

## Executive summary

### *Our vision: a world with optimal nutritional care for all*

***‘Every patient who is malnourished or at risk of undernutrition is systematically screened and has access to appropriate, equitable, high quality nutritional care’.***

Launched in 2014, the Optimal Nutritional Care for All (ONCA) campaign is a multi-stakeholder initiative, which aims to ensure optimal nutritional care for all European citizens through nutritional screening and follow up on a national level.

Now in its second year the ONCA conference is organised and run by the European Nutrition for Health Alliance (ENHA) and was held in Berlin on the 3<sup>rd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> November 2015.

The conference was hosted by the German delegation and chaired by Professor Olle Ljungqvist (ENHA Chair, ESPEN representative) and Professor Anne de Looy (President of the European Federation of the Associations of Dietitians, ENHA trustee). Over 100 delegates representing 13 countries attended the conference including speakers representing WHO Euro, the Joint Programming Initiative, and the European patient groups EPF and EGAN. An additional pre-meeting led by Cees Smit (EGAN) was held for the patient group representatives attending the ONCA conference.

In country teams, conference delegates were asked to synthesise their perspectives on involvement with the ONCA initiative. Involvement in ONCA has meant that many countries are now able to prioritise malnutrition as a public health concern and being work on addressing malnutrition nationally. In some cases this means developing work in new areas (e.g. Croatia, Germany) and in other developing targeted new projects (e.g. Israel, Poland, France, Turkey). Being attached to ONCA enabled countries to engage with their national Ministry of Health (e.g. Spain, Turkey, and Israel). All countries reported that being involved with ONCA will enable them to engage with patient groups.

As a part of sharing experiences and progress, each national group was asked to present their current activities in 2015. The presentations demonstrated the commitment to developing nutrition policy in all countries and the common goals which are interwoven with strategies and activities appropriate to each country.

Delegates reported a wide range of current activities including raising awareness, publication of strategies or the development of text to support activities. There were a number of achievements since last year, for example in Poland, nutrition has been prioritised as the most important field of action by the President of the National

Health Ministry and in Turkey big steps have been made in the implementation of screening in hospitals. Furthermore areas of expertise are starting to emerge (e.g. discharge management in Israel, self-screening in the UK, public awareness in Turkey). Countries are very open to learn from each other, and to share their learnings. However, the biggest result is the tremendous energy and common ground that has been created through working together towards a common goal.

Discussion within and between countries revealed several key themes about their experience at the conference and what they had learned; these in turn informed the next steps for each national multi-stakeholder team:

- A multi-disciplinary and multi-stakeholder national platform is essential for the success of ONCA.
- Every country emphasised the importance of including the patient voice in their activities, and the need to engage with patient groups to maximise the impact and sustainability of ONCA.
- The involvement and commitment of the Ministry of Health/politicians is vital in driving national change.
- The need for public pressure to stimulate Ministry/political involvement is seen as crucial and so raising public awareness is a priority.
- Quality indicators for good nutritional care are seen as an important tool to drive sustainability.

European wide activities offer opportunities to leverage national activities and possibly even provide funding opportunities which deserve to be further explored. Communication is key in engaging new stakeholders, and in securing political and public support. The conference was a huge success and all countries are committed to continue their work with ONCA into 2016 and beyond.

Presentations from the conference are available at:

[http://www.european-nutrition.org/index.php/activities/nutritional\\_screening\\_implementation\\_conference\\_2015\\_optimal\\_nutritional\\_ca](http://www.european-nutrition.org/index.php/activities/nutritional_screening_implementation_conference_2015_optimal_nutritional_ca)