



# INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY of ORAL ONCOLOGY NEWSLETTER

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*Welcome to the August edition of the ISOO Newsletter.*

*Do you have an article or news that you would like to share?*

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*Dr. Allan Hovan (Editor, ISOO Newsletter)*



## A Message from the Incoming ISOO President, Ourania Nicolatou-Galitis

It is with a deep feeling of responsibility that I take on the Presidency of the International Society of Oral Oncology (ISOO), June 2015-June 2017.

A huge goal was achieved during the previous ISOO Board 2013-2015, under the leadership of Past President Mike Brennan and President Richard Logan through the renewal of the Memorandum Of Understanding (MOU), consolidating the alliance between the Multinational Association of Supportive Care in Cancer (MASCC) and the ISOO. The Mucositis and Oral Care Study Groups of MASCC/ISOO are great examples of the benefits of the MASCC/ISOO alliance. Furthermore, a large number of ISOO members participate in the Bone Study Group and other MASCC Study Groups. These groups have had a significant impact on the clinical care of cancer patients — their oral care and mouth-related quality of life — through clinical practice guidelines, systematic reviews, and surveys. And, as it has been known and said through the ages, “the mouth is the mirror of health.” And to quote another well-known saying, “και έρκος οδόντων και βήμα ποδός αγγέλλουσι τα περί αυτών” (translation: and teeth and walking give information about him).

Our prime goal is to continue this important partnership towards the prevention and management of oral complications in cancer therapy. Continuing Education (CE) courses and the support of the Oral Care Study Group continue to characterize our core business. A demanding CE Course is being prepared by the ISOO Past President, Dr Richard Logan and the CE course planning committee, Drs Joel Epstein, Debbie Saunders, and myself for the next MASCC/ISOO Meeting in Adelaide.

Oral Oncology is a rapidly evolving field. An increased need for oral oncology expertise has emerged in the era of biological, targeted therapies and immunotherapies to address the recognition, classification, diagnosis, prevention, and management of new oral complications related to these new therapies. This need can be met through the collaborative work of MASCC/ISOO.

An important collaboration with the European Society for Bone Marrow Transplantation (EBMT) has been initiated by Richard Logan and Sharon Elad, and continues to bring fruitful results. This collaboration can serve as a unique paradigm for other similar projects. There is also interest in increasing the visibility of Oral Oncology at the various local, national, and international levels. The inspiration of local young scientists from different countries and, importantly, young graduate students to join the Society will hopefully culminate in their active participation in the ISOO community, including its study groups and guidelines projects.

ISOO, in important collaboration with MASCC, forms a special platform to update our knowledge in cancer care and make international friends, to be inspired and to generate new knowledge.

My sincere thanks to all the MASCC/ISOO members who offered me this high honor and unique opportunity and, on behalf of the ISOO Board, I warmly invite you to the Adelaide Meeting in Australia in June 2016.

## MASCC/ISOO Annual Meeting - *Highlights!*

Copenhagen, Denmark • June 25-27, 2015

The MASCC/ISOO Annual Meeting took place in Copenhagen, Denmark, June 25-27. Meeting Chair Jørn Herrstedt and the Scientific Committee put together an exciting program of presentations, workshops, discussions, and debates on treatments and techniques for minimizing treatment-induced side effects, as well as on the psychological, social, and spiritual dimensions of cancer diagnosis and treatment. The meeting included three plenary sessions, five in-depth workshops, a wide range of parallel sessions, pro-and-con debates, and opportunities to challenge the experts. The meeting also featured joint sessions with the European Oncology Nursing Society (EONS), the International Association for the Study of Lung Cancer (IASLC), and the Danish Professional Society for Cancer Nurses (FSK). A total of 960 abstracts were submitted this year, of which about 800 were selected for either oral or poster presentation. >> For more highlights, goto: <http://www.mascc.org/meeting-2015>



A record number of 1707 participants attended this year's meeting. They represented 74 countries, with 57% from Western Europe, 18% from North America, 15% from East Asia and the Pacific area, and 5% from Eastern Europe. Africa, the Middle East, and Central and South America were also represented. Participants included clinical practitioners and researchers from oncology, hematology, hospice and palliative care professions, dentistry, and several other disciplines, as well as representatives from industry.



A highlight for ISOO was its Continuing Education Course, Oral Infection in the Cancer Patient. Session 1 included presentations and discussion of changes in the oral microbiome related to cancer and cancer therapy, bacteremia associated with oral infections, oral fungal infections, and antimicrobial resistance. Session 2 focused on potentially malignant oral lesions and the clinical and biological procedures for diagnosing them.

***Save the date. Join us in celebration of 25 years!***





## MASCC/ISOO Annual Meeting - *Highlights!*

Want to see more pictures? Go to: <http://www.mascc.org/photo-gallery>





## Oral Care Study Group (OCSG)

### MASCC/ISOO, Progress Report 2014/2015

#### Projects:

A workshop proposal was submitted in by the OCSG in August 2014 addressing “Dysphagia” in collaboration with the Nutrition and Cachexia Study Group. The initiative and program development were led by Drs. Paolo Bossi and Barbara Murphy. The joint workshop was approved by the MASCC Executive Committee and the Scientific Committee of the 2015 Copenhagen Meeting and took place on Thursday June 25th from 8:00-11.30am.

The multi-center, clinical, prospective studies on oral complications in adult hematopoietic stem cell transplant patients (Orastem) and pediatric hematopoietic stem cell transplant patients (Ped Orastem) are progressing under the direction of Dr. Inger von Bültzingslöwen and Dr. Mike T. Brennan. For Orastem, six centers are now enrolling patients or are ready to begin. A couple more centers may also join the project. The study PIs have conducted preliminary site visits at each of the participating centers. So far, a total of 75 patients have been enrolled, which is a little less than one-third of the estimated goal of 254 patients. An Investigators' Meeting has been held during the MASCC/ISOO conference for the last few years. This year, it was held the day before the conference, at the courtesy of Copenhagen Dental School.

For Ped Orastem, four centers are currently enrolling patients or are planning to begin. The protocol has been adjusted by Study PI, Dr. Catherine Hong, to fit the study population. Site visits have been carried out at three of the four centers and a fourth will take place in a couple of months.

A joint project of the OCSG (headed by Dr. Sharon Elad) and the European Society for Blood and Marrow Transplantation (EBMT) (represented by Drs. Barry Quinn and Arno Mank) focused on developing guidance for medical and clinical staff who provide oral care for patients treated with hematopoietic stem cell transplants. This has resulted in a published position paper which was presented by representatives from each of our organizations, Dr. Sharon Elad and Dr. Barry Quinn, on Saturday, June 27th, at the ISOO CE Course.

ISOO president Richard Logan gave an invited talk on the position paper at the EBMT annual meeting 2015 in Istanbul, Turkey.

A paper was published on the clinical approach in the management of oral chronic graft-versushost disease (cGCHD) in a series of specialized medical centers, also led by Dr. Sharon Elad.

The project on clinical standards of care for the diagnosis, prevention, and treatment of chemo-radiation-induced dysphagia in head and neck cancer patients is in its final phase. The study, based on an electronic survey from the Dysphagia Section of the OCSG, is headed by Drs. Paolo Bossi, Barbara Murphy and Elvio Russi, who will soon begin preparation of a manuscript.

The update of the systematic reviews on oral complications of cancer therapies, along with the outcome measures project on oral complications of cancer therapies, is well underway. Three sections (Dysgeusia, Oral Pain, and Dental Diseases) have almost finished reviewing papers and the data are currently under statistical analysis. The other seven sections (Trismus, Fungal Infection, Viral Infection, Osteonecrosis of the jaw, Salivary Gland Hypofunction and Xerostomia, Dysphagia, and Oral Complications in the Pediatric Population) are still in the review phase.

The OCSG chairing group has worked with ASCO representatives on joint endorsement of the clinical management guidelines to be developed from the systematic reviews of oral complications of cancer therapies. A memorandum of understanding has gone out as an invitation to ASCO from ISOO and MASCC.

On behalf of the chairing group of the OCSG,  
Siri Beier Jensen (left)  
Deborah P. Saunders (middle)  
Tuomas Waltimo (right)



## ISOO Board of Directors 2015-2017

Elections were held prior to the MASCC/ISOO meeting in Copenhagen to elect the new ISOO Board. The newly-elected Board met and the following positions have been filled for 2015-2017:

*President – Ourania Nicolatau-Galitis*

*Past-President and MASCC Liaison – Richard Logan*

*President-Elect – Allan Hovan*

*Secretary – M. Elvira Correa*

*Treasurer- Janet Fulton*

*Vice-President (Communications) – Rui Mendes*

*Member-At-Large – Raj Nair*

*ISOO Liaison – Raj Lalla*

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## Meet an ISOO Member, Rui Amaral Mendes

After receiving his DMD degree from the University of Porto, Professor Rui Amaral Mendes pursued several externships in oral surgery at the University of Michigan's Department of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery. Subsequently, he pursued PhD studies at the VU Universiteit Amsterdam under the direction of his mentor, Isaac van der Waal, who set high standards as well as inspiring examples of nobleness, scientific excellence, kindness, and friendship. Rui considers his time in Amsterdam to be a highpoint of his academic career, as well as being personally rewarding, and considers it a privilege to have had the opportunity to work with Isaac van der Waal.

Rui first held the appointments of Professor of Oral Medicine, Oral Oncology and Oral Surgery at the Catholic University of Portugal and Clinical Director of the University's Clinic. In 2012 he started serving as Chair of the DMD Program of the Catholic University of Portugal. He also held the position of Visiting Clinical Associate Professor at the University of Michigan until 2014. Currently, Rui holds the position of Adjunct Professor of Oral Medicine at the Department of Oral and Maxillofacial Medicine and Diagnostic Sciences of the Case Western Reserve University, in Cleveland, Ohio, to which he was first appointed in 2014.

As a Fellow of the International Academy of Oral Oncology, Rui has been actively involved in the V World Workshop on Oral Medicine. He is member of the "Genetics/Epigenetics of Oral Mucosal Premalignancy" work group and is also a member of the Research Interest Group, "Head & Neck Oncology," of the International Association of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons. In June 2013, Rui was designated as one of the Chairs of the Osteonecrosis Section of the Oral Care Study Group, a joint study group of the Multinational Association of Supportive Care in Cancer and the International Society of Oral Oncology (MASCC/ISOO).

In December 2014, he was unanimously appointed to the Executive Committee of the Association for Dental Education in Europe (ADEE) and recently he was elected as a Board Member of the International Society of Oral Oncology and Vice-President for Communications.

Rui is an active reviewer for several scientific journals, including *Oral Oncology*, *Oral Surgery*, *Oral Medicine*, *Oral Pathology*, and *Oral Radiology*, *International Journal of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery*, *Oral Diseases*, *Journal of Oral Pathology and Medicine*). He has served as a member of the Editorial Board of *Oral Surgery*, *Oral Medicine*, *Oral Pathology and Oral Radiology*, is a current member of the Editorial Board of *Oral Diseases*, and Associate Editor of the *British Medical Journal - Case Reports*.

Between 2003 and 2013, Rui collaborated as a volunteer with the Non-Governmental Organization for Development's (NGOD) "Doctors of the World." He participated in the project "Porto Escondido," integrating the medical team responsible for providing primary health care to the homeless population of the city of Porto and the illegal immigrants detained at the center of the Department of Immigration.

Aside from his busy professional life in oral oncology, Rui is a runner. He has participated in marathons in Barcelona, Paris, and Rotterdam and in the 90k Comrades ultra-marathon in South Africa. Rui also has a great interest in literature, especially poetry, and he has published three poetry collections. Although he keeps up his participation in sports, poetry is his main interest outside of professional activities.

