



Summary of INPOCS meeting

**Meeting at Hotel Burlington, Dublin, Ireland
13th of October 2009, 17.10-18.00 p.m.**

The meeting was organised by The National Board of Health: Chief Physician Niels Hermann, Head of Section, Mikkel Bernt Nielsen and The Danish Cancer Society: Director of Quality Janne Lehmann Knudsen and Chief Consultant Aase Nissen.

Welcome and introduction

Janne Lehmann Knudsen welcomed all and introduced the agenda of the meeting.

The purpose of the meeting was to make clear the common aims and objectives of INPOCS, and to discuss how to make the network alive and how to move forward.

A brief round of introduction shows representation from Holland, Italy, Brazil, USA, Israel, France, Canada, Nigeria and Denmark.

Survey results – presentation of status in cancer care in 7 countries/regions:

Mikkel Bernt Nielsen, Denmark, introduced the objective of the survey: Summarize the range of cancer activities in the network countries. Seven countries/regions responded including France, Canada, Canada Ontario, Japan, Holland, USA and Denmark.

The answers were presented in a short overview, which gave an idea of what each country was working with, where to find information, and get inspiration on optimizing implemented activities. The presentation was the first short analysis from the survey. Data and all relevant documents are accessible for further analysis on www.inpocs.org. The ambition is to expand the survey with more countries and questions if needed.

An example of networking – Denmark learns from Australia

Aase Nissen, Denmark, introduced how networking has contributed to learning about organization of cancer care and how to use practical experience of others. In 2008 the Danish Cancer Society arranged a study tour to New South Wales, Australia with delegates from the Ministry of Health and Prevention, National Board of Health, Danish Regions, university hospitals and Danish Cancer Society. The topic was patient involvement. Following learning points among others were presented:

- Patients as partners in own care pathway
- Patient representation in different committees to advocate the patient perspective in general quality improvement
- Recruiting and organizing patient advisory boards etc.

The results from the study tour were inspiration to increase patient involvement in the Danish Health Care system, specific projects on patient involvement in cancer patient safety were initiated and that the National Board of Health and the Danish Cancer Society is paying increasing attention to patient involvement.

The example shows the benefit of getting in touch with people who have same interests and maybe practical experience to share. The aim of the network is to make it easy to find the right person in another country so you can make “virtual study tours”.

Presentation of pilot webpage

Mikkel Bernt Nielsen, Denmark, introduced a pilot web page located at www.inpocs.org developed for the network. The idea of the web page is to use it as the networks communication platform. It is the intention that ideas, problems, new publications, questions etc. can be addressed through the web page. The secretary (National Board of Health Denmark and the Danish Cancer Society) maintains the webpage. If the network participants want to display any information then address the secretary for the network.

It was discussed whether it was possible to have an interactive forum located at the webpage. This idea will be examined.

Discussion

Niels Hermann, Denmark, focused on the aims and objectives of the network as making it a common platform for exchanging information and experiences on organizing and planning of cancer care services, and asked how to make INPOCS a living network.

Several good suggestions came up:

- Focus on common problems
- Make the webpage more usable and interactive
- Create a list of interests including contact persons
- Define activities of the network
- Produce an overview of existing knowledge resources and links
- Identify possible new participants in other countries as well as the network countries
- Evaluate after one year in order to conclude if there is an interest for INPOCS to continue

Future plans for the network

It was agreed that INPOCS will be evaluated in one year at the next ISQua conference in Paris. The Danish group will serve as secretary and send out a list of interests in order to get feedback from the participants, including contact information related to the list. The webpage will be updated and the possibility for an interactive forum will be examined. The possibility for an INPOCS session at the next ISQua conference will also be tried.

It was stressed that the value of the network will rely on the participants' sharing their experiences questions and ideas. Through this the network can be for the benefit of all. The secretariat will collect input from members and send out a short newsletter, when there is news to share.