



Annual lecture 2020

Cancer & Immunotherapy:
greatest challenges and novel
therapies inspiring European citizens

17 November 2020 (10:00 – 12:30 CET)

Online event

With the support of Cancer Research UK

ABOUT THE LECTURE

Background

We are delighted to welcome you to the event 'Cancer & Immunotherapy: greatest challenges and novel therapies inspiring European citizens', organized by the FEAM European Biomedical Policy Forum and Cancer Research UK.

On July 2019, the Commissioner for Research, Science and Innovation - Carlos Moedas - officially launched the work on five major European research and innovation missions that will be part of Horizon Europe. These new European R&I missions aim to deliver solutions to some of the greatest challenges facing our world, including cancer. In addition, DG SANTE are producing proposals for Europe's Beating Cancer Plan, the Commission's policy agenda to improve cancer control and care.

Cancer is a complex disease in which cells in a specific tissue are no longer fully responsive to the signals within the tissue that regulate cellular differentiation, survival, proliferation and death. As result, these cells accumulate and invade other tissues, causing local damages and inflammation. There are over 200 different types of cancer. In this context, the immunoncology is a type of cancer treatment that uses the power of the body's own immune system to prevent, control, and eliminate cancer. Also known as immunotherapy, this innovative treatment comes in a variety of forms, including targeted antibodies, cancer vaccines, adoptive cell transfer, tumor-infecting viruses, checkpoint inhibitors, cytokines, and adjuvants. Some immunotherapy treatments also use genetic engineering to enhance immune cells' cancer-fighting capabilities (CAR-T cells).

With a unique European focus on cancer research and treatment emerging, the aim of this annual lecture is how we can harness this radical treatment to better manage and eradicate cancer. The event will consist in an interactive debate - with high-profile list of speakers – discussing progress and new frontiers in immunotherapy research, and how we might translate this work into tangible outcomes for patients.

In particular, we want to discuss how policymakers can help support the uptake of immunotherapy treatments, reduce barriers to access, and encourage further research into this most promising field. This is an initiative to unite research experts, European authorities, patient groups and stakeholder communities working in this field.

We hope you will join in the discussion and provide your view in order to support concrete actions that should be taken by new MEPs, EU commissioners and Member States. The FEAM European Biomedical Policy Forum and Cancer Research UK are very grateful for your participation.

PROGRAMME

10:00-10:15 *Welcome & Introduction*

- **George Griffin**, President, Federation of European Academies of Medicine (FEAM)
- **Pam Kearns**, Senior Clinical Advisor, Cancer Research UK, President of SIOPE

10:15-10:45 *Keynote lecture*

Pierre Coulie, Prof at the Duve Institute (UCL – Brussels) – Past President of the Belgium Royal Academy of Medicine

10:45-12:15 *High-level panel discussion*

Moderator: George Griffin, President FEAM

Proposed panellists:

- **Walter Ricciardi**, chair Cancer Mission | European Commission
- **Lieve Wierinck**, former MEP | Member of the board of DiCE (Digestive Cancers Europe)
- **Denis Lacombe**, General Director at European Organisation for Research and Treatment of Cancer (EORTC)
- **Pam Kearns**, Senior Clinical Advisor, Cancer Research UK, President of SIOPE
- **Bart Neyns**, Head of Medical Oncology at UZBrussel Hospital
- **Ralf Herold**, Scientific officer - Oncology, Haematology & Diagnostics | EMA
- **Franco Locatelli**, IRCCS Hospital Bambin Gesù, Rome
- **Michael Zaiac** - Head of Medical Affairs, Novartis Oncology Region Europe
- **Fabrizio Sestini** - Patient perspective

Q&A with the audience

12:15-12:30 *Concluding remarks and next steps*



ABOUT THE FEAM EUROPEAN BIOMEDICAL POLICY FORUM

The FEAM European Biomedical Policy Forum is a partnership-based Forum which provides a platform for discussion on key policy issues for the biomedical community.

The Forum is an initiative from the Federation of European Academies of Medicine (FEAM). It aims to bring together representatives from academia, research charities, industry, European and national trade associations and professional bodies, regulators, public health bodies, and patient and consumers groups. Partners join on an equal footing, regardless of size and type of organisation.

Contact

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