

INTEGRATIVE ONCOLOGY TRAINING FOR HEALTHCARE PROFESSIONALS

Workshop Proposal

ABSTRACT:

Oncology providers are confronted with a large number of people with cancer who are using complementary and integrative medicines (CIM). People with cancer want to have health care providers who ask about, are knowledgeable about, and can advise them on the safe and effective use of CIM during the course of their cancer journey. Until recently however, there have been few opportunities for oncology providers to learn about oncology specific CIM. This workshop presents four integrative oncology training models for oncology health care providers and trainees that are being offered in four different countries – Germany, USA, and Israel; across numerous provider types including physicians, nurses, social workers etc. and trainees such as medical students; and with different educational formats including Massive Open Online Course (MOOC), Blended -Learning, eLearning and embedded within oncology clinics. The workshop will also spark discussion about other novel educational models and the possibility to replicate and spread the presented model into novel environments.

TOPICS AND MOTIVATION:

Despite the high level of complementary medicine (CIM) use among cancer patients and survivors, communication about these therapies between oncology providers and people with cancer is not ideal. Over half of oncology providers do not ask about CIM. Oncology providers indicate that the main reasons for not asking about CIM are a lack of knowledge about CIM and lack of knowledge of what to do with the information if collected. One solution to addressing this lack of communication about CIM is education about its evidence-base and how to integrate and communicate about it.

Oncology providers have expressed a desire to be more informed and to receive more education about oncology specific complementary and integrative oncology therapies. Until recently, however, no oncology-specific CIM training has been available. To address the gap in oncology specific training models our workshop focuses on educating oncology professionals and trainees about four new and unique CIM educational models. In addition to sharing information about these four multi-country educational models, the workshop will aim to help start the spread of similar programs in other countries and health care institution, and to spark ideas for further educational models.

GOALS AND EXPECTED RESULTS:

By the end of the workshop attendees will be able to:

1. Recognize significant gaps and needs in integrative oncology education for health care providers and oncology trainees.
2. Explain how different countries have different integrative oncology educational needs.

3. Describe and compare four distinct integrative oncology educational programs
4. Analyze the feasibility and value of the four educational models in their country and or health care system.
5. List additional ideas for integrative oncology education programs.

FORMAT:

The workshop will have four speakers. Each presenter will speak for ten minutes about the gap in integrative oncology education their program addresses and the content, learners, and evaluation of their educational program. After each speaker there will be eight to ten minutes for audience questions and discussion among the panel and the audience on how feasible the educational program could be in their respective countries and health care institutions. This will be enhanced by using a white board to record audience ideas and by facilitated discussion.

Participants will also be asked to share their own educational programs, if any, in writing at the beginning of the workshop. The workshop facilitator will collect these and at the beginning of the workshop and place these up on the white board to further facilitate further collaboration, networking and discussion. The four speakers will touch on the following topics [SZ6] :

1. Eran Ben-Arye, MD, The Technion, Israel Institute of Technology, Haifa, Israel: Dr. Ben-Arye Will present on a free Massive Open Online Course (MOOC) for medical students and health care practitioners focused on traditional herbal medicine in supportive cancer care, which was published recently in Coursera.

2. Gabriel Lopez, MD, University of Texas, MD Anderson Cancer Center, Houston, Texas: Dr. Lopez will discuss their annual integrative medicine workshop and their ongoing integrative oncology elective clinical rotations / observerships for faculty and fellows at MD Anderson Cancer Center

3. Claudia Witt, MD, MBA Institute for Complementary and Integrative Medicine, Zurich Switzerland: Dr. Witt will discuss a blended-learning training for oncology physicians to provide advice to their patients about complementary and integrative medicine that was evaluated in a cluster randomized trial in Germany.

4. Suzanna Zick ND, MPH, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Michigan: Dr. Zick will present on the Integrative Oncology Scholars program, a year-long program to create integrative oncology leaders, which combines in-person and eLearning for oncology nurses, physicians assistants, social workers, psychologists and physicians.

LENGTH: 75 Minute workshop is requested.

PREVIOUS PRESENTATIONS: None. This is the first time this workshop would be offered.