



Joint symposium of EAPC and ESMO
"Integration of oncology and palliative care"
at the EAPC World Congress in Berlin in May 2019

The 16th World Congress of the European Association for Palliative Care with the overall theme "Global Palliative Care — Shaping the future" will explore the momentum and opportunities for the development of palliative care internationally, focussing on questions related to equitable access to palliative care in Europe and on the world stage and by this providing the opportunity to examine the extent to which palliative care has been included in universal health coverage within various health systems.

One major aspect in this context is the integration of palliative care and oncology, as a challenging field, which has to adapt to rapidly developing new therapeutics concepts, patient outcomes and needs. Patients live longer and they live often longer with one or multiple chronic diseases. The Lancet Commission paper *Integration of oncology and palliative care: a Lancet Oncology Commission (Kaasa et al, Lancet Oncology 2018)* as well as the ESMO position paper on Supportive and Palliative Care (Jordan et al Annals of Oncology 2017) are an excellent basis for a transdisciplinary and multiprofessional discussion about when and how palliative care should be delivered in cancer? What is the optimal model for integrated care? And how can integration be anchored by management and policy makers at all levels of health care, followed by adequate resource allocation, a willingness to prioritise goals and needs, and sustained enthusiasm to help generate support for better integration. How it can be reflected in international and national cancer plans, and be followed by developments of new care models, education and research programmes, all of which should be adapted to the specific cultural contexts within which they are situated.

*We are very much looking forward to welcome you to the **EAPC – ESMO Joint Symposium** which will take place on **Friday 24th May 2019** as a full day program at #EAPC2019 and address **TOGETHER WITH YOU** the growing challenges and interfaces in this changing area of *Integration of oncology and palliative care*.*

On behalf of the Joint Program Committee of EAPC and ESMO

Anne Letsch, Sébastien Moine, and Christoph Ostgathe (EAPC) together with Karin Jordan and Stein Kaasa (ESMO)