1. Context and background information

These are the Terms of Reference for the Horizon Europe Mission Board for Cancer.

Following the partial political agreement reached in April 2019 between the European Parliament and the Council on Horizon Europe, the 2021 – 2027 EU Framework Programme for Research and Innovation, the European Commission is now preparing for the implementation of this programme, pending agreement on its budget as part of the general agreement on the Union's multi-annual financing framework and adoption of the Horizon Europe programme. The Commission has proposed a budget of around € 100 billion for Horizon Europe.

One of the main novelties of Horizon Europe is the development and implementation of ambitious missions to maximise the impact of EU support to research and innovation and demonstrate its relevance for society and citizens.

Missions in Horizon Europe will be **high-ambition, high-profile initiatives with the aim to deliver a transformative impact for society, the economy, and/or environment, in relation to the challenges faced by European citizens**. They will require identifying a well-defined end-point, fixed in time against which to measure success and the development of a systemic approach to meeting a challenge, combining new knowledge and technology with business model, finance, regulatory, governance, skills and social innovation.

Such missions will be identified and designed with the assistance of Mission Boards. There is one Mission Board per mission area, as described in Annex Va of the draft Framework Programme/Rules for participation and dissemination. To support the Mission Board, an Assembly has also been created. This should serve as an additional source of ideas as inputs to the Boards and support in particular the engagement with citizens.

The Mission Boards will be implemented in two phases. During the first phase, the main task of the Mission Boards will be to advise the Commission on the **identification and design of one or more possible specific missions, with their respective objectives, indicators and timelines** for the mission areas listed above. They will do so in dialogue with Member States and the European Parliament, as well as relevant stakeholders and through engaging with the interested larger public. The Commission will make the final identification of specific missions in accordance with the procedures established for Horizon Europe. Once missions are identified through the Horizon Europe strategic plan, the Mission Boards will advise the Commission on the portfolio of research and innovation activities needed to support the mission objectives. This includes dedicated mission calls in the Horizon Europe work programme, specific additional criteria for selecting activities to fund, as well as on wider policy and other measures, required to secure the success of the mission.

In the second phase, the Mission Board will provide further advice on the mission implementation, including the wider policy measures required to achieve success.

The Mission Boards are informal Commission expert groups foreseen in the Horizon 2020 Work-Programme 2018-2020 ‘Dissemination, Exploitation and Evaluation': ‘External expertise for advice on the design and implementation of missions for Horizon Europe - Commission Decision C(2019)4575 of 2 July 2019.

Each Mission Board shall operate in compliance with the Commission's horizontal rules on expert groups ('the horizontal rules')[1].

2. Purpose, objectives and scope

The objective of the Mission Board on Cancer will be to provide advice on the following areas identified in the draft Specific Programme of Horizon Europe, Art. 5:

"The *Mission Board shall advise, without having decision-making powers, the Commission upon the following:*

(a) identification and design of one or more missions in the respective mission area according to the provisions and criteria as set out in Article 7 of [Framework Programme Regulation];

(b) content of work programmes and their revision as needed for achieving the mission objectives, with input from stakeholders and, where relevant, the public;

(c) characteristics of project portfolios for missions;

(d) adjustment actions, or termination if appropriate, based on implementation assessments according to the defined objectives of the mission;

(e) selection of independent expert evaluators following the provisions of Article 44 [of the Framework Programme Regulation], briefing of expert evaluators and evaluation criteria and their weighting;

(f) framework conditions which help achieve the objectives of the mission;

(g) communication, including on the performance and the achievements of the mission;

(h) policy coordination between relevant actors at different levels, in particular regarding synergies with other Union policies;

(i) key performance indicators."

3. Working approach and methodology

Number and Profile of Mission Board members

The Mission Board shall consist of up to 15 members.

Members of the Mission Board are individuals appointed in a personal capacity. They shall act independently and in the public interest.

Tasks

The tasks of the experts will be to advise the European Commission upon the points listed in section (2) above, (according to article 5(3) of the draft Specific Programme of Horizon Europe). During the first (current) phase of work of the Mission Board, the emphasis will be on points a) and b) mentioned in section (2):

(a) identification and design of one or more missions in the respective mission areas according to the provisions and criteria as set out in Article 7 (of the PGA on the Framework Programme Regulation). For this work, the Mission Board will base its

[1] Commission Decision C(2016)3301 of 30.5.2016 establishing horizontal rules on the creation and operation of Commission expert groups

deliberations and advice on evidence, their respective expertise and contacts with stakeholders, and ensuring a strong engagement with citizens;

(b) content of Horizon Europe work programmes and their revision as needed for achieving the mission objectives, with input from stakeholders and, where relevant, the public. For this work, the Mission Board will seek to use and where necessary propose adaptation of the available work programme tools, to ensure delivery of the objectives of the mission within the Horizon Europe work programme;

(c) framework conditions that help achieve the objectives of the mission.

The Mission Board will not have a decision-making or executive role.

Appointment

Members, including the Chair and Vice-Chair(s) where appointed, will work until the end of 2020, which corresponds to the first phase of the work on developing missions, in particular the identification and design of one or more specific mission proposals per mission area.

Methodology

The Mission Board shall act at the request of Commission services in compliance with the horizontal rules.

Members should:

- attend meetings systematically, to contribute actively to discussions in the Mission Board;
- provide detailed comments on working documents, to help draft deliverables and reports of the Board;
- with the agreement of Commission services, engage in communication with Commission expert groups, Member States' representatives, stakeholder communities and the public at large.

Working documents will be drafted in English and meetings will be also conducted in English.

The advice provided by the Mission Board, as well as minutes of meetings and participants' submissions, will be made publicly available through their publication on the Register of experts.

On a proposal by and in agreement with Commission services, the Mission Board shall adopt rules of procedure based on the standard rules of procedure for expert groups.

The Mission Board will draw on the expertise of a Mission Assembly, in particular for the finalisation of its advice to the Commission on specific missions. A meeting of the Assembly will be held, possibly back-to-back with a meeting of the Mission Board, by early 2020.

Commission services may invite members of the respective Mission Assembly and other experts if appropriate, with specific expertise with respect to a subject matter on the agenda to take part in the work of the Mission Board or set up sub-groups on an ad hoc basis for examining specific questions. Sub-groups shall operate in compliance with the horizontal rules and shall report to the Mission Board. They shall be dissolved as soon as their mandate is fulfilled.

Conflict of Interest

Members of the Mission Board shall not be directly included in proposals for calls for specific missions in the Horizon Europe work programme, although organisations which employ the Mission Boards members shall be permitted to submit or be included in such calls for proposals.

4. Tasks and distribution of work

The Mission Board will undertake its work mainly by physical meetings, teleconferences and videoconferences including skype and through email exchanges. The analytical work will be performed remotely and the physical meetings will be reserved to consolidate the reports and ensure consistency in the approach.

The Mission Board, or designated members of the Board, will meet with the relevant sub-group of the Programme Committee, and by early 2020 with the Mission Assembly.

The European Commission will:

- provide the secretariat for the Board including analyses and papers requested by the Board;
- support the organisation of the physical meetings in Brussels - meetings outside Brussels may take place as agreed between the Chair and the Commission;
- provide the reimbursement for the travel and hotel expenses associated with meetings and for the remote work of the members of the Board.

4.1. Roles and distribution of the work among the experts

The Chair will perform the following tasks:

- coordinate the work of the Mission Board;
- lead interactions with and work given to the respective Mission Assembly;
- prepare the meetings, and steer the discussions in close collaboration with the Commission secretariat;
- meet with and present the work of the Mission Board to the respective sub group of the shadow Programme Committee (or this work may be delegated to a Board member);
- present and distribute the work among the experts in accordance with the agreed work plan in a timely manner; if required and in agreement with the Board;
- in consensus with the Board and supported by a rapporteur if designated, to ensure compliance with agreed deadlines and provide editorial control for the Mission Board's deliverables to be submitted to the Commission, and regular updates of the work of the Mission Board to the Commission;
- support the Commission in managing potential conflicts of interest of Board members;
- if required, designate specific roles for members of the Board (e.g. representing the mission board in meetings with the sub group of the shadow Horizon Europe

Programme Committee, interaction with the respective Mission Assembly, citizen engagement etc.);

- draw up the main conclusions of each meeting and ensure overall quality and timeliness of processes and deliverables.

Vice Chair(s), where designated, will support the Chair and act in his/her place when requested by the Chair.

The Rapporteur, if designated by the Chair and working closely with the Chair, will perform the following tasks, in liaison with the Commission secretariat:

- support the Chair in structuring the work of the Mission Board;
- produce short reports and conclusions of the meetings;
- lead the drafting and editing of the deliverables on the basis of the other members' written contributions and liaise for the reporting with the Chair and the Commission.

The Chair in consensus with the Board and supported by a rapporteur if designated, will have editorial responsibility for the Board's deliverables to be submitted to the Commission and provide regular updates of the work of the Mission Board to the Commission.

Each member of the Mission Board will contribute to the work and reporting according to the agreed work plan and the respective tasks. In particular, this includes:

- participating in the Mission Board meetings;
- preparing written individual or joint contributions (circulated in advance of the meetings) (as agreed with the Chair) and presenting them at the meeting;
- participating in the communication and outreach/co-creation and engagement activities of the Board (with Member States, stakeholders, general public, etc.);
- commenting, as appropriate, on the contributions of the other members;
- contributing to the drafting of the deliverables.

Specific roles can be given to specific Mission Board members (such as the liaison with the relevant sub-group of the shadow Horizon Europe Programme Committee; interaction with the respective Mission Assembly, citizen engagement; etc…). This will be determined once the Mission Board is operational.

The Commission representatives responsible for the Mission Board will be in regular contact with the Chair to ensure its smooth running, and will attend the meetings to provide appropriate information and orientations. Other Commission services might be invited to attend the meetings and provide information at the request of the Mission Board. After submission, the Commission may take editorial responsibility for the deliverables.

5. Meetings, reporting and deadlines

The Mission Board shall meet up a minimum of 6 times in 2020 to discuss and accomplish the various tasks associated with the definition of the specific missions and the design of their

implementation. There will be one meeting between the Board and the Mission Assembly, ideally back-to-back, by early 2020.

Meetings will be agreed to by Commission services at the request of the Chair, with up to one per month until the end of 2019 and then thereafter as required. The 2020 planning should be prepared by end of 2019.

Ad-hoc meetings are possible on the initiative of the Chair with the agreement of Commission services. Each Board meeting will typically last for 1.5 days.

The meetings will be held in Brussels, or other locations with the Commission's agreement, and this will be subject to written communication.

The Chair and/or Vice-chair(s) where appointed, or any representative mandated thereto by the Chair, will attend and discuss progress at the meeting of the sub group of the Horizon Europe shadow Programme Committee.

Board members will be expected to engage in outreach and co-design activities within the Member States.

With support of the Commission services, the Board shall produce the following deliverables:

1. By mid-March 2020 - a short report (max 5 pages) on the Board's approach including scoping the options and directions for the identification of missions including the use of evidence and foresight, and a strategy on communication, outreach, co-design and citizen engagement.
2. Throughout 2020 support the Commission in discussions with the European Parliament and Member States and for the latter through the sub-groups of the shadow Strategic Programme Committee of Horizon Europe, towards consensus on possible specific missions to be identified.
3. By latest end of May 2020 – provide a draft list of specific missions (in line with the criteria as set out in article 7 of the draft Horizon Europe Regulation) to be identified in the Horizon Europe Strategic Plan, with each including descriptions of:
    a) objectives of the mission incl. justification (business case) such as EU added value, economic, social and environmental benefit;
    b) expected impact of the mission;
    c) degree of technical challenge, and feasibility;
    d) overall policy for portfolio composition (the main building blocks of the mission), including Key Performance Indicators (KPIs);
    e) an overview of the Mission Board's stakeholders outreach and citizen engagement activities (list of events and activities) and a description of how citizens engagement has contributed to the definition of the mission (initial outline by end May to be developed by end 2020 – see point 7 below);
    f) possible framework conditions to be developed or modified, such as standards or regulatory needs, potential for synergies with other EU funds and policies (initial outline by end May to be developed by end 2020 – see point 7 below);
    g) potential for synergies with Member States' actions (initial outline by end May, to be developed by end 2020 – see point 7 below).

4. By early 2020, a meeting with the Assembly to discuss the draft list of specific missions to be identified in the Horizon Europe Strategic Plan.
5. From April 2020 - advise the European Commission on the preparation of the calls on missions for the first work programme for Horizon Europe.
6. During 2020 - to carry out extensive outreach activities to engage Member States, and the general public on the future missions.
7. By end of 2020 - a short report (10 pages) listing the advice, recommendations and issues to be taken forward in the second phase of the Mission Board, including further discussion of outreach and citizen engagement activities, framework conditions and synergies, as noted on points 3e), 3 f) and 3 g) above.

The contents of all Mission Board reports and other deliverables, including any public statements, will be discussed with the Commission before finalisation.

6. Experts profiles

Mission Board members shall bring specific knowledge, skills and expertise combined with vision and deep commitment to the success of the mission:

Board members are expected to demonstrate:

- strategic capacity in long-term and systemic planning and programming of activities;
- absence of circumstances that could give rise to a conflict of interests;
- good knowledge of the English language allowing active participation in the discussions;
- aptitude for communicating with a broad range of stakeholders and citizens.

7. Experts' short biographies

Prof. Regina Beets-Tan

Regina Beets-Tan is Chairwoman of the Department of Radiology at The Netherlands Cancer Institute, Amsterdam and Professor of Radiology at the University of Maastricht, The Netherlands.

Her main areas of clinical interest are abdominal and oncologic imaging. She leads the research at the department focusing on the assessment and prediction of cancer treatment response, with emphasis on MRI, artificial intelligence, imaging of immunotherapy and image-guided radiotherapy and surgical treatment including interventional oncology. She takes part in the institutional translational research board.

Beets-Tan is a member of the executive council of ESR and chairs the ESR Publication Committee. She is part of the ESR Education Committee Board and involved in various ESR committees and subcommittees such as, the Research, Subspecialties and Allied Sciences Societies and previously Quality, Safety and Standards Committee as well as the ETAP Subcommittee.

She has received several awards, such as the European Radiology-ESGAR Bronze Award, the Piedmont Society Award, and the BJS Society Prize. She is an honorary member of the Chilean Society of Colorectal Surgery.

Prof. Christine Chomienne (Vice-Chair)

Christine Chomienne is Professor of Cellular Biology at the Université Paris Diderot of Paris, France.

She was the Director of Research and Innovation at the French National Cancer Institute (INCa) and Director of the Cancer Institute of France Research Organisations (Inserm & AVIESAN); Head of the Cell Biology Department at the Hôpital Saint Louis, Paris and Director of the University Inserm Research Laboratory at the Institut Universitaire d'Hématologie. She was President of the European Haematology Association.

She qualified in medicine at the Université Paris Diderot and received certification for specialized training in Haematology in 1983. She obtained her PhD in 1989.

Her main research interest lies in myeloid malignancies and the analysis of myeloid signaling pathways for the identification of novel therapeutic targets and strategies (differentiation therapy, apoptosis and immunotherapy).

Dr. Chomienne has authored more than 260 peer-reviewed publications. She is a recipient of several scientific and French governmental awards.

Dr Serban Ghiorghiu

Serban Ghiorghiu is an experienced Vice President for Clinical Development at AstraZeneca. He is passionate about improving outcomes for oncology patients through science, collaboration and innovation.

He has a demonstrated history of successful clinical development leadership of end-to-end design and delivery at a portfolio and project level throughout early and late phase oncology drug development, across multiple mechanisms of action and tumour types on a global scale (United States, Europe, Japan, China).

Serban leads a significant global oncology development programme from first-in-human to approvals and worldwide launch. The treatment achieved all 4 major full approvals (US, EU, Japan & China) in 4 years from first-in-human, being one of fastest ever development programmes in oncology, attaining US accelerated approval in just over two and a half years from first-in-human, followed by EU and Japan approvals within 6 months of first approval.

He is trained as a medical oncologist with main research interests being oncology clinical development, lung cancer and collaboration models between industry, academia and governments. He has publications in the New England Journal of Medicine, Lancet Oncology, Journal of Clinical Oncology, and Annals of Oncology.

Mrs Fiona Godfrey

Fiona Godfrey is Secretary-General of the European Public Health Alliance in Brussels, a public health NGO with 85 organisational and network members across Europe and an EU public health advocate.

In 1995, she moved to Luxembourg where she worked as a consultant to the European Commission *Europe Against Cancer* programme in the public health directorate specializing in drafting tobacco control legislation.

She subsequently became Director of Policy at the European Respiratory Society where she set up their Brussels office and worked on the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control. In 2007, she became Head of European tobacco control at the International Union Against Tuberculosis and Lung Disease where she established an office in Moscow and helped to set up a national tobacco control coalition in Russia.

She has been a consultant advisor to the WHO, several health ministries in the FSU, Asia and North Africa, and an expert observer on three FCTC Guideline working groups. In 2013, she was appointed Policy Director at the European Association for the Study of the Liver where she worked on alcohol control, hepatitis and liver cancer advocacy.

She studied Russian and law and worked as a solicitor in England representing trade union clients injured in work-related accidents and suffering from employment related diseases.

Prof. Ruth Lydia Ladenstein

Ruth Ladenstein, MD, MBA, cPM is a Professor in Paediatrics and Senior Consultant in Paediatric Oncology of the St. Anna Children´s Hospital. She is also Head of the Clinical Trials Unit S^{2}IRP (Studies & Statistics for Integrated Research and Projects) at the Children's Cancer Research Institute (CCRI) of the St. Kinderkrebsforschung.

Recent project activities are the coordination of the European Reference Network in Paediatric Cancer ERN PaedCan, and the Austrian Medicine for Children Research Network OKIDS.

She is Board member of SIOP EUROPE, and past SIOPE president from 2009 – 2012.

She has been an advisory board member of the SIOPEN Europe Neuroblastoma Group since May 2011; SIOPEN president from May 2007 – May 2011; Principle Coordinating Investigator of SIOPEN High Risk Neuroblastoma Trials since 2002. In 2009, during the SIOPEN presidency, the SIOPEN Association to foster neuroblastoma research was established in Vienna. Currently, it has 351 active members in 33 countries, and 27 countries are involved in SIOPEN studies.

Prof. Marcis Leja

Marcis Leja is heading the Department of Research at Riga East University hospital and employed as a consulting gastroenterologist in digestive Diseases Centre GASTRO and an Associate Professor at the Faculty of Medicine since 2007 and Professor of Medicine since 2014.

His main research interests include Helicobacter pylori, gastritis and gastric cancer, prevention of gastrointestinal cancer, celiac disease, diagnostic methods in gastroenterology and oncology.

He is a co-ordinator and/or leading researcher in many local or international projects funded from different sources. Marcis Leja Studied Medicine at Riga Medical institute (now: Riga Stradins' University), got trained in Internal Medicine and Gastroenterology in the same University. He was responsible for the training program in gastroenterology at the University Clinic "Linezers" (1992-1995), and since 1998 is involved in post-graduate training in gastroenterology.

He is a Fellow of the Latvia Academy of Sciences and American Gastroenterology Association, member of the Latvia Academy of Sciences and president of the European Helicobacter Study Group.

Prof. Tomi Mäkelä

Tomi P. Mäkelä is Executive Officer of the iCAN digital precision cancer medicine flagship platform, Founding Director of the Helsinki Institute of Life Science HiLIFE, Professor of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, and Vice Director of the Centre of Excellence in Translational Cancer Biology, at the University of Helsinki.

He has served as Director of the Institute of Biotechnology, as Vice Dean for Research of the Faculty of Medicine, and as Director and Dean of the Helsinki Biomedical Graduate School at the University of Helsinki.

Mäkelä acts as panel chair at ERC, and as board member of Biocentre Finland and Finnish Academy of Science and Letters.

He is an EMBO Member, and recognized by the Anders Jahre prize for young investigators. Mäkelä has also been active in improving conditions for high quality research and developing careers at the University of Helsinki and in Finland. A key figure in establishing quality based funding on publications in Finland since 2012 as chair of the JURE working group.

Mäkelä is recognized for his work on cell growth signaling and its deregulation in cancer, and especially on the tumour suppressor kinase LKB1. He has 129 publications, 11100 citations and an H index of 51.

Prof. Andres Metspalu

Andres Metspalu, MD, PhD is a Professor of Biotechnology in IMCB, Head of the Estonian Biobank and Professor of genomics and biobanking at the Institute of Genomics, both at the University of Tartu.

His main scientific interests are human genomics, genetics of complex diseases and population based biobanks and application of the precision medicine in health care,

From 1996 to 2008, he was also the head and founder of the Molecular Diagnostic Centre of the Tartu University Hospital. In 2010, he was elected to the Estonian Academy of Sciences. He is serving in several national and international committees (ESOF2020, EATRIS), and has received among other awards and honours; the Order of the Estonian Red Cross 3rd Class and L'Ordre des Palmes Academiques from the Republic of France. In 2010, he received the *Doctor Honoris Causa from* Vilnius University.

He was a visiting faculty member at Baylor College of Medicine, Houston (1993-1994), and did a sabbatical at IARC, Lyon (2000) and the University of Lausanne (2012). He is the recipient of the International Visiting Senior Scientist Award.

Prof. Martine Piccart

Martine J. Piccart, MD, PhD, is Honorary Professor of Oncology at the Université Libre de Bruxelles (ULB) and Scientific Director at the Jules Bordet Institute, Brussels.

Earning her medical degrees at ULB and oncology qualifications in New York and London, she is also a member of the Belgian Royal Academy of Medicine. She held presidencies of the European CanCer Organisation (ECCO), the European Organisation for the Research and Treatment of Cancer (EORTC), the European Society for Medical Oncology (ESMO) and served on the American Society of Clinical Oncology Board (ASCO).

A strong advocate for and leader of international research collaborations, Martine Piccart, together with Aron Goldhirsch, created the Breast International Group (BIG) in 1996 to foster collaboration and accelerate the development of better breast cancer treatments. She has successfully managed a number of high-profile, Phase 3 clinical trials that have involved multiple international investigators and institutions. Those clinical trials include HERA, MINDACT and ALTTO.

Throughout her career, Martine Piccart has been honoured with numerous prestigious awards for her research contributions. These include: the Jill Rose Award for distinguished biomedical research (2009); the William L. McQuire Award in recognition of her contribution in breast cancer research (2009); the 2018 Prix Leopold Griffuel for translational and clinical research delivered by the "Association pour la Recherche sur le Cancer" in France; and the KNAW Bob Pinedo Cancer Care Award (2018).

Prof. Pedro Pita Barros

Pedro Pita Barros is Professor of Economics at Universidade Nova de Lisboa, **member of the Portuguese National Ethics Council for the Life Sciences, the EC Expert Panel on Effective ways of Investing in Health the Editorial Board of the Office of Health Economics, and member of the board of the think-tank Instituto de Políticas Públicas – Thomas Jefferson – Correia da Serra.**

His previous positions include: member of the board of the Vice-rector of Universidade Nova de Lisboa (2013-2017); First and past President of the EuHEA – European Health Economics Association (2012-2018);

Pedro Pita Barros has received with several awards, including the Grande-Oficial da Ordem do Infante D. Henrique (2005), the Gold Medal of Distinguished Services (2013), the Pedro Pita Barros Award (2018) as recognition for the contribution to the development of health economics in Portugal.

His research interests focus on health economics and on regulation and competition policy. He has published in many academic journals. Pedro Pita Barros has also contributed to several books and has published several books on health economics.

Prof. Gualtiero Walter Ricciardi (Chair)

Walter Ricciardi, MD, MPH, MSc, is a Professor of Hygiene and Public Health at the Catholic University of the Sacred Heart in Rome.

He was President of the Italian National Institute of Health from 2015-2018 and of the European Public Health Association (EUPHA) from 2010-2014. In 2011, he was appointed member of the European Advisory Committee on Health Research to the WHO European Regional Director. From 2011-2014 he was member of the Executive Board of the National Board of Medical Examiners of the United States of America.

In May 2013, he was appointed member of the Expert Panel on effective ways of investing in Health (European Commission, DG SANTE). In December 2016, he was awarded a three-year second mandate.

He was appointed member of the Steering Committee of the Centre for Global Health Research and Studies of the Medical School, Catholic University of the Sacred Heart, Rome from 2015-2016 and 2018-2019.

In December 2015, he was appointed Director of the WHO Collaborating Centre for Health Policy, Governance and Leadership at the Institute of Public Health, Medical School, Catholic University of the Sacred Heart in Rome.

Prof. Konrad Rydzynski

Konrad Rydzynski is Director General (since 2000) and full professor of toxicology (since 1998) at the Nofer Institute of Occupational Medicine, Lodz, Poland (1987) and member of Public Health Committee of the Polish Academy of Sciences (2015 – on).

He is a principal investigator on and coordinator of national and international grants. He coordinated the 6th/7th EU FP project: “Environmental Cancer Risk, Nutrition and Individual Susceptibility” (ECNIS) Network of Excellence, (2005-2012).

He was member of The EUROTOX (European Association of Societies of Toxicology) Executive Committee (1996-2002). He was President of the Polish Society of Toxicology (2002 - 2009) and member and Vice-Chair, of the Advisory Group for EU 6th FP “Food Quality and Safety”, DG Research (2002-2006) and member of the Scientific Committee on "Emerging and Newly Identified Health Risks", DG SANCO (2004-2010, 2013–2017), and member of numerous SCENIHR Working Groups.

Mrs Anne Lise Ryel

Master of Laws Anne Lise Ryel is the Secretary General of the Norwegian Cancer Society since 2002 and a member of the NCD Alliance Board of Directors.

She has led the Norwegian Cancer Society to become one of the most influential NGOs in Norway, and is considered "the face and voice of cancer" in Norway.

Anne Lise survived cancer and has worked in all fields of society: in the private sector as a lawyer; in the public sector as the Norwegian Gender Equality Ombudsman and Deputy Director General at the Directorate of Health; in politics as Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Justice.

Ryel has been chair/member of numerous boards during the last 30 years and served at The Union for International Cancer Control (UICC) Board of Directors for two consecutive terms from 2012 to 2016. Anne Lise Ryel publishes articles and holds speeches on a monthly basis in addition to weekly media appearances.

Dr Bettina Ryll

Bettina Ryll is the chair of the ESMO Patient Advocates Working Group.

Bettina holds a medical degree from the Free University of Berlin, Germany and a PhD in Biomedical Sciences from University College London, UK.

After losing her husband to melanoma, she founded the Melanoma Patient Network Europe and developed a special interest in patient-centric clinical research, in particular, innovative trial designs and novel drug development concepts, such as MAPPS (medicines' adaptive pathways to patients), previously known as Adaptive Licensing. Lately, her focus has moved to sustainable healthcare models ensuring access to innovative therapies for cancer patients and incentives for sustainable innovation.

Bettina is involved in numerous initiatives promoting evidence-based advocacy. She is fascinated by the enormous potential and capacity of patient networks to both educate and support patients as well as to capture data at the primary data source – the patients themselves – and to generate evidence at a granular level non-accessible to outsiders.

Bettina has been chair of the ESMO Patient Advocates Working Group (PAWG) since 2015, the first time this position is held by a non-oncologist. The PAWG is responsible for the patient advocacy track at the annual ESMO meeting, organises workshops of interest to the wider advocacy and medical community and has an advisory function for ESMO activities.

She has also been member of the ESMO Quality of Care Task Force since 2015.

Prof. Elisabete Weiderpass

Elisabete Weiderpass, MD, MSc, PhD, is Director of the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC), and an expert in cancer epidemiology and cancer prevention.

Dr Elisabete Weiderpass previously served as Head of the Department of Research at the Cancer Registry of Norway and of the Genetic Epidemiology Group at the Folkhälsan Research Center in Finland, and she was a Professor of Medical Epidemiology at the Karolinska Institutet in Sweden and a Professor of Cancer Epidemiology at the Arctic University of Norway.

She held visiting professorship positions in cancer epidemiology in Brazil, China, the Islamic Republic of Iran, and Kuwait. She is an honorary Adjunct Professor at the Yale School of Public Health in the USA.