

Annual Index for Research and Evidence-based Care Projects in Psychosocial Oncology in Flanders (Belgium, 2016)

Charlotte Spaas MA¹, Annelies Verachtert MA¹, Eva Jacobs MA¹, Kleo Dubois MA¹,
Angelique Verzelen MA¹, Sabien Bauwens MA^{1,2},
Wim Distelmans MD PhD^{1,2}, Lieve Vanderlinden MA³

¹ Cédric Hèle instituut vzw, Bruul 52/4, 2800 Mechelen, Belgium

² Universitair Ziekenhuis Brussel, Oncology Centre, Laarbeeklaan 101, 1090 Brussel, Belgium

³ Kom op tegen kanker, Koningsstraat 217, 1210 Brussel, Belgium



Introduction

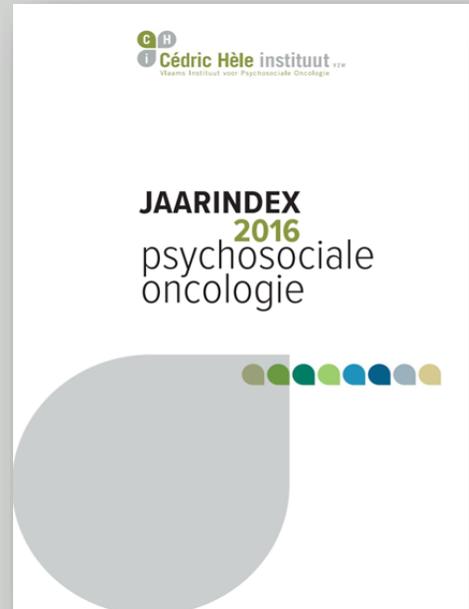
Over the past years, many **projects on psychosocial care for cancer patients** have been set up and implemented in oncology care in Flanders (Belgium). The **Cédric Hèle institute (CHI)** – as a Flemish institute providing education for caregivers and researchers in the field of psychosocial oncology – demonstrated that the **need of an overview** of all these projects was high. Inspired by the example of the NVPO – the Dutch organization of psychosocial oncology - the CHI created this **first edition of the Flemish Annual Index**. The purpose of this book is to highlight ongoing projects in psychosocial oncology as well as to induce collaboration on the same topics and to inspire caregivers for future research.

Methods

A **group of experts** in scientific research in Psychosocial Oncology was established: 16 caregivers and researchers were carefully selected from universities, university hospitals and relevant cancer organizations.

Two abstract formats were drafted by this group; 1/ for **research projects** and 2/ for **evidence based care projects**, to make sure every project fitted in the Index.

The **call for abstracts** was sent to professionals from different research groups in Flanders, known for their ongoing projects on the topic, and to other relevant organizations (professional associations, hospitals, universities,...). Additionally, abstract-submission was promoted by the newsletter and website of the Cédric Hèle institute.



Results

48 ongoing projects were submitted: 38 research and 10 care projects from 21 different Flemish organizations. The projects were categorized based on the **classification system** of the online library on the Cédric Hèle institute website. Topics such as 'children and cancer' (N=11) and 'health care organization' were popular (N= 8). However, no research projects on 'nutrition' and 'prevention' were submitted for the Index. The paper version of the index was spread amongst caregivers and researchers during our annual congress (N= 220) and on training days. The online version is still available on our website www.chicom.be

Conclusion

A substantial amount of the ongoing research on this topic was presented in the pilot edition of this book. The index acts as a **platform to share results of research and care projects across borders of organizations**. The next editions will attempt to be more representative for all research and care projects in the field of psychosocial oncology in Flanders. It is for future research to indicate whether the Index improves collaborations between researchers on the same topics.

Special thanks to the members of the CHI network of scientific research.