

Evaluating and Addressing Learners' Needs in an Emerging Subspecialty: Insights from the European Cardio-Oncology Symposium (ECOS)

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Abstract #13ECF_8

THE CHALLENGE | Background

During the emergence of a new clinical subspecialty, continuing medical education (CME) planners may be challenged to understand learners' educational needs in the absence of typical benchmarks of healthcare professional (HCPs) competence or performance, such as those defined by evidence-based guidelines or quality measures. The challenge may be intensified when the new target audience is a mix of specialties with little experience in collaborating with each other, such as cardiologists and oncologists. Here we describe our approach to developing an ongoing CME initiative designed to address the educational needs of cardiologists, oncologists, and other HCPs involved in the cardiovascular (CV) care of patients with cancer.

THE SOLUTION | European Cardio-Oncology Symposium

Steering Committee

The European Cardio-Oncology Symposium (ECOS) (www.EuroCardio-Onc.org) was established in 2017 as an independent CME initiative led by a Steering Committee of international experts in cardio-oncology. To ensure representation from key members of the patient care team, the ECOS Steering Committee includes cardiologists, oncologists, specialist nurses, trainees/students, and patient advocates. The extensive planning timeline was as follows:

- March 2017 | London, UK > ECOS Steering Committee launch + inaugural planning meeting
- January 2018 | Milan, Italy > ECOS Steering Committee live on-site planning meeting
- Monthly 2019 | Virtual > ECOS Steering Committee monthly planning calls

ECOS | Educational Interventions to Date

ECOS 2019 Meeting: 2-Day Live Meeting with Preconference Workshop

Thursday 17 October Pre-conference imaging workshop	Friday 18 October Main session day 1	Saturday 19 October Main session day 2
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4 interactive presentations Practical session on image acquisition Live webcast #1 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10 interactive presentations 3 concurrent breakouts Live webcast #2 Poster session 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 5 interactive presentations 3 concurrent breakouts Live webcast #3 ECOS-SEC Joint Session

The ECOS 2019 meeting was endorsed by the European CanCer Organisation and recognised by multiple medical societies, including the European Society of Cardiology, British Cardiovascular Society, European Association of Urology, Spanish Society of Medical Oncology, and Polish Cardiac Society, reflecting the importance of the education mission. The meeting concluded with a joint session with the Spanish Society of Cardiology (SEC).

ECOS Online Certificate Course and Learning Modules

14-Week Online Certificate Course Essentials of Cardio-oncology	Individual Online Courses Available for CME credit	Dedicated Online Learning Portal EuroCardio-Onc.org
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 12 modules Pre- and post-course assessment Certificate of completion 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All modules from certificate course Endured webcasts from ECOS 2019 Immuno-oncology primer courses 	

To extend the reach of the ECOS 2019 live meeting, endured highlights were offered as individual CME-certified online modules and together as an optional certificate course. The modules were pulsed out weekly over 14 weeks in keeping with best practices for spaced learning.

EDUCATIONAL REACH | ECOS Learner Community

- Learners from 52 countries have started 1 or more ECOS online modules
- Delegates from 27 countries attended the ECOS 2019 meeting
- #ECOS2019 meeting hashtag generated >825,000 impressions
- #ECOS2019 included in a review of cardio-oncology social media success stories¹



1. Brown SA, Daly RP, Duma N, et al. *Curr Treat Options in Oncol.* 2020;21(10):83–102.

Siyemi Learning is accredited by the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME) to provide continuing medical education for physicians.

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OUTCOMES SNAPSHOT | ECOS 2019 Meeting

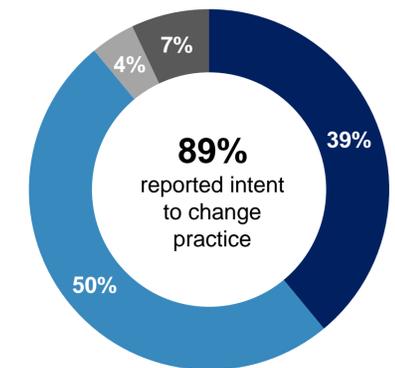
ECOS 2019 Learners	N = 228
Main session and pre-conference workshop*	n = 125
Physicians	56%
Fellows/trainees	43%
Other healthcare professionals	1%
Industry	1%
ECOS-SEC Joint Session	n = 61
Live webcasts	n = 42

Learning Objectives

Participants who agreed/strongly agreed that they are better able to (n = 60*):

- Take steps to mitigate the potential CV side effects of cancer therapies
98%
- Apply the latest guidelines on CV monitoring in patients with cancer
96%
- Implement strategies to streamline collaboration across cardiology, oncology and other services to improve CV care for cancer patients
96%

Self-Reported Intent to Change Clinical Practice (n = 60*)



- Yes, immediate change in practice
- Yes, possibly after additional training
- No, as the content affirms my current practice
- No, because of institutional or financial barriers

OUTCOMES SNAPSHOT | ECOS Online Learning

ECOS Online Course Learners*	N = 329
Job type	
Physicians (specialist or primary care)	86.9%
Nurse	4.6%
Pharmacist	0.9%
Other healthcare professional	3.0%
Specialty	
Cardiology	66.6%
Oncology/haematology	9.4%
Region of work	
Europe	52.9%
Latin America/Caribbean	25.2%
North America	10.6%
Asia	8.2%
Total countries represented	N = 52

*Learners who completed any of the *Essentials of Cardio-oncology* online certificate course modules as of 1 October, 2020.

Learning Objectives*

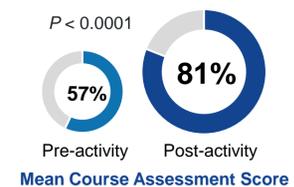
>92%
Agreed/strongly agreed that learning objects for each of the 12 modules were met

Intent to Change Practice*

51–82%
Reported intent to change practice immediately or with additional training/information

Educational Outcomes Measures

Learners who completed the certificate course assessment (n = 40)



1.51 Hedges' g_{av}

Indicates a **large effect size** for the overall certificate course
Certificate Course Effect Size

CONCLUSIONS

- ECOS, developed with guidance from a multidisciplinary and interprofessional Steering Committee, serves as an effective model for building a CME initiative in a new and rapidly evolving clinical subspecialty.
- The inaugural ECOS 2019 meeting reached 228 HCPs, with nearly all (96–98%) agreeing that the learning objectives were met, and most (89%) describing their intent to change their clinical practice.
- Engagement with the online cardio-oncology community is high, as reflected by the growth in [@EuroCardioOnc](https://twitter.com/EuroCardioOnc) Twitter followers (>1100) and the wide geographic reach of the online certificate course, including 329 learners from 52 countries to date.
- The outcomes evaluation showed (a) a statistically significant increase in knowledge ($P < 0.0001$) among learners who completed the online *Essentials of Cardio-oncology* certificate course assessment; and (b) a large course effect size (Hedges' $g_{av} = 1.51$).