



European Association for Cancer Education

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Working on medical curriculum to improve patient-physician relationship in cancer care

PAOLO LEOMBRUNI*

A good relationship between the healthcare professional and his/her patient can be considered one of the most important factor that can improve health outcomes and, at the same time, that can prevent the burn-out of the healthcare provider. In the field of oncology this is even more important, due to the severity of the disease and the threat to the patient life.

It is therefore important to provide all the students a valid vocational training about this relationship, since most of them will face many patients with cancer in their future career.

Although in Italy, in recent years, there has been an increase in education about communication skills and medical humanities, many medical students feel themselves inadequately prepared by their curricula. Furthermore the education cannot deal only with communication skills, but, more widely, with relational competence – a patient-centered communication together with the capacity to manage the emotions of the patient and of the healthcare provider. To do that the curriculum has to provide knowledge and stimulate reflection about many issues such as biopsychosocial model, communication skills, empathy, healing relationship, adherence to treatment, informed consent, death and end of life care, caregiving, burn-out and many other psycho-oncological topics .

The presentation will describe the attempt, over the last ten years, to build a curriculum covering all these issues, at the Faculty of Medicine of Turin.

* VIA CHERASCO 15, 10126, TURIN - ITALY

E-mail address: paolo.leombruni@unito.it