

Paris, 15th October 2012

During its meeting on September 6th, 2012, the board of the French Psycho-Oncology Society (SFPO), agreed to endorse the statement proposed by (International Psycho-Oncology Society) IPOS on standards and clinical practice guidelines in cancer care:

- *Quality cancer care must integrate the psychosocial domain into routine care*
- *Distress should be measured as the 6th Vital Sign after temperature, blood pressure, pulse, respiratory rate and pain.*

The French Psycho-oncology Society (SFPO), the French counterpart to the IPOS at the national level, is working for better comprehensive cancer care and the integration of psychosocial care at all phases of cancer disease and treatment. The development of a program to systematically evaluate distress among cancer patients represents a major landmark in this struggle. In France, although a global distress screening procedure, as measured by the DT, is rarely performed, a systematic screening of pain and uncontrolled symptoms, nutritional issues, and socio-financial difficulties is already well developed. It is now included in national health organization cancer plans, as well as in accreditation and quality criteria. The oncology team – most often nurses – regularly screens for unmet supportive care needs. As a scientific society contributing to the development of supportive care, SFPO is backing all modes of action that (i) allow supportive care to become more systematic and efficient, (ii) develop professional training of oncological teams in distress screening, (iii) elaborate adequate screening tools including those for disabled populations. However, as French psycho-oncologists are mostly mental health care professionals - psychologists or psychiatrists - our main concern remains to improve screening for psychological suffering and psycho-oncological unmet needs, in order to best orient patients towards the appropriate psychological care.

The French Psycho-Oncology Society is proud to be associated with IPOS in this fight for a better global cancer care.

Dr Sarah Dauchy
President of French Psycho-Oncology Society

