

COLLEGE OF ONCOLOGY

1. Current and future composition of the College

At the moment, the College of Oncology has the following composition:

Ahmad Awada (resigned), Lieve Brochez, Birgit Carly, Kristof Cokelaere, Jacques De Greve, Anne Mourin, Marc Peeters (president), Henri Schots, Philippe Spaas (resigned), Bertrand Tombal, Paul Van Houtte, Ignace Vergote (resigned), Johannes Van Loon, Nathalie Meuleman, Vibeke Kruse (resigned) and Joseph Weerts.

Due to the Federal government status and due to the current COVID-19 circumstances, the change of the composition of the College has been delayed and will officially be implemented in 2021.

2. Activities of the College in 2020-2021

2.1. Development of National Guidelines, coordinated by Jacques De Grève

One day a week, Jacques has dedicated time in the Cancer Center to work and to coordinate this task. He is assisted by a half time person working on the guidelines and the organization of the working groups.

New guidelines will be further developed and existing guidelines will be updated in a timely fashion.

It is important that the guidelines reach the Oncology departments of the national hospitals and Cancer Care programs.

Negotiations with KCE are in progress to set up a platform of interaction to coordinate the guideline work.

An overview of the developed guidelines can be found below:

- **Pancreas:** guidelines of the pancreas were finalized in 2020 and were published on the CoO website. The guidelines still need to be circulated to the Cancer Care programs directly with the necessary contact information provided by Dr. Saskia Van den Bogaert.
- **Esophagus:** guidelines of esophageal cancer were finalized in 2020 and were published on the CoO website. The guidelines still need to be circulated to the Cancer Care programs directly with the necessary contact information provided by Dr. Saskia Van den Bogaert.
- **Thyroid cancer:** guidelines of thyroid cancer were finalized in 2020 and were published on the CoO website. The guidelines still need to be circulated to the Cancer Care programs directly with the necessary contact information provided by Dr. Saskia Van den Bogaert. An article will also be published in the BJMO in 2021.
- **Gynecological cancer:** working party will be convened in 2021 to update existing guidelines.

- **Brain tumors:** a working party will be convened in 2021 to update existing guidelines.
- **Melanoma:** a working party will be convened in 2021 to create these guidelines
- **Urinary malignancies:** a working party will be convened in 2021 to update existing guidelines
- **AYA movement:** a working party still needs to be compiled (in cooperation with KOTK).

Updating of the national guidelines will be coordinated with Compermed (<https://www.compermed.be/>) for the molecular aspects.

2.2. The NGS convention

Molecular pathology is an important part of the current oncology practice. Standardization and quality assurance is one of the aims of the NGS convention, which became active in May 2019.

The College is member of the ComPerMed (Commission on Personalized Medicine, <https://www.compermed.be/>).

2.3. COVID-19 and oncological care

A letter from Kom Op Tegen Kanker, regarding guidelines for cancer patients who are at a potential risk for the development of severe COVID-19 has been discussed. Hematological patients have been identified as one of the most critical groups.

The College has spread a clear statement concerning the fact that specific care for oncological patients needs to be maintained, even during the current COVID-19 pandemic. This press release was published on the website of the College and in the BJMO.

The College expressed their concern about the need for reliable data about tolerance and efficacy of the vaccine in onco-hematological patients.

2.4. Advice to RIZIV/INAMI about reimbursement criteria of reconstruction of the breast

The RIZIV/INAMI reached out to the College of Oncology regarding advice about the reimbursement criteria for reconstruction of the breast. Several members of the College provided their opinion on this subject.

3. **Board meetings and Telephone Conferences (TC) of the board**

Board meetings are organised at regular intervals to discuss different topics and strategies.

4. Proposed actions for 2021

POINT OF ACTION: the College played a role in the positioning of oncology and hematological care during the corona crisis. During the next month, a questionnaire on the impact for the patient will be launched. This in collaboration with the Cancer Center.

POINT OF ACTION: roundtable on 'access to immunotherapy'. The lead is taken by INAMI/RIZIV. The College has an active role in the negotiations.

POINT OF ACTION: implementation plan of action points in 'Cancer Survivors' report

- In collaboration with the Cancer Center and other stakeholders, such as Kom op Tegen Kanker (KotK), we will prioritize and develop an implementation plan.

POINT OF ACTION: update of guidelines

- The guidelines update and management are still an important task of the College. We will put a lot of effort to have guidelines for most of the tumor types.

POINT OF ACTION: distribution of guidelines

- Make sure the developed guidelines are distributed and presented to all relevant organizations and institutions in a clear and visible manner.