

London Cancer Acute Oncology Service (AOS) Expert Reference Group Annual Report 2018-19

Introduction

The AOS Expert Reference Group is the primary source of clinical advice for Acute Oncology to the Tumour Pathway Boards and other Expert Reference Groups, led by Ekaterini Boleti, ERG Director, with project management support from Sherrice Weekes. Its membership includes representation from cancer professionals across the region and active participation from patients.

'During 2018-19 ERG was attended by enthusiastic and active participants who support the network service with audits and clinical trials.

The ERG continues to function as a forum for ideas and a platform for development and implementation of measures on AOS and CUP to ensure patients receive the same standards of care.'



Dr Ekaterini Boleti, AOS ERG Director, Consultant Medical Oncologist at Royal Free London

Achievements this year

Our key achievements have been:

- Continued participation in the Cancer of Unknown Primary subgroup of the ERG.
- Presenting the preliminary results of the ongoing Metastatic Spinal Cord Compression (MSCC) audit which is comparing patients confirmed and also suspected of have MSCC at each Trust across the network.
- Being proactive about identifying and developing clinical trials for our patients to allow them the opportunity to receive cutting edge treatment for their disease.
- Collaboration with other tumour boards to ensure safe patient care and applying the latest advances in cancer therapy.
- Developing essential links with national AOS and CUP groups
- Ongoing number of audits to improve AOS and CUP services
- Encouraging online support and communication amongst ERG members to improve and standardise their services.

Patient representation

We would like to thank our patient representative, Faz Hussain, who attended and contributed at meetings.

Future plans

Our plans support the ambition that all ERG member Trusts maintain well-functioning AOS and CUP services to ensure provision of the best care for patients.

No	Objective	Owner	By
1	Audits; <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Ongoing audits on aspects of the CUP/MUO services across the network- Ongoing Metastatic Spinal Cord Compression (MSCC) audit in order to present significant and robust findings- To collate neutropenic sepsis audit data in order to improve current Trust practice	EB	March 2020
2	Research; <ul style="list-style-type: none">- To improve research and access to clinical trials.- To make use of the North Thames CRN data to drive improvement and cross-sector working- To contribute to the national NCRI AOS and CUP working groups (both chaired/co-chaired by members of the ERG)	KKS	Ongoing
3	To ensure services are using patient experience data to improve services and patient information	EB	Ongoing
4	Network communication and education: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- To scope enthusiasm to hold an education event	EB	December 2019
5	AOS services <ul style="list-style-type: none">- To explore the potential for future collaboration with Multi Diagnostic Centres (MDCs) across the network to improve referrals into the AOS service	EB	December 2019

Acknowledgements

We would like to thank all the members of the Acute Oncology Service Expert Reference Group for contributing their time to meetings and projects outside the meeting.

Particular thanks to our patient representative, Faz Hussain, who has generously given up his time to contribute.