

WHY DID I BECOME INVOLVED?

Mrs Ivka Glas – europacolon Slovenia

“1,300 new patients every year, over 85 % of them diagnosed in stages III or IV, limited availability of diagnostics and biological drugs and lack of information about CRC as well as practically no awareness programmes are just some of the reasons that literally called for action and for some joint forces to move things for the better. I have been acquainted with the whole situation all too well, since I have been there for my husband, a CRC patient himself. Therefore, it only took me a short while to accept dr Janja Ocvirk’s, my husband’s oncologist, invitation to become president of europacolon slovenija that was about to be set up.

At the end of November 07, europacolon slovenija was successfully established and started to prepare a short- and long-term programme. There is so much to be done! Of course, we are to follow europacolon’s goals, but to begin with, our top priority is to raise awareness among general public as well as professional sphere regarding the importance of prevention and, most of all, early detection of CRC. Europacolon slovenija will also support all the efforts to launch and successfully conduct the national screening programme that is due to begin in April 08. Among other concerns, we should mention efforts for the best possible treatment and care for patients before and after their treatment. It is also important to: a) make sure that patients understand as much as possible proposed treatment regimens, b) help to ensure that patients are included in clinical research on a regular basis, and c) provide them with a possibility of obtaining a second opinion. We will also do what we can to help our Institute of oncology and other hospitals in which cancer patients are treated obtain new equipment and will give full support to clinical research,” concludes Ms Ivka Glas, president of europacolon slovenija.

END

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