

# NEWSLETTER

Vol. 1 | Issue 01 | June 2019

Everything you need to know  
about what's new at CECOG

**P. 2 INTERVIEW WITH  
PROF. DR. CHRISTOPH ZIELINSKI**

What's shaking the oncology industry?

**P.4. CLINICAL TRIALS**

Status of Phase III PEARL trial and Phase III SPLENDOUR trial

**P.6. CECOG ACADEMY**

Latest Continuous Medical Education Courses (CME) and  
Upcoming events

**P.8 GOVERNMENTAL  
INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS INITIATIVE**

What's new for the GOIA Initiative and  
what to expect in the next GOIA  
meetings

**P.9. NEW RELEASES**

Discover the new world of CECOG



## Interview with Prof. Dr. Christoph Zielinski

### What's shaking the oncology industry?

Again, the spread of knowledge on the use of such compounds in various evolving indications is essential, as they prove to not only have clinical efficacy, but also hitherto rather unexperienced side effects which have to be met appropriately in order to allow the patient maximal advantage. CECOG is proud to have a highly innovative electronic program which enables regular weekly transborder tumor boards devoted entirely to the use of immune checkpoint inhibitors spanning across Central and Southeastern Europe. The TIGER program - as we have named it - has involved roughly 100 patients during the past year and is scheduled to continue due to its very high acceptance among the involved physicians and institutions from Central and Southeastern Europe.

#### **What can we expect from CECOG in the near future?**

CECOG has been expanding considerably during the last years. Important peer-review journals, where CECOG was and is very successful, but also regarding the CECOG Academy and the GOIA initiative. The latter is supposed to review cancer plans of various countries of Central and Southeastern Europe, and to develop a cancer plan which could be adopted within the entire geographic area. This is an of course very ambitious plan, but we are confident to achieve this. Regarding the CECOG Academy, we are on the way to expand the provision of continuing medical education by the inclusion of malignancies in addition to the present lung as well as various thoracic cancers, pancreatic cancer and immunotherapies in various indications, but also by the expansion of the recently generated and electronically distributed newsletter on oncology addressed to oncologists from Central and Southeastern Europe.

Finally, an expansion of the geographic region which CECOG covers is also considered and has been entered by co-organizing a recent conference on lung cancers performed by the Central and Eastern European School of Oncology (CEESO) by Prof. Zaridze in Moscow. Thus, CECOG is set to meet all challenges and exciting innovations in oncology.

“CECOG is set to meet all challenges and exciting innovations in oncology.”

## Clinical Trials

### PHASE III PEARL STUDY: IN PATIENTS WITH POSTMENOPAUSAL METASTATIC BREAST CANCER (MBC)

The Pearl Trial is a phase III clinical trial of Palbociclib in combination with Endocrine therapy (exemestane or fulvestrant) versus chemotherapy (capecitabine) in Hormonal Receptor (HR) positive/HER2 negative Metastatic Breast Cancer (MBC) patients with Resistance to Aromatase inhibitors – “The PEARL study”.

#### “THE PEARL STUDY”

This two-arm interventional trial sponsored by Geicam is an important step forward in the assessment of information regarding the safety and effectiveness of combination therapy for Metastatic Breast Cancer (MBC) in postmenopausal patients.

The Pearl Study is an international, multicenter, controlled phase III study with randomized allocation and open label mask. Countries holding this trial include Austria, Hungary, Spain and Israel.

Out of a total of 601 enrolled patients coming from those geographic regions, 113 patients were enrolled through the CECOG’s sites in Austria, Hungary and Israel.

The recruitment process of the Pearl Trial was completed in July 2018 and as of this moment, this clinical research study is active and ongoing the final data cut off. The first data update will be presented at the 42nd San Antonio Breast Cancer Symposium (SABCS) in Texas, USA, in December 10-14, 2019.



## Clinical Trials

### **Phase III SPLENDOUR Study: in patients with advanced NSCLC**

The SPLENDOUR Trial is a phase III clinical trial of denosumab in addition to standard first-line anticancer treatment in advanced NSCLC patients. “The SPLENDOUR study”.

This two-arm randomized, open-label, interventional phase III trial sponsored by ETOPI is a treatment research designed to investigate how well the standard treatment (platinum-based doublet chemotherapy) in combination with denosumab works compared with the standard treatment alone in patients with non-small cell lung cancer (NSCLC) that has spread to other parts of the body.

The Trial Steering Committee decided on December 2018 to terminate the SPLENDOUR trial accrual prematurely due to insufficient recruitment rate. The study patients will still receive treatment as indicated.



## CECOG ACADEMY

### Multidisciplinary Refresher Course on Thoracic Malignancies (MRCTM)

Brdo – Ljubljana, Slovenia | 5-6 April 2019

The Multidisciplinary Refresher Course on Thoracic Malignancies held in Ljubljana, Slovenia on April 5-6, 2019, certified by CECOG Academy was co-chaired by Prof. Dr. C. Zielinski, Prof. Dr. T. Cufer, Dr. MA. Hoda, Dr. M. Jakopovic, Dr. M. Dediu, Dr. W. Konopa and Dr. D. Radosavljevic, and co-sponsored by AstraZeneca, Boehringer Ingelheim, Pfizer, Merck Sharp & Dome and Roche.

This MRCTM provided an unique on-site opportunity for the dissemination and exchange of state-of-the-art oncology knowledge in a multidisciplinary setting.

With the objective of facilitating interaction among participants, the course was divided in three activities, namely oral presentations, open discussion of clinical cases and networking events.

The lectures of the Multidisciplinary Refresher Course on Thoracic Malignancies addressed 17 topics in the field of thoracic oncology.

Non-Small Cell Lung Cancer, Immunotherapy and beyond, Mesothelioma and Thymic Malignancies, Supportive and Palliative care are among themes that were discussed in the MRCTM 2019. The next MRCTM will take place in the first trimester of 2020.



## CECOG ACADEMY

### Upcoming Events

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Immuno Oncology and more –  
Highlights 2019  
18-19 October 2019

Location: Museums Quartier, Vienna  
Language: German

CEE Lung Cancer Academy  
8-9 November 2019

Location: Vienna (Invitation-only)  
Language: English

CECOG Pancreas Cancer Academy  
29-30 November 2019

Location: Vienna (Invitation-only)  
Language: English

### EDUCATIONAL COURSE ON LUNG CANCER | CEESO, Moscow, RUSSIA on May 24-25, 2019

Recently, CECOG Academy had the joy of being part of the Educational Course on Lung Cancer organized by the Central and East European School of Oncology (CEESO) in Moscow. From Epidemiology and Prevention to Immunotherapy of Lung Cancers, the Educational Course on Lung Cancer provided its participants with an unique opportunity to deepen the scientific understanding of lung cancer care.

#### NEWCOMERS

Breast Cancer Academy\*  
Ear-Nose-and-Throat Cancer Academy\*

\*find out the dates in the next CECOG Newsletter – Issue 02

## Governmental International Affairs (GOIA) Initiative

Today, people die or survive from cancer depending on the money they have or the country they live.

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Some have to give up all their lifetime savings and investments to afford state-of-the-art treatment available in other countries. CECOG is demanding optimal cancer care standards for all countries in Central and Southeastern Europe through a multi-stakeholder initiative called GOIA.

The two first GOIA Meetings focused on shortages, on furthering the understanding of limitations in cancer care in Central and Southeastern Europe. The 1<sup>st</sup> meeting took place in Vienna, Austria on November 20, 2018 and the 2<sup>nd</sup> was held in Bucharest, Romania on March 29, 2019. Both events hosted distinguished participants from 9 nations including high-level decision makers, healthcare providers, academia, international organizations, patient advocates and key opinion leaders in oncology. MSD (Merck Sharp and Dohme) as well as AstraZeneca teamed up the Central European Cooperative Oncology Group (CECOG) to support the GOIA meetings.

The next GOIA Meetings are set to be held in Croatia and Poland in Autumn this year. After focusing on shortages, the next two meetings are designed to delineate actionable solutions that will align with the main vision of the GOIA initiative to improve and bridge the gaps in access to cancer care in Central and Southeastern Europe.

The GOIA Meeting 3.0 will take place in Zagreb, Croatia, on September 22-23, 2019 and the GOIA Meeting 4.0 will be held in Warsaw, Poland on October 27-28, 2019.

### ABOUT THE GOIA INITIATIVE



GOIA

The GOIA Initiative launched in 2018 is a joint effort between CECOG and the industry (Merck Sharp & Dohme and AstraZeneca) to reduce inequalities in access to cancer in Central and Southeastern Europe (<https://www.cecog.org/goia/goia/>). The GOIA meetings include a variety of stakeholders, namely, European and national medical key opinion leaders and experts in the field of oncology, patient advocates, public health representatives, and political representatives including European Parliament Members.

Along with improving access to cancer care, prioritizing health literacy in the field of oncology and strengthening the relationships and cooperation among countries located in the geographic area of CEE and Southeastern Europe in order to achieve policy goals that foster development in oncology care constitute the main drives of the GOIA Initiative.

## Connect with us

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### New Releases

CECOG CEE THORACIC NEWSLETTER – Vol. 1 | Issue 01 available now  
[www.cecog.org](http://www.cecog.org)

CECOG NEW WEBSITE – available in December 2019  
[www.cecog.org](http://www.cecog.org)

