Introduction

1. Belgian Cancer Plan – Action 24:
   - Period 2009-2011: support to 13 clinical oncogeriatric pilot projects in 28 different hospitals across the country (see figure 1). The first step to wake up interest in geriatric oncology.
   - Period 2012-2015: support to 17 projects in 36 different hospitals aiming to optimize the care of older patients with cancer and appointment of a scientific committee (see figure 2).

2. Update on geriatric oncology:
   - Report on SIOG 2014 in Belgian Journal Medical Oncology
   - Symposium ‘Older patients with cancer: oncogeriatric care in Belgium’.

Education / Research / Clinical Activities

   - 17 projects in 36 hospitals including a total number of 12121 patients.
   - The largest project included 8444 patients.
   - Data analysis currently ongoing.
   - Already some publications (Kenis et al. J Nutrit health and aging 2015; Bastin et al Journal d’oncogeriatrie 2014) and abstracts at SIOG2015: eg Kenis et al.)
   - Scientific committee
   - Review of past geriatric oncology projects and formulation of advice to gouvernment
   - Guidance of current projects

2. SIOG 2014 report in Belgian Journal Medical Oncology

3. Symposium Geriatric Oncology: September 12th 2015
   - Approximately 200 participants including geriatricians, oncologists, nurses
   - Included in the training of junior medical oncologists as part of their post graduate course
   - Varied program covering all the topics included in the Cancer Plan
   - Literature review on screening, GA and geriatric interventions
   - Collaboration between oncologists and geriatricians
   - Overview of previous (2009-2011) and current projects (2012-2015)
   - Panel discussion on the future of geriatric oncology in Belgium

Conclusions

The Cancer Plan in Belgium supported by the Ministry of Health has improved collaboration between oncologists and geriatricians and subsequently improved care for older patients with cancer.

Unfortunately, in 2015 the financial support for geriatric oncology has ended and so far no further financial initiative has been made and future remains unsure.