



ESGO 16

**October 11-14, 2009
Belgrade, Serbia**

**CONGRESS DAILY
HIGHLIGHTS**
KOL QUOTES



ESGO 2009 Meeting - Daily Highlights

Welcome to ESGO 16 from Gerald Gitsch, President ESGO 2007-2009

"I am delighted to welcome over 1800 colleagues to what has become the landmark conference in the calendar for gynaecological oncologists.



As well as providing an excellent platform for the latest clinical and scientific developments in our specialty, the ESGO congress unites us here in Belgrade, to share our experiences and discuss our common goals for improving patient care.

"In recent years, we have made significant progress in the centralization of gynaecological oncology as a specialty in Europe. We now have 24 accredited training centres in 11 countries, and we offer a growing number of training fellowships for younger gynaecologists at these centres. We are gaining momentum and we can expect further changes in the balance of our gynaecological and oncology training as we evolve as a specialty.

"I wish you an interesting and successful meeting, with plenty of opportunities to catch up with old acquaintances and make new friends within our great organization."

Daily Report from Belgrade



Highlights from Day 1 – Mon Oct 12

ESGO TO PLAY MAJOR ROLE IN ESTABLISHING FUTURE RESEARCH COLLABORATIONS



Building strong collaborations between gynaecological oncologists across Europe will be the key to translating basic laboratory research into clinical practice over the next few years, and tailoring care ever closer to the needs of individual patients, predicted **new ESGO President Ate van der Zee**, on the first full day of the congress.

“ESGO can have an important facilitating role in enabling groups of young researchers to work together so that we can translate their exciting discoveries into more refined treatments for all forms of gynaecological cancer,” he said.

Highlighting sessions on future approaches to treatment of cervical and vulva cancer, Professor van der Zee stressed the importance of multidisciplinary approaches to treatment, and concentrating expertise at specialist centres:

“Today, we were shown that taking account of individual patient characteristics can help us tailor treatment and reduce morbidity associated with surgical procedures for cervical cancer. We also agreed the need to concentrate the care of women with vulval cancer at specialist centres where we can answer challenging questions about the best way to treat these difficult tumours.”

Also on day 1 . . .



In a new initiative, Dr Murat Gultekin, president of ENYGO, planted a tree to represent the new generation of gynaecological oncologists.

“This tree will grow and blossom over the years and symbolises the growth of younger physicians, who are the future leaders of the society”.

ENYGO was formed last year and already has over 190 members, providing the platform for young gynaecological oncologists to share experiences and network with their peers as they progress through their careers.



Daily Report from Belgrade

ESGO 2009 Meeting Daily Highlights



Highlights from Day 2 – Tue Oct 13

HPV vaccination, fertility preservation and node assessment for endometrial cancer *top the agenda*



HPV vaccination was the hot topic on day 2 of the congress, with sustained immunogenicity and 100% efficacy against HPV 16 and 18 related CIN2+ lesions at 7.3 years reported for Cervarix at the late breaker session.

"The introduction of the HPV vaccine is one of the most important advances that has happened during my professional career and I think all gynaecological oncologists welcome the opportunity to prevent cervical cancer in this way. It will not replace cervical screening, but we expect it to work alongside screening to protect women from cervical cancer," commented **ESGO Council member, Dr Tito Lopes**.

He highlighted the inclusion of the Task Force Workshop on Fertility Preservation on the day's agenda, as the use of fertility sparing techniques such as trachelectomy for cervical cancer becomes more widespread, and he felt there had been valuable discussion of the role of lymphadenectomy and lymph node assessment in endometrial cancer during an earlier debate.

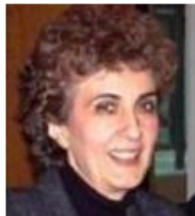
"There is huge diversity in how lymph node assessment is performed around Europe, and we are still not certain about the need to include lymph node removal as part of surgery. Having discussed the issues at this congress, we must now collaborate in studies that will give us the data we need to agree the best way forward," concluded Dr Lopes.

Daily Report from Belgrade



Highlights from Day 3 – Wednesday, October 14, 2009

ESGO 16 draws to a close...



On the final day of the congress, ESGO 16 chairperson Professor Vesna Kesic, expressed her delight at the enormous success of the meeting:

“At a local level, the presence of world-renowned speakers in Serbia will motivate and inspire gynaecological oncologists to implement proposed cancer programmes, which are so vital for providing better quality of care for cancer sufferers.

“My personal mission when I joined the ESGO council was to establish links across Eastern Europe, so it is very pleasing for me to see this being achieved at ESGO 16 in the excellent mix of delegates from these countries.

“On a more general level, the congress has provided delegates with the opportunity to meet with others, establish professional collaborations and become friends with their colleagues.”

Professor Kesic stressed the importance of introducing specialised training programmes for gynaecological oncologists in more European countries, in addition to the 10-11 countries where such programmes already exist:

“I believe ESGO’s training programme should be the model for anyone wishing to develop or implement a programme in their own country, and I hope that many more programmes will be up and running by the time we all meet again in 2011.”

SEE YOU IN MILAN 2011!!