

International Childhood Cancer Awareness Day (ICCD2021)

3 February 2021
11:00 to 13:00 CET

Virtual
Event



SPEAKER PROFILES

International Childhood Cancer Awareness Day (#ICCD21)

'Action to Improve Access to Medicines for Paediatric Cancers in Europe: Eradicating inequalities and addressing unmet needs'

Event Host and Chairs

Host ICCD2021

Loucas Fourlas
MEP (EPP, CY)



Loucas Fourlas was born in 1969 in Limassol, Cyprus. His university studies held for the period between 1989 – 1994 at the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Greece in Economics and Political Sciences. In 2006, he had attended a number of courses in Research Journalism and International Crisis at the Columbia and Washington Universities in the USA.

Loucas Fourlas is known for his long-lasting career as a Journalist and TV presenter (1995-2016) as well as for being the Press Secretary of the Presidential candidate Mr. Ioannis Kasoulidis during the elections in 2008. He has also served as the Press secretary of the Cyprus House of Representatives for 2 consecutive years (2017-2019). During the euro-elections in May 2019, he received the highest number of votes in Cyprus, and since then he is undertaking duties as one of the members representing Cyprus in the European Parliament.

Loucas Fourlas is also the Ambassador of the Charity Foundation “Hope” and Founder of the philanthropic organization “Little Heroes” – children who suffer from cancer. In 2020, he was candidate for Health Award in MEPs Awards. Currently, he is a member of the Parliament’s Cancer Committee (BECA) and co-chair of MEPs Against Cancer.

Pamela Kearns
SIOPE President
(University of
Birmingham, UK)



Professor Pam Kearns is Chair of Clinical Paediatric Oncology at the University of Birmingham and an Honorary Consultant Paediatric Oncologist at Birmingham Women and Children’s Hospital. She is Director of the University of Birmingham’s Institute of Cancer and Genomic Sciences and Director of the Cancer Research UK Clinical Trials Unit (CRCTU). As Director of CRCTU, she leads the research strategy for one of UK’s largest cancer trials unit, delivering a trials portfolio of over 100 multi-centre & international cancer trials for a wide-range of cancers, occurring in all children, young people and adults, notably leading the National Children’s Cancer Trials Team responsible the vast majority of UK’s clinical trial portfolio for children and young people with cancer. Her research is focussed on research in childhood acute leukaemias and lymphomas and drug development and innovation in the design and delivery of clinical trials for childhood cancers.

She was elected President of the European Society of Paediatric Oncology (SIOPE Europe) in 2019, having been a Board member since 2013. She has several European roles including Executive Board Member of the academic consortium ‘Innovative Therapeutics in Childhood Cancer’ (ITCC), Chair of ITCC’s European Sponsor Institutions Committee and Steering Committee member of the International multi-stakeholder platform ‘ACCELERATE’. Her research interests are focussed of drug development and innovation of design and delivery of clinical trials for childhood cancers. She was also a Senior Clinical Advisor to Cancer Research UK from 2015 to 2020 and is now as Trustee for Cancer Research UK as well as continuing to be a Trustee of a Child of Mine, a charity dedicated to supporting bereaved parents. She is also Chair of the Research Assessment Panel for GOSH Charity, and Chair of The Independent Scientific Advisory Panel for Bone Cancer Research Trust.

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Carmelo Rizzari
SIOPE President-Elect
(University of Milano-Bicocca, IT)



Carmelo Rizzari has been involved in the field of paediatric leukaemias with a special interest for both traditional and innovative chemotherapy agents. He is currently running the Paediatric Haematology-Oncology Unit in Monza (within the frame of the University of Milano-Bicocca, Italy), which is one of the largest centres for the diagnosis and treatment of haematological malignancies in Italy.

Since the start of his career, Carmelo has been involved in the field of pediatric leukemias with a special interest for both traditional and innovative chemotherapy agents.

He is also currently a member of the AIEOP National Board (Italian Association for Pediatric Hematology and Oncology) and Chairman of the AIEOP Clinical Pharmacology Committee, aiming to improve the knowledge and availability of innovative anti-cancer drugs in the country.

Carmelo is also a member of the national AIEOP scientific committees for first line and relapsed trials for ALL and AML and an active member of several scientific and steering international committees (e.g. AIEOP-BFM ALL trials, International BFM Study Group, ITCC, INTREALL). Within ITCC (Innovative Therapies for Children with Cancer), Carmelo served as a member of the Quality and Accreditation Committee.

Carmelo is currently serving as the representative of the International BFM Study Group at ENPREMA (European Network for Pediatric Research at EMA) which aims to foster and integrate at the European level the research and innovation in different pediatric areas.

He is also currently national PI or Co-PI or local site PI for several national or international phase I and II Pharma sponsored or Academia driven studies involving innovative drugs for resistant/relapsed leukemias and lymphomas.

Author or co-author of a large number of scientific publications, he has also actively participated in several international scientific meetings and disease-specific working groups.

Ruth Ladenstein
SIOPE Board Member
and ERN PaedCan
Coordinator (St. Anna
Children's Hospital, AT)



- Professor in Paediatrics and Senior Consultant in Paediatric Oncology of the St. Anna Children's Hospital, Head of the Clinical Trials Unit S2IRP at the Children's Cancer Research Institute (CCRI)

- Project Coordination: the European Reference Network in Paediatric Cancer (ERN PaedCan) since 2017, the European Expert Paediatric Oncology Research Network for Diagnostics and Treatment (ExPO-r-NeT) 2014 – 2017, the European Network for Cancer Research in Children and Adolescence (ENCCA) 2011 – 2015 and the Austrian Medicine for Children Research Network OKIDS GmbH since 2012

- Board member SIOPE EUROPE & former president from September 2009 – October 2012

- Advisory board member of the SIOPE Europe Neuroblastoma Group since May 2011; former SIOPE president from 2007 – 2011; Principle Coordinating Investigator of SIOPE High Risk Neuroblastoma Trials since 2002

- Chair of the Austrian Group for Paediatric Haematology-Oncology & Member of Oncology Advisory Board of the Ministry of Health Austria since 2013

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Special addresses

Veronique Trillet-Lenoir
MEP (Renew, FR)
BECA Rapporteur



Véronique Trillet-Lenoir is a French oncologist and politician who was elected as a Member of the European Parliament in 2019. Since joining the Parliament, Trillet-Lenoir has been a member of the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety and became the Rapporteur of the Special Committee on Beating Cancer (BECA).

Education and early career

Trillet-Lenoir studied at the Faculty of Medicine of Claude Bernard University Lyon 1. She completed her medical studies in 1980, obtained a state doctorate in medicine in 1985, a doctorate in human biology in 1991, an authorization to conduct research and a professorship in 1993. After having obtained her PhD in medicine and following her medical internship, she worked with clinical scientists at the University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center in Houston, Texas. During that time, she took part in the development of predictive tests to ascertain the sensitivity of cancers to chemotherapy.

In 1993, Trillet-Lenoir was appointed professor at the University of Lyon-I and hospital practitioner at the University Hospital Centre of Lyon, where she created in 2003 the oncology department.

From 2013, Trillet-Lenoir served as president of the board of directors of the Cancéropôle Lyon Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes (CLARA), a research cluster dedicated to cancer. She was also a member of the board of directors of the National Cancer Institute.

Trillet-Lenoir became an associate professor at the Faculty of Medicine of Shanghai Jiao Tong University in Shanghai in 2018. She had already been visiting the university since 2011, having contributed to the establishment of the first Master's degree program in oncology.

Ursula von der Leyen
President of the
European Commission



Ursula von der Leyen was Minister at federal level in Germany for more than 14 years and responsible for family, then labor and social affairs and later defence. In 2019, she was elected as President of the European Commission. As the head of the European executive, she has defined six headline ambitions for Europe for her mandate: a European Green Deal, a Europe fit for the digital age, an economy that works for people, a stronger Europe in the world, promoting our European way of life, and a new push for European democracy.

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Stella Kyriakides Commissioner for Health and Food Safety



On 1 December 2019, Ms. Kyriakides became the European Commissioner for Health and Food Safety.

During the COVID-19 crisis, she has been leading the Commission's work to coordinate the EU's health response and support Member States to tackle the pandemic. She is responsible for the EU's Vaccine Strategy in order to procure safe and effective vaccines for all EU Member States and Europe's broader neighbourhood.

She is also responsible for the establishment of a strong European Health Union and supporting Member States to strengthen healthcare systems and deliver better patient outcomes for all EU citizens. This includes leading the reinforcement of EU health agencies, putting in place a stronger framework of cooperation against health threats, setting up a Health Emergency Preparedness and Response authority, rolling out Europe's Beating Cancer Plan to help improve cancer prevention and care, the new Pharmaceutical Strategy to ensure that Europe has enough affordable medicines to meet its needs, creating a European Health Data Space and the implementation of the new and ambitious EU4Health Programme.

On food safety, Commissioner Kyriakides is leading the new 'Farm to Fork' strategy for sustainable food, covering every step in the food chain from production to consumption. Her responsibilities also include ensuring enforcement of animal welfare laws and promoting European standards globally, as well as ensuring enforcement of EU laws on food safety and animal and plant health and leading the work to protect plant health, reduce dependency on pesticides and support low-risk and non-chemical alternatives.

Previously, Commissioner Kyriakides worked as a clinical psychologist in the Mental Health Services of the Ministry of Health of the Republic of Cyprus in the area of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, from 1979-2006. In 2006, she was elected to the Cyprus Parliament and was re-elected in 2011 and 2016 for the Democratic Rally party, of which she was the Vice-President.

In 2012, she was appointed Head of the Cyprus Delegation to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE). In 2017 she was elected President of the PACE, thus becoming the 30th President of the Assembly. She founded the First Breast Cancer advocacy organisation in Cyprus, Europa Donna - Cyprus where she served as President from 2000-2015. She was also President of the European Breast Cancer Coalition Europa Donna. She received many awards in recognition of her relentless efforts and work in support of women's rights, children and patients' rights and had numerous publications, research contributions/articles on children related matters and cancer in Cyprus and other European countries.

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**Manfred Weber, EPP
Chairman & MEP (DE)**



Manfred Weber is Chairman of the European People's Party (EPP) Group in the European Parliament. Born in Lower Bavaria in 1972, after a vocational baccalaureate and his military service, he became an engineer in physical technology working on environmental management and occupational safety. After two years as Member of the Bavarian State Parliament, he joined the European Parliament in 2004, where he became the EPP Group's Home Affairs Spokesman in 2006 and Vice-Chairman for Legal and Home Affairs in 2009. Since 2014, he is Chairman of the EPP Group. In 2019, he was the EPP lead candidate for the European elections. In the Christian Social Union (CSU) Party Manfred Weber has been Chairman of the Party Youth and District Chair for Lower Bavaria. Since 2015, he is Vice-President of the Party.

**Bartosz Arłukowicz
MEP (EPP, PL)
BECA Chair**



Paediatrician, Polish Health Minister in years 2011-2015, Member of the European Parliament. Chair of the Special Committee on Beating Cancer in the European Parliament. As a Health Minister he introduced a comprehensive reform of the system of oncological treatment and care in Poland.

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Speakers

Giorgos Georgiou
MEP (GUE/NGL, CY)



Giorgos K. Georgiou is a Member of the European Parliament and belongs to the Group of the European United Left / Nordic Green Left (GUE / NGL). He is a member of the Committee on Foreign Affairs (AFET), the Committee on Industry, Research and Energy (ITRE) of the European Parliament as well as a member of the BECA Committee and the EU - Turkey Parliamentary Committee. He also participates at the MAC (Meps against Cancer) interest group.

Giorgos K. Georgiou was born in Nicosia in 1963 and comes from Afaneia and the village of Assia in the occupied territories. Today he lives in Mazotos. He is married to Kalomira Ioannou and they have three children.

From 1983 until 1987, he studied Literature at the University of Athens and went on to study History at the University of Cyprus.

He served as a teacher for Greek and History in Secondary Education.

In 2011 and 2016, he was elected MP with AKEL-Left-New Forces in the Larnaka district. During his tenure, he served as a member of the Parliamentary Committees for Foreign Affairs, Education, Agriculture and Institutions, while he was also a member of the Parliamentary Committees on the Environment and Legal Affairs. He was also the Head of the Cyprus Parliament Delegation to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Mediterranean.

Giorgos Georgiou is a member of the Central Committee of AKEL and the Larnaka District Committee. Elected as Head of the Larnaka District Council of the Union of Cypriot Farmers (EKA) he is also coordinating the Union's activities/initiatives in the district. He also participates in the Education and Environment Bureau of the CC of AKEL.

Delphine Heenen
CCI Europe Committee
Member (KickCancer,
BE)



Delphine Heenen is the mother, founder, director and day-to-day manager. Delphine was successively a lawyer (Linklaters), a strategy consultant (Bain & Company) and active in the investment world of renewable energy (TTR energy). She first supported her son in his fight by, among other things, decorating his hospital bedroom with hundreds of drawings made by his school friends. Since January 2017, she decided to change tactics and to move up another gear to fight childhood cancers by founding and working full-time for KickCancer, which has been active with other European paediatric cancer organisations with the aim of improving the cure rate and reduce the long-term side effects of the treatments for children with cancer, by advocating more research and innovative treatments. She has participated in the review process of the Paediatric Medicines Regulation and the Orphan Drugs Regulation in 2016-2018. She became a member of the CCI-Europe Regional Committee in 2020 and is carrying her European activities under this capacity.

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Lejla Kamerić
CCI Europe Committee
Member (Heart for
Children with Cancer,
BiH)



Lejla Kamerić – originally coming from Bosnia and Herzegovina, currently living and working in Vienna, Austria. I have two beautiful daughters, Neira (26) and Arnela (24).

By profession I am an IT engineer with a master's degree in economics. I spent almost my entire career in banking in the IT sector. 13 years ago, led by personal experience with a childhood cancer that affected my daughter, I became a member of the Association “Heart for Kids with Cancer” and very soon the president of the same Association. I held the role for 10 years. The Association is dedicated to helping children with cancer and their families during and after treatment. The list of accomplishments of my team in the past years are numerous, but here are a few achievements I am very much proud of:

- Parents' House in Sarajevo is built without any help from the state and from the system, only driven by several enthusiastic people from the Association and with huge financial help from people from Bosnia and Herzegovina,
- Organization of rehabilitation for all treated children and their families every year,
- Assistance with re-socialization upon returning to their home environments,
- Psycho-social support and assistance during and after treatment,
- Lobbying for better treatment conditions, sick leave, follow-up of late consequences, procurement of scarce medicines, education and empowerment of medical staff, and education and empowerment of young people treated for cancer.

Since 2012, I am a member of the Regional Committee of the European Branch of Childhood Cancer International - Parents and Patients Association of Childhood Cancer Patients, where I have been given the opportunity to actively advocate for reducing differences in standards of care between Eastern and Western Europe. Advocating at the Parliament of Europe with responsible MEPs, advocating for funding for projects aimed to reduce the gap, actively participating in projects related to improving treatment and care conditions in Eastern European countries are just some of the activities in which I have participated.

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Loizou Loizos
Director, Pediatric
Oncology/Hematology
Clinic Archbishop
Makarios III Hospital,
Nicosia, CY



Professor Loizos G. Loizou is Director of the Pediatric Oncology - Hematology Clinic at the Archbishop Makarios III Hospital in Nicosia, Clinical Professor of Pediatrics, Pediatric Oncology - Hematology at the Medical School of the University of Nicosia and President of the ELPIDA Foundation for children and adolescents affected by cancer and leukemia.

Prof. Loizou, after his studies in Medicine in Brussels, Belgium and his specialization in Pediatrics, and Pediatric Oncology - Hematology in Strasbourg and Nancy in France, was invited by the Minister of Health of Cyprus in 1989 to return to Cyprus and undertake the establishment and operation of the Pediatric Oncology - Hematology Department at the Archbishop Makarios III Hospital, which he runs till today.

As the founder of Pediatric Oncology-Hematology in Cyprus, he created the clinical and laboratory services, for children and adolescents with cancer and leukemia, which were previously inexistent in the country. He undertook the training of the medical, nursing and other staff as well as the sensitization of the general public and the relevant authorities, in order to create the entire necessary infrastructure to provide the best possible care for the cancerous and leukemic children. In November 1996 he was in charge of the team of doctors who carried out the first bone marrow transplantation in Cyprus, writing a new chapter of historical importance for medicine in Cyprus. Additionally, this team created the first modern leukemia diagnostics laboratory and the first cryopreservation facility in the country for storing pluripotent umbilical cord and bone marrow stem cells at the Archbishop Makarios III Hospital in Nicosia. Furthermore, since 1990 he established the first ever cancer registry in Cyprus, the Pediatric Oncology Registry of Cyprus (PORCY), which was initially and till 1998 a hospital-based registry. After the creation of the Cyprus National Cancer Registry in 1998, the PORCY was further developed and became a population-based childhood and adolescent cancer registry.

As a pioneer in the care of children and adolescents with cancer in Cyprus, in 1990 he also created and is the President of the ELPIDA Foundation for Children with Cancer and Leukemia (a nongovernmental charity organization) having as specific aims to strengthen and support the medical and social efforts to create the modern infrastructure for the care of children, adolescents and young adults affected by cancer and offer them the best possible therapies and overall management.

Prof. Loizou, with his unique experience of 35 years of exclusive clinical occupation with childhood cancer and leukemia, continues his clinical and research work in descriptive epidemiology, survivorship issues, cancer predisposition syndromes and trials including new anticancer agents, with innovative and pioneering actions for improving the survival rates and quality of life of children and adolescents with cancer or leukemia, as well as in general, to fight the scourge of cancer.

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**Nathalie Moll
Director General,
European Federation of
Pharmaceutical
Industries and
Associations (EFPIA)**



Nathalie Moll joined the European Federation of Pharmaceutical Industries and Associations (EFPIA) as Director General in April 2017.

EFPIA represents the pharmaceutical industry operating in Europe. Together with its direct membership 40 leading pharmaceutical companies, 33 national associations representing over 1,900 companies and in collaboration with health and research players, EFPIA's mission is to create an environment that enables our members to innovate, discover, develop and deliver new therapies and vaccines for people across Europe, as well as contribute to the European economy.

Prior to joining EFPIA, between 2010 and 2017 Nathalie was the Secretary General of EuropaBio ranked as the most effective European Trade Association in Brussels in 2013. She spent over 20 years working for the biotech industry at EU and national level in associations and corporate positions and held the position of Chair and Vice Chair of the International Council of Biotech Associations (ICBA).

In 2013, Nathalie won the Technovisionaries Women Innovation Award organised by Women & Technologies® while in 2009, Nathalie and the Green Biotech Team of EuropaBio were presented with the Leadership and Excellence in Advancing Ag-Biotech and Food Issues Award. Nathalie was also named one of the 15 leading women in biotech in Europe in 2017.

Nathalie holds an Honours Degree in Biochemistry and Biotechnology from St Andrews University, Scotland.

**Averof Neofytou
President, Democratic
Rally (DISY)**



Averof Neofytou is a Greek Cypriot politician and the President of Democratic Rally (DISY), the governing party in Cyprus. Averof Neofytou has been a member of the House of Representatives since 1996. Prior to that, he was active in local politics and served as mayor of his hometown in Paphos. From 1999-2003 he was appointed Minister of Communications and Works in the government of President Glafkos Clerides which led to Cyprus' accession to the European Union. Since 2013, Averof Neofytou is the elected President of DISY.

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Reineke Schoot
SIOPE Board Member
and Young SIOPE Chair
(Prinses Maxima
Centrum, NL)



Reineke Schoot is a fellow paediatric oncology and Postdoctoral researcher at the Princess Máxima Center in Utrecht, the Netherlands. She is involved in several research projects with a focus on paediatric sarcoma and supervises several PhD students. She is the chair of Young SIOPE, a European community of young investigators, and a member of the SIOPE board. Together with the Young SIOPE steering committee she coordinates several projects on education, mentorship and essential medicines.

Fabio D'Atri, Policy
Officer, DG SANTE,
Unit: Medicines: policy,
authorisation and
monitoring



Fabio D'Atri is a policy officer in the unit "Medicines: policy, authorisation and monitoring" in the Health and food Safety Directorate General of the European Commission (DG SANTE).

Fabio holds a PhD in biochemistry from the University of Geneva and a master in management of biotech companies from the Grenoble School of Business.

After working for several years as university researcher and then both in the public and private sector he joined the European Commission in 2004.

In Directorate General Health and Food Safety he has worked on several areas of the food legislation, from nutrition to food contact materials. In 2011 he has joined the units dealing with pharmaceutical products in DG SANTE. He has worked on the quality of medicines, falsified medicines and clinical trials. During 2016 and 2017 Fabio was seconded to the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC) in Stockholm and worked in particular on vaccination and antimicrobial resistance related issues. He is now in charge of the paediatric medicines file.

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<p>Maria Spyraiki MEP (EPP, EL)</p> 	<p>Maria Spyraiki is awarded MEP of the year 2019 for Industry, Research, and Innovation. She is now serving her second mandate in the European Parliament with of Nea Demokratia party - European People’s Party (EPP), as a member of the Committees Industry, Research, and Energy (ITRE), Environment, Public Health and Food Safety (ENVI) and Committee of Beating the Cancer (BECA). She is also co-chair of the Intergroup on Climate change, biodiversity and sustainable development and Vice-Chair at Delegation for EU relations with the People’s Republic of China.</p> <p>During this mandate, she has been the rapporteur on the Motion for Resolution on Chemicals Strategy for Sustainability. She was also the rapporteur of the opinion on “Maximizing the energy efficiency of buildings” on behalf of ENVI Committee and the shadow rapporteur on behalf of EPP on “Energy Storage” report and the Public Loan Facility in the Just Transition Mechanism at ITRE Committee.</p> <p>Maria Spyraiki’s first degree is in Chemistry at the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki. She has an MSc in Energy Law, Business, Regulation and Policy from International Hellenic University, Greece. She had worked for 22 years as a journalist, until 2014, when she was elected MEP.</p> <p>Moreover, she has attended three summer schools at the College of Europe, Bruges, and (Energy Union Summer School, Negotiations in practice and Intensive Seminar of the EU). She has also graduated from two e-learning programs from the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens on Crisis Management and the Financial Crisis of 2010.</p>
<p>Patrizia Toia MEP (S&D, IT)</p> 	<p>Patrizia Toia worked as Director of the Planning Service at Lombardy Region. She served as regional councillor, Member of the Chamber of Deputies and of the Italian Senate as well as Undersecretary of State for Foreign Affairs and Minister for European Affairs and for Relations with Parliament.</p> <p>In 2004 she was elected at the European Parliament. Member of the S&D Group, she is Vice-Chair of the ITRE Committee.</p> <p>Patrizia Toia was born in Pogliano Milanese (Milan); she is graduated in Political Science at the University of Milan. She worked as Director of the Planning Service at Lombardy Region. She was regional councillor in Lombardy, with different responsibilities (Health, Budget)</p> <p>She was Member of the Chamber of Deputies and in 1996 she was elected at the Senate of the Republic. She held various institutional positions: Undersecretary of State for Foreign Affairs with responsibility for Latin America, Asia and Oceania, Relations with the United Nations, Human Rights, Migration and Italians abroad, in 1999 she was appointed Minister for European Affairs and Minister for Relations with Parliament.</p> <p>In 2004 she was elected at the European Parliament, confirmed in 2009, 2014 and 2019 Member of the Group of the Progressive Alliance of Socialists and Democrats (S & D), she is Vice-Chair of the Committee on Industry, Research and Energy. She is also substitute member of the</p>

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	<p>Committee on Development, Committee on Transport and of the Special Committee BECA.</p>
<p>Gilles Vassal SIOPE Board Member and Policy Lead (Gustave Roussy, FR)</p> 	<p>Trained as a Paediatric Oncologist, Gilles Vassal received his PhD in Pharmacology. He is Professor of Oncology in University Paris XI. Former head of Clinical Research, he is currently heading the Pediatric Medico Scientific Research programme at Institut Gustave Roussy, a large cancer centre with 11,000 new patients annually.</p> <p>For the last 20 years, Gilles Vassal dedicated his research, clinical and training activity to the development of new drugs for children and adolescents with cancer. He co-founded three European networks, an EU academic Consortium for Innovative Therapies for Children with Cancer (ITCC), the European Network for Cancer research in Children and Adolescents (ENCCA) and the European Expert Paediatric Oncology Reference Network for Diagnostics and treatment (ExPO-r-Net).</p> <p>Gilles Vassal is currently ITCC chair, a network that conducts a comprehensive new drug development program from the biology and preclinical evaluation to the early drug trials in 14 EU member states. He is Past-President (2013-2015) and currently Board Member of the European Society of Paediatric Oncology (SIOPE Europe) driving the EU Paediatric Oncology Policy agenda of several topics.</p> <p>He is also Chair of ACCELERATE (www.accelerate-platform.org) – a multi-stakeholder international to accelerate innovation for children and adolescents with cancer. Created in 2015, ACCELERATE is a partnership between academia, industry, regulatory agencies (EMA and FDA) and patient advocate groups committed to improve and speed up the development of innovative therapies.</p> <p>He has authored more than 250 publications, is an expert at the European Medicine Agency and member of several Scientific Councils.</p>