Educational/funding opportunities in geriatric oncology:

European resources and EORTC

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European resources: FP7

- HEALTH.2012.2.1.1-2: Validation of -omics-based biomarkers for diseases affecting the elderly:
  
  12 Mio Euro

- HEALTH.2012.2.2.2-2: Investigator-driven clinical trials for optimisation of management of elderly patients with multiple diseases:
  
  6 Mio Euro
• OPTIAGE: OPTImisation of cancer treatment in AGEd persons through EORTC randomized clinical trials integrating uniform geriatric assessment and biomarker analysis.

• 2 major goals:
  
  – **Uniform assessment** of global health status and frailty (+ telemonitoring)
  
  – **Ageing Biomarker** discovery and validation

Based on 4 randomized trials in EORTC:

• Colorectal / Breast: metastatic
• Lung: radiochemotherapy
• Breast: adjuvant
National resources/activities

• **France**: Oncodage: validation of G8 screening tool (ASCO 2011)
• **Netherlands**: GERIONNE: symposia q2y, clinical trial, epidemiological research, handbook
• **Slovak republic, Italy, Austria, ...**: Lectures and postgraduate course
• **Belgium**: several projects funded e.g. Utility of a systematic geriatric screening of older cancer patients in Belgium. 1.2 Mio Euro
• ...
EORTC

- EORTC ‘Elderly Task Force’
  - Connects with tumor specific EORTC groups
  - Minimum dataset for geriatric assessment (G8, IADL, social, comorbidity)  
    | Ann Oncol 2010 Pallis et al.
  - Reviews all protocols with focus on ageing
  - Biobanking for ageing research
  - QoL elderly module (QLQ-ELD15)
  - Interaction with EMA (Geriatric Expert Group)
Education / Training

• Mostly organized per country:
  – 86% no formal geriatric oncology training program

• Depends on strategy used
  – Comprehensive geriatric cancer centres
    + expertise more centralized
  – Mobile geriatric evaluation teams
    + reaches more elderly