

SPEAKER PROFILES

SIOPE-MAC Webinar on the occasion of Gold September: Childhood Cancer Awareness Month 2021

*'Towards a Transformational Change for Children and Adolescents with Cancer in Europe:
 Synergies between Europe's Beating Cancer Plan and EU Cancer Research Programmes'*

Event Host and Chairs

Host

Véronique Trillet-Lenoir
MEP (RE, FR)
BECA Rapporteur



Prof. 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, in 2003, she created the oncology department.

From 2013 to 2019, 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.

Pamela Kearns
SIOPE President
(University of
Birmingham, UK)



Prof. Pamela 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 the UK's largest cancer trials units, 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

	<p>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 on 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 a 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.</p>
<p>Anita Kienesberger CCI Europe Committee Chair (AT)</p> 	<p>Anita Kienesberger is the Chair of the CCI Europe Committee. Through her past role as Board Member of Childhood Cancer International (2003 – 2014), she put international collaboration high on the national as well as on the European agenda. Mrs. Kienesberger was also the CEO of the Austrian Childhood Cancer Organisation for 20 years. By training, Mrs. Kienesberger is a paediatric nurse with a specialisation in oncological diseases. She was Head of the Intensive Care Unit at the St. Anna Children’s Hospital in Vienna, Austria for over 10 years. Through her past experiences, she developed a multi-disciplinary approach to childhood cancer care.</p> <p>Anita holds a master’s degree in international Gender Studies and Feministic Politics.</p>
<p>Carmelo Rizzari SIOPE President-Elect and SIOPE Research Council Co-Chair (University of Milano- Bicocca, IT)</p> 	<p>Prof. Carmelo Rizzari is a Professor of Paediatrics at the University of Milano-Bicocca, Italy and has been involved in the field of paediatric leukaemias with a special interest in both traditional and innovative chemotherapy agents. He is currently running the Paediatric Haematology-Oncology Unit in Monza (MBBM Foundation, ASST Monza, University of Milano-Bicocca, Italy), which is one of the largest centres for the diagnosis and treatment of haematological malignancies in Italy.</p> <p>Since the start of his career, he has been involved in the field of paediatric leukaemias with a special interest in both traditional and innovative chemotherapy agents.</p> <p>He is currently Chairman of the AIEOP (Associazione Italiana di Ematologia ed Oncologia Pediatrica) Acute Lymphoblastic Leukaemia (ALL) Committee which aims to improve the knowledge and treatment of childhood ALL in the country. He 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 the ITCC Consortium (Innovative Therapies for Children with Cancer), he served as a member of the Quality and Accreditation Committee and is currently the Chair of the ITCC Centre of Monza, Italy.</p> <p>For several years now, he is also serving as the representative of the International BFM Study Group at ENPREMA (European Network for</p>

Paediatric Research at EMA) which aims to foster and integrate at the European level the research and innovation in different paediatric 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 leukaemias and lymphomas.

Author or co-author of over 150 peer-reviewed scientific publications, he has also actively participated as an invited speaker in several international scientific meetings and disease-specific working groups.

He is President-Elect of the European Society of Paediatric Oncology (SIOPEurope, or SIOPE) and currently serves as Co-Chair of the SIOPEurope Clinical Research Council, which gathers the thirty-five National Paediatric Haematology-Oncology Societies and the nineteen European Clinical Trial Groups.

Special addresses

Loucas Furlas
MEP (EPP, CY)



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

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

Loucas Furlas is the author of the book ‘A sea upon a time’ depicting a special childhood story that was selected for the campaign [‘Readers of Europe 2021 – recommendation by the Permanent Representation of Cyprus to the EU’](#). All the revenues associated with the book will be donated to the philanthropic organisation “Little Heroes”.

Stella Kyriakides
Commissioner for Health and Food Safety



Ms Kyriakides, in her capacity as the European Commissioner for Health and Food Safety since December 2019, is leading the Commission's work on various portfolios including the Europe's Beating Cancer Plan, aiming to improve cancer prevention and care while also she is in charge of developing a new Pharmaceutical Strategy to ensure that Europe can meet its needs relating to affordable medicines.

During the COVID-19 crisis, the Commissioner took on the responsibilities of coordinating the EU's health response and of supporting Member States to tackle the outbreak.

Ms. Kyriakides has previously worked as a clinical psychologist for 28 consecutive years, 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.

Ms. Kyriakides was elected to the Cyprus Parliament in 2006 and was then re-elected in 2011 and 2016 for the Democratic Rally Party, for which she served duties as Vice-President. In 2012, Ms. Kyriakides was appointed Head of the Cyprus Delegation to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE) and in 2017 she was elected as President of PACE, thus becoming the 30th President of the Assembly.

Notably, she was also the founder of the First Breast Cancer advocacy organization in Cyprus, namely "Europa Donna – Cyprus" and served as the President from 2000-2015. She was also President of the European Breast Cancer Coalition Europa Donna.

Mariya Gabriel
Commissioner for Innovation, Research, Culture, Education and Youth



Mariya Gabriel is the European Commissioner for Innovation, Research, Culture, Education and Youth. Under her leadership, the new Horizon Europe, Erasmus+, and the cultural strand of Creative Europe programmes (2021-2027) will be implemented. Between 2017 and 2019, Mariya Gabriel was European Commissioner for Digital Economy and Society. She is First Vice-President of the European People's Party (EPP), and, since 2012, Vice-President of EPP Women. Commissioner Gabriel is a board member of the United Nations youth programme Generation Unlimited. She is ranked among the 50 most influential women in Europe in the field of cybersecurity by the leading European cybersecurity magazine SC Media UK (2019). Mariya Gabriel is also known for her involvement in the fight for gender equality. Among others, she received the prestigious Italian prize "Golden Apple". In November 2020, Commissioner Gabriel received the Annual Award of the Vienna Economic Forum "Partner of the Year 2020"

Speakers

Patricia Blanc
CCI Europe Parent
Representative (Imagine
for Margo, FR)



Patricia Blanc is founder and president of Imagine for Margo-Children without cancer, a French charity, created after her daughter, Margo, died from a brain tumour in 2010.

Imagine for Margo is raising funds to support the development of innovative therapies for children with cancer. Patricia Blanc is also very active in advocacy efforts towards French and European politicians, regulators and the pharmaceutical industry to make laws and research more adapted to better treatments for children with cancer.

- Chevalier de l'Ordre National du Mérite.
- Vanity Fair award 2016 of the 50 most influential French people in the world
- Member of the European Economic and Social Committee
- Past Member of the Cancer Mission Assembly
- Member of Childhood Cancer International – Europe
- Member of the Scientific committee of the SFCE (Société Française de lutte contre les Cancers et leucémies de l'Enfant et de l'adolescent)
- Member of the Scientific Council of Gustave Roussy, Villejuif
- Board Member of the ACCELERATE international platform to develop new drugs for children

Carina Schneider
CCI Europe Survivor
Representative
(Psychosocial Care Lead &
Committee Member, AT)



Carina Schneider is a psychologist and works at the Department for Paediatric Neurooncology at the Medical University Vienna, coordinating a psychosocial multi-centre study and a project on implementation of patient and public involvement (PPI). Before that, she worked as a project manager with the Austrian Childhood Cancer Organisation, focusing on the implementation of a nation-wide long-term follow-up structure („ZONE“ project) for adult childhood cancer survivors. At the age of 17, she was diagnosed with Ewing's Sarcoma and after that has been active as a patient advocate on the national level since 2009. In 2017, Carina, together with other survivor-representatives from across Europe, launched a survivors network within CCI Europe. Later that year she joined the Committee of CCI Europe as a survivor representative.

Gilles Vassal
SIOPE Board Member
and Policy Lead (Gustave
Roussy, FR)



Trained as a Paediatric Oncologist, **Prof. Gilles Vassal** received his PhD in Pharmacology. He is Professor of Oncology in University Paris-Saclay. Former head of Clinical Research, he is currently heading the Pediatric Research programme at Gustave Roussy Comprehensive Cancer Center in France, a large cancer centre with 12,000 new patients annually.

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).

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 16 EU member states and Israel. 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.

He is also Chair of ACCELERATE (www.accelerate-platform.org) – a multi-stakeholder international platform 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.

He has authored more than 250 publications, is an expert at the European Medicine Agency and member of several Scientific Councils.

Tomasz Szczepański
SIOPE Board Member and
SIOPE Clinical Research
Council Co-Chair (PL)



Prof. Tomasz Szczepański completed his medical studies at the Silesian Academy of Medicine in Katowice in June 1994. After the studies and one year of internships in general medicine he received Rotary International Academic-Year Ambassadorial Scholarship for research training at the Department of Immunology, Erasmus MC, University Medical Center Rotterdam, The Netherlands. He continued the work in Rotterdam for the period 1997-1999 and on 13th November 2002 he defended cum laude the Ph.D. thesis entitled “Detection of minimal residual disease in acute lymphoblastic leukemia”. Since 2000 Tomasz Szczepański works at the Department of Pediatric Hematology and Oncology in Zabrze of the Medical University of Silesia in Katowice, Poland, where he obtained Specialist Certificates in Pediatrics (2005) and Pediatric Oncology and Hematology (2006). After successful defense of Habilitation thesis entitled “Immunoglobulin and T-cell receptor gene rearrangements in B-cell-precursor acute lymphoblastic leukemia in childhood” (2005), Tomasz Szczepański has become an Independent Scientist at the Medical University of Silesia in Katowice, Poland and since 2009 the Head of the Department of Pediatric Hematology and Oncology in Zabrze. After receiving a professorship from the President of Poland he becomes a full professor at the Medical University of Silesia. Currently, Prof. Szczepański

	<p>also serves at the Medical University of Silesia as Rector Magnificus. He is a member of the Board of the Polish Pediatric Association and the President of the Polish Society of Pediatric Oncology and Hematology. He is co-author of > 300 publications, including > 150 international SCI publications. His works were cited > 5000 times, which resulted in a Hirsch index of 41.</p>
<p>Peter Liese MEP (EPP, DE) Member of the European Parliament's Special Committee on Beating Cancer</p> 	<p>Dr Peter Liese is Member and EPP Coordinator in the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety (ENVI) and Member of the Special Committee on Beating Cancer (BECA). He is Substitute Member in the Committee on Budgets, Member in the Delegation for relations with the countries of Central America, Member in the Delegation to the Euro-Latin American Parliamentary Assembly</p> <p>Medical Studies in Marburg, Aachen and Bonn. Attained his PhD from the Human Genetics Institute of the University Bonn. Occupation as a doctor in Guatemala. Ward physician in the children's hospital in Paderborn, Germany (till 1994). Physician in a group practice (1994 - 2002). District Chairman of the Junge Union (1991-1997). Member of the Council of the Municipal Bestwig (1989-1994). Member of the Central Committee of German Catholics (since 1997). Member of the federal executive Board of the CDU. Member of the European Parliament for the region Südwestfalen (South Westphalia) since 1994.</p>
<p>Patrizia Toia MEP (S&D, IT) Vice-Chair of the European Parliament's Committee on Industry, Research and Energy</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 to 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 a 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 to 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 as a 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 Committee on Development, Committee on Transport and of the Special Committee on Beating Cancer (BECA).</p>

<p>John F. Ryan Director – Public Health, DG SANTE, European Commission</p> 	<p>John F. Ryan is Director of the Commission Public Health directorate since September 2016.</p> <p>Previously, in the same department, he was the Head of Unit responsible for a number of public health policy areas (cancer, drugs, promotion, monitoring, infectious diseases).</p> <p>He was a Commission representative on the Board of the EU Lisbon Drugs Agency, and is currently the Commission representative on the Board of the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control.</p> <p>He also had the charge of dealing with tobacco control issues.</p> <p>Current priorities include the development of an EU cancer plan, antimicrobial resistance, vaccination policies, and the negotiation of financial instruments to support health, including research.</p> <p>He has previously worked on the completion of the internal market, and on international trade negotiations. He is also an official of the Irish civil service (on leave). He is a fellow of the UK faculty of public health.</p>
<p>Barbara Kerstiēns Head of Unit – Combatting Diseases, DG RTD, European Commission</p> 	<p>Dr Barbara Kerstiēns, MD, MPH is the Head of Unit in the unit responsible for ‘Combatting Diseases’ in the PEOPLE Directorate of the Directorate-General for Research and Innovation at the European Commission.</p> <p>She has a long experience in international public health, working for Médecins Sans Frontières, Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public health and DG Development and Cooperation of the European Commission prior to joining DG Research and Innovation in 2012 where she has consistently worked in medical research and funding.</p> <p>Barbara Kerstiēns received her M.D. from the Katholieke Universiteit Leuven, a Postgraduate Certificate in Tropical Medicine from the Institute of Tropical Medicine in Antwerp and a Master of Public health from Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health.</p>
<p>Mojca Gobec Head of Unit – Disease and Injury Prevention, Ministry of Health of the Republic of Slovenia</p> 	<p>Dr Mojca Gobec is Senior Secretary, Head of Unit for Prevention of Diseases and Injuries at the Directorate for Public Health of the Ministry of Health of the Republic of Slovenia.</p> <p>graduated from the Medical Faculty in Ljubljana in 1986. She did postgraduate training at the University of Bergen in Norway at the Research Centre for Health Promotion between 1996-1998.</p> <p>She was a general practitioner at the Primary Health Centre in Ljubljana and a research fellow at the National Institute of Public Health in Ljubljana. Since 2001 she is employed at the Ministry of Health. Between 2008 and 2020 she was a Director-General of the Directorate of Public Health, responsible for communicable diseases, implementation of public health policies, with a focus on health promotion and prevention of NCD in health care service.</p> <p>She is a member of the management Board of the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC) and a member of the Health Security Committee. She chairs the Intersectoral HIV/AIDS Committee.</p> <p>She is responsible for the implementation of the National Cancer Plan in Slovenia.</p>

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



Prof. Ruth Ladenstein is a 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). She is the Project Coordinator of the European Reference Network on Paediatric Cancer (ERN PaedCan) since 2017, the European Expert Paediatric Oncology Research Network for Diagnostics and Treatment (ExPO-r-NeT) from 2014 – 2017, the European Network for Cancer Research in Children and Adolescence (ENCCA) from 2011 – 2015 and the Austrian Medicine for Children Research Network OKIDS GmbH since 2012. She is currently a Board member of SIOPE Europe and former President from September 2009 – October 2012. In addition, Prof. Ladenstein is an Advisory board member of the SIOPE Europe Neuroblastoma Group since May 2011, former SIOPE president from 2007 – 2011 and Principle Coordinating Investigator of SIOPE High Risk Neuroblastoma Trials since 2002. She is Chair of the Austrian Group for Paediatric Haematology-Oncology and Member of the Oncology Advisory Board of the Ministry of Health Austria since 2013. She is also a Member of the EU Mission Board for Cancer (Horizon Europe) since July 2019.

Katrin Scheinemann
PanCare Chair,
(Kantonsspital Aarau, CH)



Dr Katrin Scheinemann is Division head of paediatric oncology-haematology in Aarau, Switzerland. She is also Head of the LACC (Life after childhood cancer) research group in Aarau, Switzerland. She is an Associate professor of Paediatrics, McMaster University Hamilton, Canada, President of the Swiss Paediatric Oncology Group (SPOG), Co-chair of the Swiss Long term follow-up group.

Dr Scheinemann is currently Chair of the Pan-European network for care of survivors after childhood and adolescent cancer (PanCare), Co-chair of the SIOPE BTG (Brain tumour group) Quality of Survival Group. She is furthermore in the SIOPE BTG Steering Committee, responsible for communication. She is the Young SIOPE liaison for BTG.

Dr Scheinemann holds a Master of Science in Palliative Care from the University of Freiburg, Germany and has been part of the Fellowship in paediatric Haematology/Oncology/Neurooncology at the Hospital for Sick Children in Toronto, Canada.

Delphine Heenen
CCI Europe Committee
Member (KickCancer, BE)



Delphine Heenen is a mother, founder, director and day-to-day manager. Delphine was a successful 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 for 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 out her European activities in this capacity.