

# WHAT PATIENTS EXPECT FROM THEIR MEDICAL TEAM

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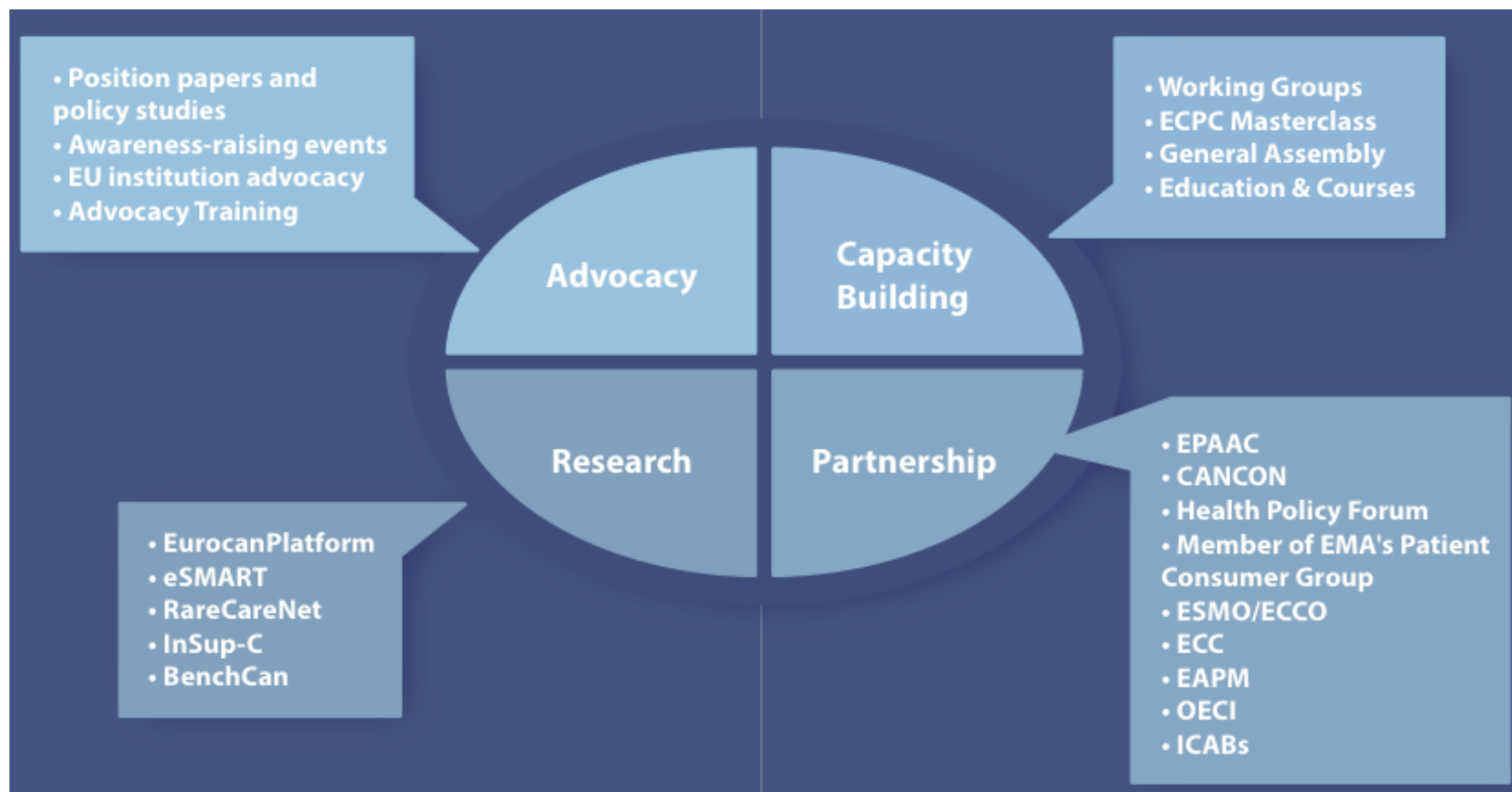
**ECPC Secretary**

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# EUROPEAN CANCER PATIENT COALITION



## **ECPC Mission:**

### **ADVOCATING FOR IMPROVED CANCER CARE FOR EUROPEAN CITIZENS**

- Receive the most accurate information and being proactively involved in the treatment process
- Right to equal and timely access to appropriate specialized care, underpinned by research
- Receive care in health systems that ensure improved outcomes, patient rehabilitation, best quality of life and affordable healthcare

**(Article 1-3, The European Cancer Patient's Bill of Rights – ECC)**

# MULTIDISCIPLINARITY

## KEY ELEMENT IN CANCER CARE

- Identified by the Lisbon Roundtable (*Portuguese EU Presidency, 2007*) as the best approach to organising cancer care
- To address the whole process and the complexity of cancer care including psychosocial support

# MULTIDISCIPLINARITY

## AFFECTING CANCER PATIENTS' JOURNEY

1. Accurate diagnosis and staging
2. Selection of appropriate treatment based on preoperative assessment of imaging and results of pathology
3. Assessment of an evidence-based treatment plan
4. In line with clinical practice guidelines
5. Individualized to the tumour type and patient's condition
6. Respecting the psychological and social needs
7. Involving different specialities according to the patient's needs (palliative care, rehabilitation, nutrition specialist, image therapist)

# IMPROVING COORDINATION AND INFORMATION

- Teamwork of oncologists enables discussion and verification of evidence-based treatment
- Avoids gaps in medical documentation which may occur in the setting of fragmented care
- Medical decisions recorded into the hospitals' database (connection to the population-based registries)
- Enables implementation of scientific innovations
- Coordinates consultations with other specialists
- Involves GP into the process (long-term care, holistic health assessment)

# HIGHLIGHTING THE ROLE OF AN EXPERT NURSE

- Exchanging information with the team members
- Following the process of care management
- Bridging the patient (and family) and the medical team
- Crucial role in providing patient with expert advice (incl. side effect management, adherence to therapy)
- Recommendations on supportive therapies
- Guidance to patient's family members
- Promoting a healthy lifestyle throughout the patient journey

# PATIENTS' RIGHTS

- An informed patient
- Actively engaged in his treatment
- Involved in decision-making
- Patient's treatment and care preferences taken into account
- Therapeutic options vs. quality of life discussed
- Responsible physician assigned at every stage of treatment
- Professional responsible for communication (personalized approach, special care for disadvantaged patients)
- **Right** for a second opinion
- **Right** for a choice of treatment/provider
- **Right** to access his medical documents



# OPTIMIZING PATIENTS' INVOLVEMENT IN THE TREATMENT PROCESS

- Ensure clear understanding of the MDT system
- Ensure comprehensive information upon changes of clinical situation and upon changes of treatment strategy
- Ensure information resources (printed or digital materials) related to management of treatment adverse effects
- Contacts to patient support groups/support programmes
- Contacts to trustworthy cancer-related websites
- Guidance on options of rehabilitative care while on cancer therapy

# MULTIDISCIPLINARITY AND SURVIVORSHIP CARE

- Plan for a routine follow-up (possible relapse)
- Plan for post-treatment interventions (rehabilitation, re-integration into work process )

# DIVERSITY IN PATIENTS' ACCESS TO MDTs ACROSS EUROPE

- Implementation of multidisciplinary through National Cancer Plans remains in local competencies
- MDTs not specifically mentioned in some national plans – while multidisciplinary approach and continuity of personalized care is well defined in other countries
- Scientific Societies, Patient Organisations and National and Regional Health Authorities should provide policy support to the implementation and the sustainability of MDTs through the National Cancer Control plans in line with the outcomes of the **EPAAC project**

# THANK YOU!