

# ESMO 2020 VISION

**A society evolving at the pace of oncology**





# **EVOLVING CHALLENGES IN ONCOLOGY**

Cancer patients and their needs are at the centre of all that we do: our profession is driven by our determination, individually and collectively, to secure the best possible outcomes for people with cancer across Europe and around the world.

# THREE MAJOR TRENDS

## 1. INTEGRATED CANCER CARE

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Bridging cancer research, diagnosis,  
and treatment to improve patient outcomes

## 2. SPECIALISED EDUCATION

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Supporting oncologists in a fast-changing  
professional environment

## 3. SUSTAINABLE CANCER CARE

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Advocating for access to quality treatment  
and for cancer prevention

**As our knowledge of disease increases and our methods of treatment advance, our profession and Society evolve to integrate every new development into the effective delivery of our mission.**

This process of continuous improvement is reflected in all ESMO's initiatives and activities, and also in the periodic assessments through which the Society gauges the future direction of oncology and the changing needs of its members. In January 2015 the ESMO Executive Board of Directors identified three major trends in short to mid-term developments in oncology: increasing integration of cancer care, increasing specialisation in oncology education, and increasing emphasis on sustainable cancer care. For each of these, it considered the challenges posed to the profession and specified the tangible ESMO actions, existing and planned, that address these challenges.

The results are summarised here: **not a change of focus, but a sharpening and clarifying of the Society's vision for its members in a fast-changing environment.**

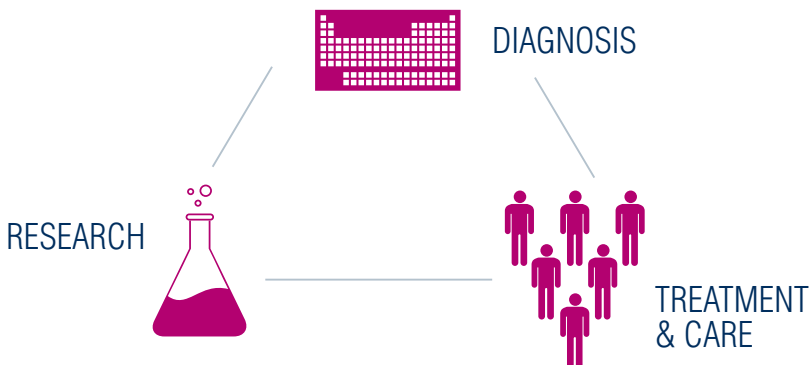
# 1. INTEGRATED CANCER CARE

## Bridging cancer research, diagnosis, and treatment to improve patient outcomes

Molecular tumour analysis is increasingly fundamental in choosing the most appropriate anti-cancer therapies for patients, laying the groundwork for the development of precision medicine. The next five years will see oncologists working increasingly in close teamwork with colleagues in pathology, molecular biology, bioinformatics, and related disciplines, integrating data and expertise from the work of professionals involved in diagnosis, basic, and translational cancer research, as well as organ specialists.

### CHALLENGES

Despite this trend, Europe has not yet achieved full integration from molecular analysis to cancer care. Disparities remain between countries in their access to diagnostic tools, while imbalances in provision of resources and facilities can obstruct closer collaboration between clinicians and basic researchers.



2020

2015

## ESMO ACTIONS

ESMO has long supported an integrated approach to cancer care and is working to make it a reality.

### Annual congress platform

From 2016 on, the ESMO Congress will be organised annually as a dedicated platform, enabling knowledge sharing and networking between professionals in diverse fields, including professionals in diagnosis, and oncology clinicians. As of 2017, the ESMO Congress will be organised in partnership with EACR (European Association for Cancer Research), enlarging the network to include basic researchers as well. The goal is reciprocal understanding: clinicians will acquire the latest knowledge about diagnostic advances while researchers will gain feedback from clinicians on new treatment outcomes.

### Collaboration with cancer research organisations

ESMO is increasing the number and scale of collaborations and partnerships on joint events and projects with cancer research organisations and disease-specific oncology professionals.

### Monitoring availability of molecular diagnostic tools

ESMO is committed to monitor and highlight disparities in availability of molecular diagnostic tools and facilities as part of its mission to achieve equal access to optimal cancer care across Europe.

### ESMO Faculty: integrating basic researchers and pathologists

The Society's integration of basic researchers and of pathology specialists into the ESMO Faculty is a clear step in this direction. This commitment is also reflected in the ESMO Clinical Practical Guidelines, which draw on the joint expertise of outstanding doctors from varied disciplines, and which emphasise the importance of integrated treatment plans in each specific patient setting.

# 2. SPECIALISED EDUCATION

## Supporting oncologists in a fast-changing professional environment

Increased integration of cancer care brings with it increased demand for highly specialised expertise. Complex, information-intensive molecular biology underlies many promising new treatment opportunities; this naturally accelerates oncology's evolution into a profession of specialists. Multi-professional teams, organised into organ-specific tumour boards (such as breast or prostate cancer), are increasingly gaining importance, and could optimally become the standard for delivering quality cancer care. This structured approach is also increasingly favoured in government reimbursement policies.

### CHALLENGES

In this increasingly specialised environment, oncologists need to adapt to rapid changes in standards of practice and further sharpen their expertise, gaining in-depth, disease-specific knowledge and learning how to collaborate effectively with other specialists in an integrated, multi-professional setting. For some, this means acquiring a sub-specialisation to achieve the highest standards over a limited range of diseases. For others, who may work in smaller hospitals or practices, there remains the need to provide optimal care to a variety of patients.

Complex information      Organ-specific tumour boards  
Molecular biology      Changing standards  
Multi-professional teams  
Specialised Education      Immunotherapies  
Disease-specific knowledge      Sub-specialisation  
Integrated cancer care      Translational research  
Sharpen expertise



2020

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## ESMO ACTIONS

ESMO is committed to educating oncology professionals so they can keep pace with such a fast-evolving field.

### Fully integrated oncology education

Focussing on the career needs of future oncologists, the ESMO Fellowship and Award Committee is elaborating ESMO's young oncologist development framework, which envisions fully integrated education based on three pillars: early-career disease-specific specialization; understanding of the role of immunotherapy in cancer treatment; integrated approaches to work with other oncology professionals.

### Leaders Generation Programme

Supporting oncologists at all career stages, the Society's soon-to-be-launched Leaders Generation Programme will give qualified oncologists the managerial skills to take positions of higher responsibility and help advance the profession.

### Multi-professional & specialised educational events

ESMO events and educational activities provide comprehensive updates on the latest clinical practice and scientific topics, and also integrate throughout their programmes a wide range of oncology professionals with specific competencies. This approach is already reflected in ESMO's Preceptorship courses, disease-specific educational meetings (e.g., ELCC, IMPAKT, WorldGI, EMUC, ICHNO, Sarcoma & GIST) and meetings on special topics (e.g., Signalling Pathways in cancer, Immuno Oncology), as well as Clinical trials workshops.

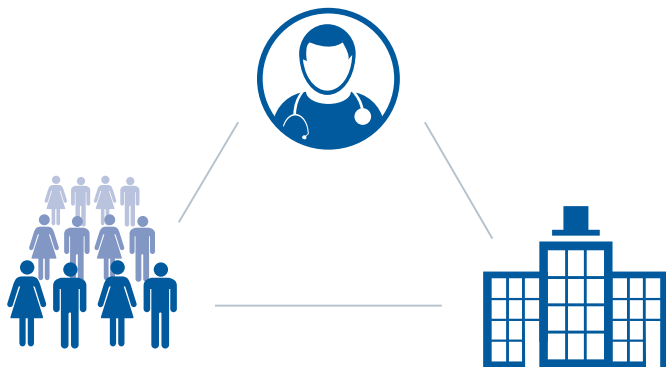
# 3. SUSTAINABLE CANCER CARE

## Advocating for access to quality treatment and for cancer prevention

As our understanding of immunology and the complex molecular biology underlying different cancers advances, the potential for personalised therapies continues to grow – but so do the costs of each patient's cancer treatment. Government authorities must increasingly seek a balance between treatment costs and clinical benefit when assessing reimbursement policies. Ensuring sustainability of and access to optimal cancer care for all patients is essential.

### CHALLENGE

Sustainable cancer care relies on information: oncologists and other decision-makers are seeking for guidance in choosing optimal, cost-effective treatments for their patients. Sustainability also links to prevention, educating the wider public and making everybody aware of potential risks. Like cancer care itself, this public educational effort requires cooperation across a range of stakeholders and draws on the expertise of various specialists.



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## ESMO ACTIONS

ESMO's mission commits the Society to improving the quality of cancer care advancing the science and practice of oncology, to promoting oncology education for doctors and patients.

### Advocating for cancer prevention

ESMO's core commitment to disseminate knowledge on cancer prevention and educate the general public also includes collaboration with advocacy groups and governmental stakeholders to provide and inform workshops, meetings, and publications to make health-conscious behaviour and cancer prevention a public priority.

### Evidence-based position statements

The Society also intends to publish evidence-based positions on cancer-related matters of interest to the general public to support mature, objective decision-making.

### ESMO Magnitude of Clinical Benefit scale

The ESMO Magnitude of Clinical Benefit Scale is a powerful tool to help clinicians choose the most effective anti-cancer medicines for their patients and to identify drugs with significant clinical benefit so that they can be adopted rapidly across Europe.

### Availability and Accessibility of Anti-Neoplastic Medicines

ESMO has implemented projects with relevant stakeholders on managing cancer treatment costs and ensuring that anti-cancer medicines are made available to all cancer patients. Recent ESMO-led studies provide the oncology community with reliable resources to support informed, meaningful decisions based on treatment outcomes and cost-effectiveness. Among them, the ESMO European Consortium Study on the Availability and Accessibility of Anti-Neoplastic Medicines Across Europe and worldwide provides health authorities with the data to assess whether anti-cancer medicines are actually available to patients who are prescribed them, and whether patients can afford them.

**ACROSS ONCOLOGY. WORLDWIDE.**

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