

Press release

The Swiss Group for Clinical Cancer Research (SAKK) aims to increase incorporation of patients' needs

Swiss cancer research network establishes patient representative board

The Swiss Group for Clinical Cancer Research (SAKK) is intensifying its dialogue with patients by establishing a patient representative board. The idea is for members of this board to contribute their knowledge and experience to clinical cancer research.

Berne, 3. Dezember 2015 – Patient orientation is one of the Swiss Group for Clinical Cancer Research (SAKK)'s core values. As a non-profit organization, the national cancer research network is committed to improving cancer patients' chances of recovery. Since nobody knows better what it is like to deal with a diagnosis of cancer and the condition itself than the people affected and their families, the SAKK has decided to establish a patient representative board to advise the organization on communication, trial development and strategy. "By partnering with the SAKK patient representative board, we intend to improve the dialogue between scientists and patients", says SAKK Director Peter Brauchli. "Moreover, we are hoping this will give our researchers new impetus which will result in our research projects being even more closely aligned to patients' needs."

The patient representative board comprises a maximum of seven people who are elected by the SAKK Board. At present it comprises five members. The members are either former cancer patients themselves, have looked after close friends or family members with the condition or are representatives of a patient organization. The patient representative board will meet with SAKK representatives at least twice a year. Initial projects include involvement in structuring the SAKK's symposium programme and in assessing communication tools such as patient information brochures and the SAKK website to ensure that they meet patients' needs. The SAKK would also like the patient representative board to propose and submit projects at its own initiative. In the medium term, moreover, cooperation is to be developed with the SAKK project and working groups with the aim of developing more patient-friendly studies.

*For further information on the patient representative board, please visit
<http://sakk.ch/en/sakk-provides/for-patients/patient-representative-board/>*

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The Swiss Group for Clinical Cancer Research (SAKK) is a non-profit organization, which has been conducting clinical trials in oncology since 1965. Its primary objective is to research new cancer therapies, to develop existing treatments further and to improve the chances of a cure for patients with cancer. This takes place through cooperative projects within Switzerland and in collaboration with centers and study groups abroad. The SAKK is supported by a service-level agreement with the State Secretariat for Education, Research and Innovation (SERI) and also by partners such as the Swiss Cancer League and Swiss Cancer Research. For more information, go to www.sakk.ch

In future SAKK wants patients' concerns to be integrated more closely into research activities.

