

Maggie Watson, PhD

President

IPOS – International Psycho-Oncology Society

28.02.2012

Dear Prof. Watson,

I'm writing to you on behalf of Neolife Oncology Center located in İstanbul, Turkey. Established in 2010 as a center of excellence, Neolife is structured as a reference oncological center where most up-to-date treatment protocols are applied for patients whom we are privileged to treat. We make a special effort to supplement our patients' treatment programs with social and psychological support programs while our internationally renowned physicians and other medical staff utilize state-of-the-art technology to provide the best possible medical outcomes.

At NeoLife Medical Center, we provide intricately customized treatment programs for each individual through a meticulous study of the latest technological advances and integrated treatment methods. Aware of the fact that each case is unique, multidisciplinary tumor councils are created, where all related specialty physicians meet for each case and decide upon the best possible method for treatment. Furthermore, complementary medicine choices are offered to our patients and their relatives to better their lives on social and psychological levels.

Currently, Neolife is one of the few institutions in Turkey to have a psycho-oncologist on board. Ever since Neolife's first inception, patients undergoing therapy at our center have had the chance to meet with our psycho-oncologist during their first treatment session without any extra payment. We also have special group programs for the loved ones of our patients who often have hard times dealing with their patients' diagnosis and treatment. We have seen the positive effects of these programs on our patients' and their relatives' morale and even physical well-being.

Accordingly, when our psycho-oncologist Elçin Şayan suggested that we endorse International Psycho-Oncology Society's Statement on Standards and Clinical Practice Guidelines in Clinical Care. Neolife is proudly dedicated to and supports integration of psychosocial domain into routine care and measuring distress as the 6th Vital Sign after temperature, blood pressure, pulse, respiratory rate and pain. We are applying the Distress Thermometer to each of our patients and invite those patients with high distress levels for a consultation with our psycho-oncologist. Also, all chemotherapy patients are visited during their treatment sessions and evaluated daily and those who are found to be in need of further assistance are guided towards psychotherapy or psychiatric treatment. We also offer special group sessions to patients and their relatives on a regular and free-of-charge basis.

In conclusion, aware of the necessity of structured programs to deal with the psychosocial well-being of oncology patients, we fully support fostering psycho-oncology services in improving the quality of care for cancer patients and their families/loved ones.

Yours sincerely,



Dr. Nesrin Canpolat,

Outpatient Center Manager

Neolife Oncology Center

İstanbul, Turkey