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Report from the UEG Future Trends Committee

Marco Del Chiaro UEG Future Trends Committee

Because this is the first official report required by the EPC on the activity of the future trends committee (FTC) of the UEG, I will try to synthesize here all the activity done in the last 4 yrs. I was the EPC elected representative of the FTC from the moment when the committee was created. The first 1 and half year the activity of the committee as dedicated to understand the role the committee should have inside to the UEG. This point was not clear and the change of 3 different chairman of the committee in this period of time didn't help so much the activity.

The first official activity done was a “burden of GI disease in Europe” to use as tools for negotiation and discussion with politics, companies, authorities. The idea was to create a document useful to explain the priorities in the GI health organization in Europe and to finalize resources and founding for research. My role was to write the part relative to pancreatic diseases. In the final document mostly of my considerations regarding important topics in pancreatology disappeared. The document was mostly focused in benign diseases of the esophagus and stomach, bowel and in liver diseases. For this reason, in one of our meeting I criticize strongly the document. How is it possible to dedicate more space to GER than to pancreas cancer? I have to say that this criticism was accepted and then we proceeded to define a document with the real incidence of GI diseases in Europe, to define the mortality rates, to define the social costs and impact of the different diseases. Now the analysis of these data is commissioned to an external company and the committee is looking for results before to write a new document “evidence based”.

In this moment we are proceeding even in a new direction: to make a “Future Scenario Project”. The aim is to define where gastroenterology will go in next years in order to predict and to invest in the future development. To every member of the committee is asked to complete 3 task: 1) Define 3 lines that will have a big impact on health in Europe in the future; 2) list of persons (experts, politicians, etc to interview regarding this topic; 3) articles in literature that mostly changed gastroenterology in the last 10 yrs.

On the basis of this project UEG would like to define the political and investment directions for the future. The first meeting to discuss our preliminary work will take place in Vienna August 28th, 2013.