

## Discovering the Compassionate World of Supportive Care in Cancer

Dear Members of the Polish Society of Clinical Oncology,

I hope this letter finds you well. It is my pleasure to hear that the Polish Society of Clinical Oncology has created a Section of Supportive Care.

Supportive care in cancer is a comprehensive approach to healthcare that extends beyond conventional cancer treatments. It aims to provide patients with a holistic support system, addressing not only the physical aspects of the disease but also the emotional, social, and psychological challenges that often accompany a cancer diagnosis. Supportive care plays a role throughout the continuum of care, including improving the quality of rehabilitation and secondary cancer prevention.

The following are just a few of the ways that supportive care makes excellent cancer care possible:

- Alleviation of symptoms and complications of cancer
- Prevention or reduction of treatment toxicities
- Improved communication between people with cancer and caregivers about disease and prognosis
- Increased tolerance, and thus benefits, of active therapy
- Easing of the emotional burden for people with cancer and caregivers
- Psychosocial support for cancer survivors

### **Principles of Supportive Care**

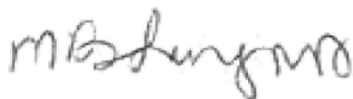
- Supportive care aims to maintain (or improve) quality of life, and to ensure that people with cancer can achieve maximum benefit from their anticancer treatment.
- Supportive care is relevant throughout the continuum of the cancer experience from diagnosis through treatment to post-treatment care (and encompasses cancer survivorship, and palliative and end-of-life care).
- Supportive care involves a coordinated, person-centric, holistic (whole-person) approach, which should be guided by the individual's preferences, and should include appropriate support of their family and friends.

- Supportive care (as outlined) is a basic right for all people with cancer, irrespective of their personal circumstances, their type of cancer, their stage of cancer, or their anti-cancer treatment. It should be available in all cancer centers, and other medical facilities that routinely manage people with cancer.

In the Polish Society of Clinical Oncology, I hope you explore the subject in more depth and consider in future becoming an affiliate partner of MASCC.

Finally, I invite you to join us for the **MASCC/AFSOS/ISOO 2024 Annual Meeting** to be held June 27-29, 2024 in Lille, France. I look forward to the opportunity to delve further into this critical aspect of cancer care with you at the meeting.

Warm regards,



Maryam Lustberg,  
MASCC President

*Lille* | **2024** | **MASCC/AFSOS/ISOO**  
F R A N C E | JUNE 27-29 | ANNUAL MEETING  
SUPPORTIVE CARE IN CANCER

Save the date and join us in Lille, France for the [2024 Annual Meeting](#).