



EuropaColon's March Activities across Europe and Beyond

The MEP's Against Cancer Meeting in the EU Parliament - "Delivering Quality Cancer Care: How can we do it better?" was hosted by MEP Deidre Clune and chaired by Prof. Philip Poortmans, ECCO President. Measuring Quality Cancer Care presented by the German Cancer Society highlighted the importance of Quality Care Indicators and how this was being addressed by iPAAC Work Package 10. It was disappointing to see how few MAC's attended, serving as further reminder of the low importance of health in the overall agenda of the current Parliament. One couldn't help but feel that the political will was NOT there!

A stimulating World Café Session organised by Nathalie Moll Director General of EFPIA on The Future of Health in the EU was extremely well attended. The half day workshop provided an excellent opportunity for informal dialogue among different stakeholders involved in healthcare. It was exciting to see the energy in the room and the enthusiasm of the attendees to put forward their views. We await with interest how this initiative will unfold with ideas going forward.

EAPM (European Alliance for Personalised Medicine) hosted an excellent meeting on the hotly debated topic of Big Data. The meeting in the beautiful Bibliothèque Solvay focused on the challenges involved in collecting and using patient data in an ethical and constructive way. The word TRUST was mentioned often and how the citizens of Europe can be encouraged to trust healthcare professionals sufficiently for their data to be used.

EuropaColon suggested that a great step forward will be to see greater willingness by clinicians/researchers to share their data for the greater good of patient populations. Something that has been difficult to achieve in the past. Commissioner Andriukaitis joined the discussions with passion, sharing his views on improving patient access to better care and treatment across Europe. He acknowledged that there was still a lot to be done as health in the EU remains disjointed and fragmented. He felt that progress was being made and sighted Cross Border Health Care.

EuropaColon believes that Member States need to be strongly encouraged to invest more effort and money to ensure the better health of all European citizens.