

e-Oncology

A bi-lateral Italy-UK Workshop

Monday 27 October 2008
Italian Cultural Institute
39 Belgrave Square London SW1X 8NX

Workshop Outline

Motivation:

It is widely recognized that e-Oncology is gaining a preeminent role in the field of e-Health, as a state-of-the-art tool to support, through Information and Communication Technologies, the improvement of the many, complex and still open aspects of Oncology, be it in diagnosis, treatment or epidemiology. Such an “e-Oncology Workshop” configures itself as a natural follow-up of the “e-Health Workshop” previously organized by the promoters on the wider issue of ICT applications to Healthcare.

Scope:

The major expected benefits from such a workshop come from existing similarities and differences between UK and Italy. Differences mainly lie in the choices already made in areas – epidemiology, molecular medicine, “computational oncology”, diagnosis and treatments – where oncology evolution is fast progressing, while similarities lie in the not-so-far healthcare systems that the two Countries offer to their oncologic patients.

It is in the promoters’ expectations that the comparison of experiences and best practices in these fields will be beneficial to both healthcare systems.

Attention will be devoted to the question of devolution in healthcare, namely the consequences of a national vs. a regional approach. Additionally, an understanding of the strengths and of the weaknesses arising from the use of ICT, which more and more enters the oncologic arena, is something useful to share, also in view of possible coordinated actions.

Issues:

1) Setting the Scenario

Keynote speeches on UK and Italy approach

2) Cooperative Data Management: Distributed generation, authoring and widespread sharing of data.

Nowadays, in the post-genomic era, we do have to manage the explosion of both machine and human generated data, to grant their quality, as well as to let them be used by actors that have different profiles, roles and disparate backgrounds. Moreover, scientific and clinical networking and trans-disciplinary trials produce data that are heterogeneous both in their nature (e.g. clinical and genomic) and in their geographic distribution. Recent contributions in the management and processing of heterogeneous data, such as Grid computing or Groove, might be of benefit. In particular, all these inter-linked ICT issues are of relevance in the definition and management of a new generation of tumour registries, and in screening programmes.

- 2a – ICT: how can it benefit the patient?
- 2b – ICT: How can Oncology benefit the sharing of ideas and information?
- 2c – The Role of ICT in Present and Next Generation Tumour Registries
- 2d – Innovation in Cooperative Data management

3) Process Modelling in Diagnosis and Treatment

The control of oncology treatments and the clarification of the related uncertainties require that such processes be formally described at the state of the art by suitable conceptual tools such as the Unified Modelling Language (UML)

4) Governmental Cooperating Policies: definition, implementation and monitoring

Added value of synergies in patient care in oncology and the need of optimising available resources make networks fundamental for increasing the effectiveness of the governmental policies, and shape the definition of priorities and the policies of research- funding. Moreover, the emergency of networking implies new strategies for both the national and the regional approaches.

5) Patients and ICT

The access, screening and management of internet-spread informations on tumour, and more in general the use of ICT, is a primary challenge to be faced in next years. The general feeling is that ICTs are under-used. Thus, a significant effort has to be done in this delicate and “sensible” field.

6) Bilateral Perspectives

Promoters: Embassy of Italy in London (Prof. S.R.Amendolia), Polytechnic of Milan-Italy (Prof. F.Pinciroli), IEO-Milan (Prof G McVie)

Format:

One day meeting (9:00 to 17:00)