

PRESS RELEASE

[EMBARGOED UNTIL 20 NOVEMBER, 06:00 AM CET]



UNDER PRESSURE: SAFEGUARDING THE HEALTH OF EUROPE'S ONCOLOGY WORKFORCE

*A New **Policy Report and Action Plan** from the European Cancer Organisation to Address Growing Workplace Challenges of Cancer Professionals*

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A graphic announcing a new publication. On the left, it says "NEW PUBLICATION" in bold, followed by "A Report on the Cancer Workforce Crisis". Below this, it says "Launch at the European Cancer Summit Wednesday, 20 November 2024". There are two logos: "TIME TO ACCELERATE FOR OUR WORKFORCE" and the "european cancer ORGANISATION" logo. On the right is a thumbnail of the report cover, which features the title "UNDER PRESSURE Safeguarding the health of Europe's oncology workforce" and an illustration of healthcare professionals. At the bottom of the graphic is a white rounded rectangle containing the URL "europeancancer.org/workforce-crisis".

20 November 2024, Brussels – The crisis within Europe's health and cancer workforce requires urgent attention. Recent events, such as the Covid-19 pandemic, continue to take a huge toll on healthcare professionals, and the growing shortages within the cancer workforce are having a profound impact on the dedicated workers on the frontlines of cancer care.

This is why the European Cancer Organisation, under the leadership of its [Workforce Network](#) and supporting partners, launched [Time to Accelerate for our Workforce](#), an extensive public awareness campaign to address this pressing issue.

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At today's [European Cancer Summit](#), the latest element of this campaign is being unveiled: the results of an extensive [Pan-European survey](#) of more than 700 cancer professionals from 30 countries – together with many of their personal stories.

Among the key highlights of the survey:

- **19% of cancer professionals experience high levels of burnout**
- **51%** say their supervisors **do not care about their well-being**
- **52%** report that their **workload seems 'endless'**
- **55%** report that **administrative procedures make their job too difficult**

Ensuring a well-supported, adequately staffed oncology workforce is essential for advancing cancer prevention, enhancing the quality of care, and ultimately reducing mortality rates across Europe.

The report identifies 10 core recommendations for immediate action, including:

1. Achieving a **common EU Action Plan** to tackle oncology and health workforce shortages
2. Making health **workforce planning** a formal part of **EU health emergency preparedness and resilience** activity
3. **Monitoring and reporting** exercises on levels of **burnout and anxiety** experienced by oncology professionals across Europe
4. **Implementing early intervention and training** programmes and **promoting peer-support networks** for the cancer workforce

Speaking on the report's publication, the ECO Workforce Network Co-Chairs, and leading authors said:

Prof Wim Ceelen, Co-chair of the European Cancer Organisation's Workforce Network; European Society of Surgical Oncology: 'An Oncology workforce struggling to carry out their work effectively is a clear and major risk for European health systems, in both the short and long term. We need the support from institutions and governments so we can coordinate action to prevent a further burden on our critical health infrastructure.'

Dr Mirjam Crul, Co-chair of the European Cancer Organisation's Workforce Network; European Society of Oncology Pharmacy: 'We are hoping that the significant research put into this report sparks the conversation among policymakers and channels renewed interest in innovative solutions to address the cancer workforce crisis, so cancer professionals can focus their attention on providing the best care for the patients.'

Dr Wendy Oldenmenger, Co-chair of the European Cancer Organisation's Workforce Network; European Oncology Nursing Society: 'Cancer is a major cause of deaths in Europe and must be addressed as such. If the professionals that treat it cannot carry out their work properly, patient safety will get compromised. We need to see that European leaders pay the attention this crisis deserves and reflect it in their political agendas.'

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To arrange a telephone interview with the lead authors or request an embargoed copy of the report please contact: alvaro.jimber@europeancancer.org

Notes to Editors:

1. [The European Cancer Organisation](#) is a not-for-profit umbrella federation of 42 Member Societies and 21 Patient Advisory Committee members, representing European and international patient societies. The Organisation is dedicated to convening oncology professionals and patients to agree on policy, advocate for change, and represent the interests of the European cancer community.
2. [The European Cancer Organisation's Workforce Network](#) brings together professions and others to speak as one about the unaddressed policy needs at the European level that could help ensure the right of every cancer patient to specialised multidisciplinary cancer care is upheld and made a reality.

For more information, please contact

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