

Programme

Fifth annual Greece Cancer Summit

Evaluating Europe's
latest cancer strategies



March 7th, 2025 | Athenaeum InterContinental Athens Hotel

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08:30	Registration and refreshments
09:00	Welcome and introduction from the moderator: Joan Hoey , editor of the Democracy Index and Europe consultant, Economist Intelligence
09:05	Keynote address. Four years of the “Europe’s Beating Cancer Plan” What progress has the EU’s flagship cancer strategy made towards its aim of a “cancer-free EU”? * Olívér Várhelyi , commissioner for health and animal welfare, European Commission
09:25	Opening panel. How is Greece faring in the fight against cancer? This panel will discuss the strategy and action framework for Greece’s NCP, highlighting the priorities and objectives. It will also assess whether the targets regarding the fight against cancer were met last year and what is expected from 2025. It will also consider the reaction of doctors and the pharmaceutical industry to the plan. Adonis Georgiadis , minister of health, Greece Zenia Saridaki-Zoras , medical oncologist and president of the board, Hellenic Society of Medical Oncology (HeSMO) George Kapetanakis , president, Hellenic Cancer Federation (ELLOK) Cyril Schiever , president of mid-Europe region, MSD
10:25	Panel. The importance of a national cancer plan NCPs are critical components of the EU’s cancer policy. This panel will look at what these plans contain and which EU countries have implemented the most successful examples. What are the scientific priorities of Greece’s plan and does it meet the demands of patients and doctors? How should the EU hold member states accountable for implementing their plans? Can monitoring tools, such as dashboards, help countries to assess progress towards their targets? Tit Albreht , president, European Public Health Association João Breda , head, WHO Athens Office on Quality of Care and Patient Safety, special representative of the regional director & officer in charge, WHO Greece Thomas Hofmarcher , health economist, Swedish Institute of Health Economics Panos Kanavos , associate professor of international health policy, London School of Economics and Political Science Nikolaos Tsoukalas , director, oncology dept., Veterans Hospital 417 NIMTS and general secretary of the board, HeSMO (via connection) George Kapetanakis , president, ELLOK

11:15 Panel. **Greece's investment in cancer** prevention

In cancer, prevention is better (and cheaper) than cure. Screening, education and government policy all play a role in reducing the number of individuals who get cancer in the first place. But many governments struggle to provide such services equally throughout society. This panel will look at the effectiveness of Greece's cancer prevention policies and early detection screening programmes. It will also ask how screening programmes can be made more equitable. It will also investigate what impact vaccination has had in preventing cervical cancer.

[Eirini Agapidaki](#), alternate minister, Ministry of Health, Government of Greece

[Konstantinos Syrigos](#), professor of medicine and oncology, National and Kapodistrian University of Athens; chairman of the board, Hellenic Association of Lung Cancer

[Theodoros Agorastos](#), professor emeritus of obstetrics and gynecology, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki; president, Hellenic HPV Society (via connection)

[Amanda Psyrrri](#), professor of medical oncology, National Kapodistrian University of Athens; chairman of internal medicine, Attikon University Hospital (recorded message)

[Nikos Iosif](#), president, Human Health Intelligence Organization, chief executive, Brains I.C.S.

Commentator

[Emmanouil Saloustris](#), associate professor of oncology, University of Thessaly; board member, HeSMO

12:05 **Networking Break**

12:35 Panel. The value of early detection

The earlier a cancer is diagnosed, the better a patient's chances of survival. It is also cheaper to treat cancer in its earlier stages. This panel will discuss how early detection of cancer translates into better health outcomes for cancer patients and cost savings for health authorities. How significant is patient education in the early identification of cancer? The panel will also look at two case studies on lung cancer: screening at the Papanikolaou clinic and the Union for International Cancer Control's lung cancer collaboration initiative.

[Yannick Romero](#), senior knowledge and advocacy manager, Union for International Cancer Control (via connection)

* [Michalis Lontos](#), medical oncologist and assistant professor of oncology, National and Kapodistrian University of Athens; member of the board, HeSMO

[Korina Pateli-Bell](#), president, FairLife Lung Cancer Care

[Kostas Athanasakis](#), assistant professor in health economics and health technology assessment, University of West Attica

[Sophia Lampaki](#), reader in pulmonology-lung cancer, Pulmonology Clinic of Aristotle University of Thessaloniki

Commentator

[Ippokratis Korantzis](#), medical oncologist, St Luke's Hospital, Thessaloniki

13:25

Panel. The significance of timely and holistic cancer care

Doctors, and their patients, are increasingly recognising the value of holistic care pathways for treating cancer. This panel will ask what a holistic care pathway for cancer patients looks like and what benefits it can bring. What can other EU countries learn from France's groundbreaking comprehensive cancer care centres, and why has it taken Greece so long to set up its first? Why is the expansion of OIKOTHEN (a home nursing programme for cancer patients) so important? This session will also consider a case study of a breast cancer care centre which is elevating the experience of cancer patients.

[Marios Themistocleous](#), deputy minister of health, Greece

[Olga Balaoura](#), chief executive, 1st Health Region of Attica, Ministry of Health, Greece (via connection)

[Michail Nikolaou](#), medical oncologist, "Saint Savvas" General Anticancer Oncology Hospital of Athens; vice-president of the board, HeSMO

[Paraskevi Michalopoulou](#), president, Hellenic Association of Women with Breast Cancer; vice-president, ELLOK

Commentator

[Maria Avgoustidou](#), medical oncologist, Athens Medical Group

14:15

Networking lunch

15:20

Panel. Cancer care in the digital era

Advanced technologies, such as AI, are revolutionising medicine. This panel will discuss how digital innovations are being used within cancer care management in Greece and elsewhere. How can AI improve cancer imaging and what benefits can the EU's cancer imaging initiative bring to national healthcare systems? How can real world data be used to improve evidence-based decision-making? The session will also ask whether Greece is taking full advantage of EU funding intended to enhance cancer care.

* [Dimosthenis Anagnostopoulos](#), secretary-general for information systems and digital governance, Ministry of Digital Governance, Greece

[Manolis Tsiknakis](#), professor of biomedical informatics and eHealth, Hellenic Mediterranean University

[Niki Tsouma](#), chief executive, e-Government Center for Social Security Services, Greece

[Anastasios Boutis](#), consultant medical oncologist and director, Theagenio Anticancer Hospital of Thessaloniki; treasurer, HeSMO

[Emmanouela Braoudaki](#), senior consultant, Health Policy Unit, CMT Prooptiki

Commentator

[Anastasios Kyriazoglou](#), medical oncologist, Attikon University hospital

16:10

Panel. A glimpse into the future of cancer innovation

AI is not the only technology transforming cancer research and treatment. This panel will look at the full range of innovations and how they will impact the future of clinical cancer research. What policies or initiatives encourage innovation in cancer research and what are the barriers to delivering such innovation in Europe? What novel mechanisms of cancer management are on the horizon? This session will consider a case study of one treatment centre which is ensuring patient's access to innovative treatment methods.

[Klaus Schlueter](#), vice-president Europe, Middle-East, Africa, Canada, value & implementation, medical and scientific affairs, MSD

[John Souglakos](#), medical oncologist and professor of medical oncology, University of Crete

[Ilias Athanasiadis](#), medical oncologist and director of oncology clinic, Mitera Hospital

[Ioannis Boukovinas](#), medical oncologist and head of BIOCLINIC Oncology Unit, Thessaloniki

16:50

Panel. Funding cancer innovation

Ambitious cancer plans are expensive. But continuity of funding is critical for cancer management and patient outcomes. This panel will look at how countries can ensure sustainable financing for cancer innovation and whether it is possible to overcome the impact of years of austerity on innovation in healthcare. It will also consider how the European Commission is helping to strengthen Greece's health and technology assessment regulations and whether the EU can reposition itself as an attractive research hub.

[Aris Angelis](#), secretary-general for strategic planning, Ministry of Health, Greece

* [Anastasios Gaitanis](#), secretary general for research and innovation, Ministry of Development, Greece

* [Jinane Ghattas](#), scientist and project manager, Cancer Centre, Sciensano

[Nandia Gogozotou](#), non-executive president, National Organisation for the Provision of Health Services; president, Drug Price Negotiation Committee

[Vasiliki-Rafaëla Vakouftsi](#), president, Greek Patients' Association

Commentator

[Vasilios Barbounis](#), medical oncologist, director of the 5th Oncology Clinic, IASO Hospital

17:35 Closing remarks. **What are Greece's cancer priorities for 2025?**

Zenia Saridaki-Zoras, medical oncologist and president of the board, HeSMO

George Kapetanakis, president, ELLOK

17:50 Close of programme

* Awaiting confirmation

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