

EuropaColon and the Global Colon Cancer Alliance are proud to announce the ...

2nd Colorectal Cancer Patient Conference



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Co-funded by the Health Programme of the European Union

May 2013

Dear Friends and Colleagues of EuropaColon

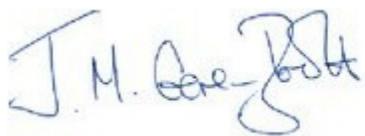
Petru Luhan EPP MEP Romania expresses support for our 2nd Colorectal Cancer Patient Conference 2013.

'Your life, Your Responsibility'

The closer we look at the different countries and the way that they work with colorectal cancer and the patient outcomes the more obvious it becomes that huge variations exist across the different countries in Europe. In countries where the outcomes are good we need have no concerns but in countries where the health systems are not managing the situation as effectively this is bad news for patients and their families.

We will cover this issue at our conference in July but it will also be an issue for ongoing activity across all of our partner groups. We welcome your support in helping to address this in your country.

Registration to attend the conference is free!



Jolanta Gore-Booth, Founder/Director, EuropaColon



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Mr Luhan what do you feel the challenges are for early diagnosis and treatment for colorectal cancer in Europe?

Citizens are unfortunately not always well informed about the difference screening makes in reducing colorectal cancer mortality. Instead, screening is often perceived as something extremely intrusive and painful.

Moreover, as screening is done inside one of the most intimate places of the human body, people prefer not to discuss it or recommend it to each other, which has led to a situation wherein screening is alarmingly low, even in the countries that have a good programme in place.

We must get rid of the many prejudices within society as they keep people away from a medical instrument that could save their life. From a pragmatic point of view, of implementing screening programs, unfortunately new member states are some of those that are lagging behind, primarily because of financial constraints and a lack of awareness amongst the general population.

Colorectal Cancer Implementation



We asked our partners to comment on their perception of the success of the National Cancer Plan/Strategy in their country in delivering the stated objectives regarding colorectal cancer.

Whilst the response for Cancer Plans, above, looks very positive, that for implementing colorectal cancer initiatives and outcomes does not fair as well. Many countries show a disappointing recognition of the importance of clear measures and action within their 'Plan' to manage the growing tide of colorectal cancer diagnoses across Europe.



Currently around 450,000 new cases of colorectal cancer are diagnosed in Europe every year, making it one of the largest of all cancers.

It is universally recognised that if diagnosed early colorectal cancer is the most highly treatable of all the gastro-intestinal cancers and data shows that over 90% of those diagnosed at an early stage are still alive after 5 years whilst less than 10% are still alive after 5 years if diagnosed at a later stage.

These are compelling reasons for a new approach to colorectal cancer in every country in Europe. All these new cases can be avoided each year in Europe by relatively simple interventions:

1. Prevention: Raising awareness of healthy food or diet, along with a small amount of exercise every day
2. Formal population screening: National interventions could prevent or identify up to 30% of colorectal cancer cases

Conclusion: EuropaColon would like to see governments recognise and implement simple public health strategies that could save thousands of lives every year.

There are also 40 BURSARIES available for travel and accommodation and early bird discount prices for hotel accommodation for bookings made by 31st May. Please click [here](#) for further details about bursaries and you can register for CCPC 2013 by clicking [here](#).

We would appreciate if you could please help promote this conference by adding the linked promotional banners to your website and we thank those who have already done so. For full instructions please find our banner page by [clicking here](#).

We will be making regular news updates about the conference on our social networking sites. Please join in our discussions there, "like" and share our posts which can be found below:

