



ESMO Statement
74th World Health Assembly, 24 May – 1 June 2021
Agenda item 15: Health Workforce

Honourable Chair, Esteemed Delegates,

The European Society for Medical Oncology (ESMO) is a global network of more than 25,000 cancer professionals from over 160 countries.

ESMO welcomes the Resolution on 'Protecting, safeguarding and investing in the health and care workforce' because to achieve universal health coverage governments must optimise their current workforce and plan for future needs. For cancer, it is essential that national cancer control plans include the necessary funding for the education and training of cancer professionals. Only an adequate and well-trained cancer workforce is able to ensure quality delivery of timely cancer screening, accurate diagnosis, the safe and efficient administration of cancer therapies, and compassionate palliative care services.

As cancer doctors who specialise in the treatment and management of cancer patients, we have developed a Global Core Curriculum for Medical Oncology that outlines the qualifications necessary to practice our profession. The Curriculum is freely accessible on our website www.esmo.org and can be used by countries that may require an educational training reference document.

In this WHO International Year of Health and Care Workers we honour our colleagues and call on governments to provide them with the protection, working conditions, and the tools that they need to remain healthy and save lives.

Thank you.