UKRAINIAN CRISIS - OECI PRESS RELEASE

"The Organisation of European Cancer Institutes (OECI) stands in full support of cancer patients, their families, and all health professionals and other staff caught up in the Russian Government's invasion of Ukraine. OECI's members include institutes in the Ukraine, the Russian Federation, and neighbouring countries where refugees including cancer patients are arriving in large numbers.

There are well-founded reports of violence against healthcare facilities in Ukraine, including at the Chernihiv Children's Hospital, north of Kyiv. The UN Security Council defines attacks on health workers as war crimes. These attacks on Ukrainian health facilities which are causing loss of life must end immediately, and humanitarian aid including basic drugs such as painkillers and other medical supplies should be allowed entry to these hospitals.

OECI's member institutes in countries neighbouring Ukraine to the West report hundreds of thousands of refugees who are now being offered free healthcare services. Capacity issues will become a problem in those countries, as well as medical information needs for cancer patients who are in the middle of therapies, and interpreters. OECI institutes, working with the European Cancer Organisation, are channelling information about the needs of cancer patients to the WHO and EU agencies."

Brussels, March 3rd 2022

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