

July 11th, 2012

Prof. Luigi Grassi
Chair, IPOS Federation

REQUEST FOR ENDORSEMENT OF INTERNATIONAL PSYCHO-ONCOLOGY SOCIETY (IPOS) STATEMENT ON STANDARDS AND CLINICAL PRACTICE GUIDELINES IN CLINICAL CARE

Dear Professor Luigi Grassi

This letter is in response to IPOS request to endorse the IPOS Statement on Standards and Clinical Practice Guidelines in Clinical Care.

Regarding the first statement **Quality cancer care must integrate the psychosocial domain into routine care:** This statement is already included in the standards of Israel Psycho-Oncology Association (IPSO). All oncology teams in Israel include social workers and many of the centers also include psychologists in their teams and the psycho-social care is integrated into patients treatment. Our society continues to expand the psychosocial domains of cancer care.

Regarding the endorsement of the second statement, **Distress should be measured as the 6th Vital Sign after temperature, blood pressure, pulse, respiratory rate and pain.** In our recent meeting, the board of the IPSO held a discussion on this issue. The board decided to endorse this statement and to plan actions to increase its dissemination in oncology centers over Israel. However, the board raised the need to culturally adapt the screening tools to the Israeli multi-cultural society. Also, I want to share with you that the board members were concerned with the increase in work load as a result of systematic screening, which would be added to the already existing enormous load.

We would like to suggest to construct a forum of representatives of national psycho-oncology societies regarding the various aspects of the process for efficient implementation of routine screening for distress.

Sincerely,

Prof. Miri Cohen



Head, The board of the Israel Psycho Oncology Association