



A new Institute focused on needs of advanced cancer patients, “ISTITUTO DELLE SCIENZE ONCOLOGICHE, DELLA SOLIDARIETA’ E DEL VOLONTARIATO” (“Institute for Oncological Science, Solidarity and Voluntary Service”) has opened its doors in Bologna, Italy.

The new ANT “Institute for Oncological Science, Solidarity and Voluntary Service” in Bologna, Via Jacopo di Paolo 36, is the seat of Foundation ANT Italia, born in Bologna/Italy as the Associazione Nazionale Tumori in 1978. The initial phase of this Association is closely related with the history of medical oncology in Europe. In the ‘70s there was no basis for palliative care in oncology in Italy. In particular, our centre for cancer chemotherapy in the North of Italy, the Division for Medical Oncology of the Ospedale Sant’ Orsola Malpighi, Bologna, was unable to provide post-chemotherapy patients with palliative and terminal care. We have founded ANT to overcome this problem and the public response was enormous. In a few years the Association set up a well-organized, effective network of comprehensive Oncological-Hospice-at-home (OHH). The aim of the programme is offering patients an alternative option to the idea of euthanasia, therefore we call it Programme Eubiosia. Until now about 54 000 patients were assisted. The programme is distributed in several parts of Italy.

We consider home care for advanced and far advanced cancer patients as one of the great challenges for oncology in this century. The Institute is the operational, scientific and spiritual centre of the ANT Italia Eubiosia Project.

We present short information about the Institute’s programme.

The Institute will provide about 3000 patients a day from all parts of Italy with qualified hospice-at-home care.

In collaboration with the Department of Medical Oncology Ospedale Sant’Orsola Malpighi (Director: Dr. A. Martoni) and other groups of Medical Oncology in Bologna it will guarantee integrated oncology and palliative care for all advanced cancer patients in the Bologna Region.

1. Based on this enormous practical experience the Institute will organize national and international educational events in palliative oncology.
2. OHH for advanced and far advanced cancer patients is only possible in high-developed partnership between medical oncology and the care-giving family. The Institute will elaborate and realize new approaches for communication between the professional staff and patients’ families. It will teach care-giving families and provide these with psychological support.
3. It is a fact that in a modern society with consumer mentality the number of care-giving families is decreasing. Therefore the Institute will look for new technologies for patients’ monitoring at home, telemedicine etc. that can substitute, at least partly, care giving by family members.

4. Palliative and terminal care includes numerous bioethical aspects. Strictly based on our practical experience the Institute will stimulate the national and international discussion on ethical aspects of advanced patients assistance, euthanasia, artificial nutrition etc.,
5. Our concept of Eubiosia is a human right for patients everywhere in the world. The Institute will be the centre for ANT-International, the part of our Foundation, dealing with oncology particularly in developing countries.



Dove è disperazione, ch' io porti la speranza
(S.F.)

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