

# Psychosocial training and research needs in oncology health care: a finger on the pulse

Véronique Gerits MA<sup>1</sup>, Ellen Daly MA<sup>1</sup>, Sabien Bauwens MA<sup>1,2</sup>, Wim Distelmans MD PhD<sup>1,2,4</sup>, Eva Jacobs MA<sup>1,4</sup>, Lieve Vanderlinden MA<sup>1,3</sup>, Annelies Verachtert MA<sup>1</sup>, Angelique Verzelen MA<sup>1</sup>

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

<sup>2</sup> Universitair Ziekenhuis Brussel, Oncology Center, Laarbeeklaan 101, 1000 Brussel, Belgium

<sup>3</sup> Kom op tegen Kanker, Koningsstraat 217, 1210 Brussel, Belgium

<sup>4</sup> Forum Palliatieve Zorg, Jan Vander Vekenstraat 158, 1780 Wemmel, Belgium

## Purpose

Exploratory research to gain insight in the needs and bottlenecks experienced by oncology health care professionals concerning education and research in psychosocial oncology.

## Methods

○ 1045 e-mails  
○ n=201

 @ all members of the online CHi-community working in hospitals.



**Respondents:**  
32% oncology nurses  
28% psychologists  
11% oncocoaches  
10% others  
8% social workers  
4% medical doctors  
4% pastoral workers  
3% dietitians

## Most important results

### Education wanted

Side effects of the treatment  
Self care  
Grief and bereavement  
Communication  
End of life care  
with important others  
Fear of recurrence  
Intimacy and sexuality  
Communication  
Elderly and cancer  
Coping  
with patients  
Social aftercare  
Medical aspects

### Experiential learning preferred



### Awareness of scientific research in psychosocial oncology



### Thresholds for applying scientific research in daily practice

61,1% indicates that it is not easy to translate scientific research results into daily practice.  
38,9% indicates that guidelines are not specific enough for daily practice.  
22,2% indicates that scientific research is not sufficiently in line with daily practice.

## Conclusions

### Oncology health care professionals need:

- more practice-oriented education and research;
- self-care tools in order to prevent stress and burn-out;
- a good translation of scientific research into clear guidelines for daily practice;
- more focus on bridging the gap between research and clinical practice.