The Cédric Hèle Institute Accomplishes a Post Academic Training Program in Psycho-Oncology

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The Cédric Hèle Institute, Flemish Institute Of Psychosocial Oncology was founded in 2004. One of the main objectives of the institute is to organise and coordinate education and training programs in psycho-oncology. The realisation of this post academic training, in close cooperation with the Flemish universities, means a breakthrough in the field of psycho-oncology in Belgium.

*the Dutch speaking part of Belgium

RESULTS

In 2006, the first two-year training program in psycho-oncology in Belgium, for masters in psychology and medical doctors, was launched. 22 clinical psychologists registered. In January 2008 14 trainees graduated. The overall evaluation of the training program and the evaluation of the specific training aspects, by the trainees were excellent. In October 2008 a new training program will start at the University of Ghent.

CONCLUSION

This innovating training program is an academic specialisation in psycho-oncology, which offers psychologists an evidence based academic training in psycho-oncology. It also helps them to improve their clinical skills in working with cancer patients.

CLINICAL IMPLICATIONS

The psychologists who followed the program increased their knowledge and their skills in psycho-oncology. They had the opportunity to optimize their communication and clinical skills which will lead to a better care of the cancer patient and his relatives.

RESEARCH IMPLICATIONS

With the training program the Cédric Hèle Institute and the Flemish universities want to enforce the link between the academic and the clinical world in psycho-oncology. During the program many academics teach their recent results in scientific research to the students. The psychologists in the program write a paper on a relevant subject in psycho-oncology: an extended case study or a scientific research project. For students with limited experience in psycho-oncology a training on the job is organised, supervised by an expert.

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