

The Cédric Hèle institute

Flemish* Institute of Psychosocial Oncology

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*Flanders is the Dutch-speaking part of Belgium

BACKGROUND

The need to expand and increase the quality of psychosocial care in oncology is substantial, also in Belgium. Not enough cancer patients nor their relatives have access to professional psychosocial support. Moreover a lot of caregivers feel the need to deepen the psychosocial dimension of their interventions.

A team of specialised caregivers shared their knowledge and started to exchange their experiences and best practices in the field of psychosocial oncology.

Under the impulse of the Flemish League against Cancer (Vlaamse Liga tegen Kanker), an institute for psychosocial oncology was founded: the Cédric Hèle institute.



OBJECTIVES

The Cédric Hèle institute has the following objectives:

- Towards caregivers
 - organise and coördinate training in psychosocial care
 - create and support an inter- and intradisciplinary network of caregivers
 - inventory existing scientific research, encourage interesting research, and make the results accessible to a broader audience
- Towards cancer patients
 - create a platform to communicate the psychosocial needs of both the cancer patients, as well as their relatives
- Towards governmental institutions
 - identify and communicate needs in psychosocial oncology

METHODS

The daily board of the institute is a multidisciplinary team of specialised caregivers. Objectives and methods are discussed, in close cooperation with the care providers, and policy agents.

Trainingcourses are evidence-based. Moreover, the experience and didactic skills of the trainers are monitored. Same day assessment is always performed and taken into account.

RESULTS

The Cédric Hèle institute already organised several courses for different target groups. A few examples are:

- trainingsessions for social workers
- communication training for nurses
- workshop 'breaking bad news' for doctors
- in association with the Flemish universities, the Institute launched in 2006 a two-year trainingprogramm in psycho-oncology for masters in psychology and medical doctors.



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