

ICISG President's Report December 2008

This has been a very productive year for the International Cancer Information Service Group (ICISG). Our greatest asset is our shared knowledge and years of experience in providing information and support to cancer patients, their families, the public, and health professionals. We are stronger because we work together.

On behalf of the entire board of directors of the ICISG, I thank you all for your continued dedication to providing information and support through a cancer information service.

Milestones in 2008:

- In 2008, we increased membership, adding 5 full members and 6 associate members. This brings our membership to 62 (plus 3 three experts) from 40 countries.

Full members 2008:

- Centre for Cancer Control and Information Services, National Cancer Centre, Japan
- Centro Oncológico Buenos Aires, Argentina
- National Cancer Society of Malaysia
- Spanish Association Against Cancer
- Ulster Cancer Foundation, Northern Ireland

Associate Members 2008

- Bermuda Cancer and Health Centre
 - Children Living with Cancer Foundation, Nigeria
 - Egyptian Cancer Information Service for young people
 - International Medical Association, Bulgaria
 - Redoncológica (formally Ascenso por la Vida), Argentina
 - Turkish Association for Cancer Research and Control
- We furthered partnerships with the American Cancer Society and the European Cancer Leagues.
 - We continued our strong partnership with the UICC, preparing and conducting a full-day course on How to Start and Manage a CIS at the World Cancer Congress in Geneva, Switzerland. More than 50 participants attended. In addition, ICISG presented a symposium at the conference on CIS: An Essential Component of Cancer Control, with ICISG members from Canada, Australia, England, and the United States presenting.
 - We created a new course curriculum as part of the Geneva congress that focused on management issues for existing CIS programs.
 - We expanded the ICISG board of directors and elected new leadership. New members of the board include: Tomoko Takayama (Japan), Gillian Batt (New Zealand), Martin Ledwick (England), Amanda Hordern (Australia), and Marianne Duperray (France).
 - We finalized our strategic plan and updated our core values statement for our website, www.icisg.org.
 - Silvia Den (Switzerland) presented an overview of ICISG at the annual meeting of the European Cancer Leagues in Istanbul, Turkey.

As an organization founded in 1996 and made up entirely of volunteers with a shared commitment to the value and importance of cancer information, these efforts have been remarkable.

Chris Thomsen
President