

## PRESS RELEASE

### **The European Cervical Cancer Association (The ECCA) announces for the appointment of its new Board of Directors**

**25 June 2009 – The European Cervical Cancer Association (The ECCA) today announces the appointments for its new Board of Directors. The new Board members come from 6 different countries representing different European regions and bring a wealth of experience in a wide range of sectors including public health, cervical cancer research, gynaecology, NGO management and politics. The new Board of Directors will be of enormous benefit in achieving the objectives of the ECCA: to raise awareness of cervical cancer and the means by which it can be prevented.**

#### **The new ECCA board includes:**

**Dr. Anne Szarewski (MBBS DRCOG PhD FFSRH)**, Clinical Consultant, Cancer Research UK Wolfson Institute of Preventive Medicine. Dr Szarewski has participated in many key studies on cervical cancer prevention. She is currently working on HPV vaccination trials in young girls and women.

**Dr Magdalena Grce**, Senior Research Associate at the Rudjer Boskovic Institute, Croatia. With a background in biology, oncology and virology, Dr Grce specialises in Human papillomavirus (HPV) research and runs a number of research projects on HPV's involvement in cervical cancer.

**Prof Hélène Sancho-Garnier**, Professor of Public Health, University of Montpellier and Scientific Director of Epidaure, Montpellier, France. Prof Sancho-Garnier has devoted her career to research on cancer epidemiology and the implementation of population-based cancer prevention programmes, She is currently involved in the development of a pilot mass screening program for colo-rectal cancer in Hérault (France).

**Mr Michel Ballieu**, Chief Executive Officer of the European CanCer Organisation (ECCO). Mr Ballieu has a wealth of experience in sales, marketing and strategic management for a number of international companies including MCI, a renowned association management organisation. For the last 12 years, he has worked in senior management positions for several non-profit organisations.

**Dr Jolanta Dičkutė**, Member of the European Parliament (2004-2009). Dr Dičkutė, has a background in medicine and public health. More recently, she was a Member of the European Parliament where she sat on a number of parliamentary committees and promoted awareness about public health issues which include cervical cancer prevention.

**Mrs Stella Kyriakides**, a Member of Cyprus Parliament. Dr Kyriakides, a Clinical Psychologist specialising in Child and Adolescent Psychology, has been a tireless advocate for breast cancer awareness across Europe as Vice-President and then President of Europa Donna. In her native Cyprus, Mrs Kyriakides is a Member of the Cypriot Parliament where she is Vice-Chair of the Health Committee.

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**For all EU level press enquiries please contact:**

European Cervical Cancer Association

[press@ecca.info](mailto:press@ecca.info)

121 rue Jourdan

1060 Brussels

Belgium

or

Sinead O'Laoire

[sinead@aspectconsulting.eu](mailto:sinead@aspectconsulting.eu)

Rue des Sablons 11

Brussels 1000

Belgium

0032 476 652 987

**About the ECCA**

The mission of **The European Cervical Cancer Association** (the ECCA) is to raise awareness of cervical cancer and its prevention among members of the general public, healthcare professionals and public health decision-makers in Europe.

The ECCA is a large network of organisations and individuals from across Europe that have joined forces to prepare and distribute evidence-based information on the causes of cervical cancer and the importance of organised cervical cancer prevention programmes in the prevention of this disease. At present, the membership of the ECCA includes more than 100 institutional members (cancer societies, medical associations, research organisations and patient groups) from 34 countries together with over 1000 individual members from 40 countries.

All of the ECCA's educational materials are developed using a modified Delphi process in which the institutional members are consulted with the materials being redrafted and re-circulated until consensus is achieved. Then, the materials are adapted to medical practice in each country by national experts and translated. In this way, the ECCA can draw upon an unprecedented level of knowledge covering all aspects of cervical cancer and its prevention to achieve consensus agreed educational materials that are still tailored specifically to the screening and medical practice of each country.

**For further information on the ECCA and the Board of Directors please visit our website: [www.ecca.info](http://www.ecca.info)**