

For personal use only. Not to be reproduced without permission of the publisher (copyright@ppme.eu).

# Everything changes, nothing stays the same

**P**anta rhei - everything flows. Nothing is now as it has been before. You can find many such phrases in literature since the times of Heraclitus, Plato and Shakespeare. For the last 2,000 years change has been inevitable and common for everyone, but each person has to learn this for themselves. Human nature seems to learn fast, but also to forget just as quickly. This is mostly when the results of such thoughts and actions will only be seen decades in the future. Copenhagen, Denmark, in 2009, has shown that mankind finds it very difficult to change its behaviour; especially when this involves giving something up when the results will only be realised for future generations.

I remember the discussions in 2000, in Prague, Czech Republic, about the needs of oncology pharmacy.

Most European delegates in the International Society of Oncology Pharmacy Practitioners (ISOPP) declared the necessity for regional chapters in order to support new colleagues throughout the world implement oncology pharmacy in hospitals everywhere. However, the discussion was not effective enough. The situation of one common language, one common law and one country with several states compared to the European situation with more than 27 languages, more than 27 different countries and laws was not comprehensively respected. At that time it was not possible



Klaus Meier  
Editor-in-Chief  
President of ESOP



to bring these different experiences together and build an understanding of the needs in Asia, South America, Africa and finally Europe. Therefore, in order to foster regional collaboration and development, the EU delegates formed a new society, the European Society of Oncology Pharmacy (ESOP). Today, after ten years, ESOP is a full member of the European CanCer Organisation (ECCO), in close collaboration with more than 45,000 physicians and nurses, a society of 33 countries and more than 2,100 oncology pharmacists.

The reports of the different countries in this issue present highlights of the improvements which have been achieved in the last ten years. I see them as a strong base for more progress towards a better service for cancer patients in the future.

The nations of Europe have still to learn how to talk with one voice and with the motto 'Unity in diversity' this goal has still to be reached. The aim of ESOP is to support optimal treatment for cancer patients. Our constitution shows us how to act on this. Collaboration with all people and societies which have the same purpose is evident. We have the chance and the obligation to be active in our home countries, in Europe, as well as in the whole world. We will have a second chance to share our growing understanding at the next ISOPP meeting in May 2010, in Prague, Czech Republic.

For personal use only. Not to be reproduced without permission of the publisher (copyright@ppme.eu).

## Third masterclass in oncology pharmacy

The 3rd Masterclass in Oncology Pharmacy was held in Athens, Greece, 23–26 November 2009. The meeting was the latest in a series of successful events and both participants and instructors agreed that the lectures and workshops had so far achieved the Masterclass's aim of offering high-calibre knowledge to pharmacists from across Europe.



This year the Masterclass attracted 40 pharmacists from as far away as Brazil! Of course most participants came from Europe, notably Portugal, which had the highest representation in the Masterclass, as well as Belgium, Bosnia, Cyprus, Denmark, Estonia, Greece, Germany, Hungary, Latvia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden and Turkey. So there was a multinational aspect to the meeting, in which ideas and experiences were exchanged from a wide range of different countries.

Participants also had the opportunity to enjoy the balmy Athens weather and the social events that went with the meeting, particularly the visit to the New Acropolis Museum, which better acquainted them with the world of Ancient Greece.

Ioanna Saratsiotou, PharmD  
ESOP Delegate