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OBJECTIVES

The objective of this newsletter is to inform ECCA members and others concerned with cervical cancer prevention about the actions and projects of the ECCA.

The newsletter is published quarterly.

> SubscribeNL@ecca.info

CENTRAL TEAM

The ECCA central office team is composed of:

- Dr Philip Davies, Director General
- Véronique Forterre-Orioni, Office Manager
- Laure Pupier, Communications Co-ordinator
- Dr Aleksandra Bogdanovic-Guillon, Educational Specialist

> Your questions at info@ecca.info

MULTILINGUAL

Central office of the ECCA welcomes you in English, French, German and Serbian.

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BOARD MEMBERS

- Mrs Imelda Read - Member of the European Parliament 1989-2004
- Prof Lutz Gissmann - German Cancer Research Centre DKFZ
- Prof Thomas Iftner - University Hospital of Tübingen
- Dr Anne Szarewski - Cancer Research UK
- Dr Magdalena Grce - Institut Ruder Bošković
- Mrs Pamela Morton - Jo's Trust
- Dr Lena Dillner - Lund University
- Prof Hélène Sancho-Garnier - Epidiaure CRLC

> President Mrs Imelda Read

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- Region Rhone Alpes
- Grand Lyon
- European Commission
- GlaxoSmithKline
- Sanofi Pasteur MSD
- Roche Molecular Systems
- Digene Europe

.... The STOP Cervical Cancer petition launched in Europe

www.CervicalCancerPetition.eu

On 18 June 2007, the ECCA launched an online petition calling upon the European Parliament, the European Commission and the governments of all European countries to support the struggle against cervical cancer. The objective is to gather a million signatures from all over Europe and to give the petition to the President of the European Commission and the Commissioner for Health during the European Cervical Cancer Prevention Week 2008 (ECCPW) in order to highlight cervical cancer prevention as an issue that needs to be addressed more effectively by these institutions.

The STOP Cervical Cancer Petition follows on from the Manifesto of the same name,

launched by the ECCA for the ECCPW 2007. The Manifesto was signed by representatives of more than 100 European institutions involved in cervical cancer prevention. This tremendous support was recognised by the European Commissioner for Health and encouraged the ECCA to launch the petition.



More than a thousand signatures were registered during the first week only. And

the interest has been steadily growing since! By signing the petition and sending the e-mail invitation to all your national and European contacts, you will help this initiative to influence the political agenda and contribute to the fight against cervical cancer across Europe. In addition there are two simple ways of helping get signatures:

1) put this link at the end of all your emails:

Please sign the STOP Cervical Cancer Petition: <http://www.cervicalcancerpetition.eu/>

2) put a link to the petition on your organization's website! Thanks you your help!

Contact Laure Pupier at the ECCA for further details: laure.pupier@ecca.info

.... The ECCA membership exceeds 60 institutional members

In addition the membership has now been opened to individuals

During the first 7 months of 2007 alone, 25 new members joined the ECCA. Among new institutions we were happy to welcome members from many new countries: Bosnia and Herzegovina, Romania, Portugal, Poland, Slovenia, and Bulgaria.

Having established a solid reputation among the institutions involved in cervical cancer prevention in Europe, the ECCA has now opened membership to individuals.

We have welcomed in 2007 our first individual members and this membership is now steadily growing also.

Last, but not least, the ECCA is pleased to welcome the International Union Against Cancer (UICC) and Program for Appropriate Technology in Health (PATH) as members. Both of these organisations are highly respected international NGOs dedicated to the reduction of cancer and the improvement of human health

around the world. We are looking forward to working more closely with them on cervical cancer control projects in the future.



2nd ECCPW in preparation

From 20-26 January 2008, the ECCA will hold the second ECCPW, co-organised with the UICC and PATH. As in 2007, the ECCPW 2008 will undertake a series of coordinated activities designed to attract the interest of the media and raise the profile of cervical cancer prevention among the general public, politicians and public health decision-makers across Europe.

At this point, several events have already been scheduled:

- The ECCA, together with the Cervical Cancer Interest Group (CCIG) will officially present the STOP Cervical Cancer Petition to representatives of the President of the European Commission and the Commissioner for Health at an event in the European Parliament. Simultaneously, members of the ECCA will hold similar ceremonies in their national parliaments with

the petition being delivered to their respective Ministers for Health.

- The inaugural meeting of the European CCIG (E-CCIG), "The First European Cervical Cancer Summit Meeting", will be held in Brussels on 22 January from 9.00 to 15.00. The objective of this meeting is to endorse recommendations for the implementation of organised cervical cancer prevention programmes across Europe that will be delivered to the European Commission, the European Council, the Permanent Representations in Brussels, national Ministers for Health and the Slovenia Presidency in time for their meeting on cancer prevention in February, 2008.

If you are in contact with politicians who you think would like to be involved, please could you communicate their names

and contact details to the ECCA central office, so that we can forward them to the chairs of the ECCIG who will invite them to participate in this event.

As in 2007, ECCA members across Europe will also run national activities to increase awareness of cervical cancer prevention in their countries. These will include educational seminars, roundtable discussions with national politicians and public health officials, press conferences to highlight national projects, etc.

The first ECCPW in January 2007 was a great success with 32 events organised in 12 countries. If you are interested in participating in the 2nd ECCPW, please contact the ECCA central office. We will be happy to help you prepare the events in your country.

Other news

ECCA attends two congresses this autumn

This autumn, the ECCA will be present at two congresses with its booth and a selection of its educational materials:

- 4th Congress of the European Federation of Colposcopy, Belgrade 19-22 September 2007
- Eurogin, Monaco, 4-7 October 2007.

These congresses will be excellent opportunities for the ECCA to exhibit the work that you have all participated in developing, review the website and range of printed educational materials, and meet the ECCA staff. We look forward to seeing you at the ECCA booth.

European Commission sends out a Cervical Cancer Screening questionnaire to all Member States

Member States had until the end of July 2007 to respond to a questionnaire about the status of cancer screening, including cervical cancer, in their country. The questionnaire, which has been sent to all 27 member states in June, requests that member states provide information on how they have implemented the

recommendations for cancer screening adopted by the Council of Ministers in 2003 (2003/878/EC). Once all the member states have returned the questionnaires, the Commission will publish the results by the end of the 2007.

If you would like to write to your Minister of Health to enquire about the status of this questionnaire, please contact the ECCA who can provide you with guidance.

WHO Europe: Strengthening cervical cancer prevention in Europe

To support countries in making informed decisions on the prevention of cervical cancer, Prof Gunta Lazdane and colleagues from the WHO Regional Office for Europe held a meeting for national policy makers and programme managers on 29-31 May 2007. The meeting was attended by 98 participants from 42 countries – of which 23 EU countries and a range of partners, including the ECCA, EC, ECDC, IPPF, UICC, UNFPA and others. The meeting covered all aspects of cervical cancer prevention but highlighted the need for organised cervical cancer

screening programmes to be equitably implemented across Europe, noting that HPV vaccination should be implemented within the context of an organised cancer control strategy designed to meet the needs of each individual country. National cervical cancer control strategies were presented and the challenges and opportunities of HPV vaccination were discussed. Other issues raised included the need for ongoing cervical cancer research, vaccine cost-effectiveness studies and the need for effective education programmes to be introduced for medical practitioners and the general public.

If you would like more information about any of these issues, please contact the ECCA central office.

Commission to publish cervical screening guidelines

The Commission will soon publish the European Guidelines for Quality Assurance in Cervical Cancer Screening which clearly set out the requirements of an effective cervical cancer screening programme. The development of these

guidelines was led by Dr Mark Arbyn from the Belgian Scientific Institute of Public Health and was accomplished with the support of numerous experts from across Europe.

Health Ministers discuss HPV Vaccines – Commission sets up working group to review issues with the implementation of these vaccines across the EU

Following a discussion in the Health Council, the Commission has set up an expert working group to discuss the HPV vaccines. As reported in Hansard, Ms Rosie Winterton, the UK Minister for State, reported "On the HPV vaccine, Luxembourg raised the issue due to concerns that misleading information about the vaccine could jeopardise preventative work. Ministers from Portugal and Spain echoed these concerns. The Commission noted that an expert working group would be looking at the new vaccine." Hansard 30 Apr 2007; Column 36WS. Meanwhile, we understand that the ECDC in Stockholm is also looking at this issue.

Want more information about cervical cancer and its prevention?

Contact us at info@ecca.info

