



European Association for Cancer Education

32nd Annual Scientific Meeting

Cancer Education and Innovation

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The impact of Cancer innovation is significant across a wide variety of audiences. Education on cancer innovation should be included as part of training programs for students and health professional trainees involved in the treatment and follow-up of cancer patients – as doctors, nurses, and technicians –, but should also be pursued in the society setting, namely in patient's associations and community-based groups, media, and political decision making.

In Portugal, the Portuguese Association for Cancer Research (ASPIC) has conducted and completed Breast and Colorectal Cancer Research surveys and has an ongoing survey about Pediatric Cancer. These projects were developed in collaboration with patient associations and presented in public meetings, and evidenced that the willing for cooperation and understanding are major hurdles in cancer research. A national project intended to characterize the clinical outcomes of cancer patients with the Portuguese BRCA2 gene mutation is currently ongoing.

Innovation is a major driver for improvement of patient outcomes and its impact extends beyond the direct effect of new treatments. The spillover effect from new treatments in improving cancer classification, development of new tools to assess quality of life, and advances in guidelines, among other aspects, should be object of research and education. Real-world evidence is able to confirm or rebut findings from research in all cancer areas through proof-of-concept investigations.

Education on Cancer Innovation represents the optimal vehicle in the road towards a fruitful communication between all involved parties and stakeholders.

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