

EDITORIAL



Lung cancer study group - 25 years

Grupo de estudo do cancro do pulmão – 25 anos

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Portuguese Lung Cancer Study Group

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In Portugal, in the 1990s, it was customary in many parts of the country to hold small meetings to share experiences, often based on clinical cases and the dissemination of publications that impacted clinical practice. These medical gatherings, genuine moments of sharing and friendship, were the seed for the dream of organizing ourselves as the Lung Cancer Study Group. In early 2000, in Coimbra, at a notarial registry, some of us formalized the creation of the GECP.

Its bylaws define its objectives: to promote and dignify the practice of oncological pulmonology by investing in the training and preparation of professionals; in supporting patients and families with this disease; and in the development of units of excellence in the diagnosis and treatment of lung cancer.

In the two decades since its creation, the GECP has held each year a Spring Meeting and an Autumn Meeting. At these meetings, held in various locations across the country, always well-attended and lively, we shared scientific innovations and the experience of various centres, design clinical studies, update diagnostic and treatment approaches, and develop prevention and early diagnosis strategies.

Every two years, we hold our GECP congress. We had more than two dozen international colleagues who, along with their national colleagues, discussed advances in lung cancer prevention and treatment. In it we shared the national experience in the form of papers and posters.

In 2004, we created the GECP Journal. Twice a year, we seek to highlight the excellent work carried out at multiple national centers, along with theoretical reflections on current topics.

We designed and conducted ten multicentre, multidisciplinary, clinical studies, including hundreds of patients. Those studies were presented in international meetings.

We contributed to the implementation of best practices in all national centres. We built a strong friendship and shared understanding among everyone, regardless of specialty, workplace, or year of training. We contribute to greater quality and knowledge in our daily work with our patients.

From its founding to the present day, we have promoted multidisciplinary. Only this allows us to provide a better quality

of life for patients with thoracic oncology. All are essential: Pulmonology, Medical Oncology, Thoracic Surgery, Radiation Oncology, Pathological Anatomy and Molecular Pathology, Thoracic and Nuclear Imaging, Palliative Care, and Pharmacy. Occasionally, we need other specialists, such as Neurosurgery, Oncological Orthopedics, Nutrition, Rehabilitation, Psychiatry, Psychology, and others.

The GECP has also carried out important work with the public. On social media platforms, at its meetings, and in national and regional media outlets, it has consistently raised awareness of various risk factors, including old and new forms of tobacco use, environmental factors, the signs and symptoms of lung cancer, early diagnosis, the importance of screening, and the hope of emerging new therapies.

This is an area in which we will remain focused, as only a true and comprehensive understanding of risk factors, the implementation of a screening program, and increased health literacy can contribute to a reduction in the incidence of lung cancer.

We are celebrating 25 years of intense activity. We have realized a dream. The GECP will continue for many years to come, renewed with new colleagues who have chosen Thoracic Oncology as one of their areas of excellence. New dynamics pose new challenges. We will continue to expand participation, motivation, communication, and cooperation among all involved. Patients and families, and the general population, will continue to be the focus of all GECP's work.

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