further information

- About the INTERACT-EUROPE project: <https://www.europeancancer.org/eu-projects/impact/interact-europe>.
- About the Consortium partners of INTERACT: <https://www.europeancancer.org/eu-projects/resource/interact-europe-consortium-partners>.
- About the INTERACT-EUROPE - Communication and Leadership course (Block 1): <https://www.e-so.net/courses/23inb/23IN1>.
- About the INTERACT-EUROPE - Communication and Leadership course (Block 2): <https://www.eso.net/en/what-we-do/future-events/interact+europecommunication+and+leadership+course+interact+europecommunication+and+leadership+course+block+2/3-6029-0->

Points of contact

For further information or queries, please reach out to:

- Silvia Romeo (European Cancer Organisation): silvia.romeo@europeancancer.org
- Richard Price (European Cancer Organisation): richard.price@europeancancer.org
- Corinne Hall (European School of Oncology): chall@eso.net
- Francesca Marangoni (European School of Oncology): fmarangoni@eso.net

