Editorial

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European Association of NeuroOncology Magazine 2012; 2 (1)

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Dear EANO members and readers of the magazine,

This is the second edition of the EANO Neuro-Oncology Magazine and we are glad to say that the statistics of the first issue are promising. The overall hits in the first 3 months amounted to 2045, the main articles were downloaded about 200 times each as PDFs, and the absolute leading article was the paper by Kathy Oliver on patient advocacy. This teaches us a lesson as the awareness of patients and carers is large, and the EANO Magazine may have a potential role in the issues of patients and carers.

Issue 1/2011 contained several important articles such as the EANO guidelines for the diagnosis of glial tumours, technical advances in glioma therapy, tolerability of chemotherapy in the elderly, and the issue of central nervous neurotoxicity in cancer treatment, which is important in oncology. Issue 1/2012 follows along this path and provides articles on molecular markers as well as 2 articles on peripheral neurotoxicity, which is important in the treatment of cancer patients.

These are topics occurring in daily practice, written by experts and of high practical value, and this is the intention of the EANO Neuro-Oncology Magazine – to provide educational resources in the field of neuro-oncology.

In September 2012, the next EANO congress will take place in Marseille. The programme and scientific committees have developed an attractive programme, which will feature developments in diagnosis and treatment. The popular educational day will have an attractive programme and also contributions of scientific and translational background. There will be enough space for free topics and posters and I cordially invite you to participate actively in the scientific programme. It is important for the neuro-oncological community, as well for the authors of scientific papers, to present and discuss results, findings, and observations. As announced previously, we will also have several travel grants for young neuro-oncologists to facilitate attendance since it is one of the missions of the EANO to promote the attendance of young researchers and clinicians.

At the last EANO meeting in Maastricht we arranged an interesting session on neuro-oncology in former Eastern Europe and in North Africa, and it was interesting to learn from the participants how neuro-oncology is practiced. It seems that much work is done, but the interdisciplinary approach towards neuro-oncologic patients will still need some time to grow. At the World Congress of Neurology in Marakech (http://www.wfneurology.org/), there was much interest in neuro-oncology resulting in a main topic and a teaching course. A few weeks later, the Tunisian Society of Neurology dedicated their yearly meeting to neuro-oncology, which is a great initiative. As previously in Maastricht a meeting will take place in Marseille for national societies of neuro-oncology and we will encourage countries to develop interdisciplinary national societies.

The position of neuro-oncology in Europe also varies from country to country. The intention is to establish a multidisciplinary joint committee for neuro-oncology within the UEMS (http://www.uems.net), which would allow equal access from all participating fields, such as neurosurgery, neurology, radiotherapy, general oncology, pathology, and probably also rehabilitation. The negotiations at the UEMS level are supported by the European Board of Neurology (http://www.uems-neuroboard.org/ebn), which has officially applied for such a status.

Within oncology, and presumably neuro-oncology, the concept of rehabilitation (“cancer rehabilitation”) is developing and will be an important addition to medical and surgical treatment. In particular in neuro-oncological patients, rehabilitation not only of sensory and motor functions, but of cognitive problems is becoming increasingly important and will add to the improved and holistic care of patients.

Last but not least we have to continue our efforts in palliative and supportive care in patients with neuro-oncological diseases, and efforts are made to include glioma into the upcoming guidelines for palliative care of the European Federation of Neurological Societies (http://www.efns.org). The EFNS initiative on e-learning (ebrain) contains a chapter on end-of-life aspects in glioma patients and can be useful for teaching purposes.

Wishing you a successful 2012 and looking forward to meet you in Marseille,

Wolfgang Grisold, MD
President of the EANO