

June 2009 Update



Women Against Cervical Cancer : media backgrounder

The Women Against Cervical Cancer (WACC) Network is an international network of voluntary organisations, institutions, NGOs and individuals committed to the fight against cervical cancer.

The WACC Network was launched in November 2008 under the auspices of **EUROGIN** (EUropean Research Organization on Genital Infection and Neoplasia), the leading international multidisciplinary organisation involved in research, training, screening, prevention and information concerning genital infections, pre-cancers and cancers in women.

WACC now includes about 50 associations and institutions from all over the world (20 countries, 5 continents). The newly borne community gathers **half a million members** and continues to grow. The women and patients outreached potentially, through different means of information, are estimated to **16 million**.

WACC is a foundation, a network with a cause, a task force of international renown experts and a global community with a vision:

The WACC Network's vision is a world where all women are informed about human papillomavirus (HPV), its associated diseases, and how to prevent and control cervical cancer, so they can make informed choices and take action to eliminate the diseases.

Goals

To decrease the incident rates of cervical diseases and cervical cancer by:

- Educating healthcare professionals to further disseminate accurate information about cervical cancer
- Promoting public awareness and knowledge of HPV infections associated diseases, and cervical cancer
- Providing high quality, comprehensive and most accurate information about strategies and novel tools to eliminate cervical cancer, ensuring all women are aware of, and have access to these tools
- Empowering women to take action on their own health and the health of their families and communities, by seeking prevention through vaccination and regular cervical screening

- Educating, and engaging social responsibility of public leaders and decision makers, and all stakeholders on actions undertaken all around the world that may drive implementation in their own regions
- Promoting equitable access to prevention tools and screening for all women.

The WACC Network is committed to accompany women before, during and after their medical care in providing:

- Exchanges of experiences, for mutual help and support among women affected by the diseases
- Information and educational materials to provide answers to the many questions asked, to facilitate that women after treatment can re-establish their affective, sexual, social and professional lives
- Psychological support for those who desire it, through personal meetings, confidential counseling and professional orientation.

Activities

Under the umbrella of the WACC Foundation a number of activities will be undertaken:

- **WACC Forum** – Women's associations and patient's groups, members of the WACC Network meet annually. The 2010 forum will be held in Monaco on Feb. 18th within EUROGIN congress. The 2009 forum was held in Paris May 16th.
- **WACC Education** – creation of a centre of information and resources on cervical cancer and prevention available, living through a digital platform and various educational tools aimed at women, educators and the general public, in order to inform about the risks of HPV infections and encourage preventative care for genital infections and neoplasias.
- **WACC Surveys** – questionnaires which seek to ascertain the level of knowledge of HPV among women and the general public, the results of which will be widely publicised through reports and publications.
- **WACC Award** – Prizes given to advocacy action or campaign that shows a significant impact on public awareness of HPV diseases and prevention behaviours. The 2nd edition is now to come in 2010.

After creating the first ever European Women's Health Award in 2008, WACC will honour again in 2010 women groups as well as health practitioners for their effort in order to increase women awareness of cervical cancer prevention. Submissions for the award are to be projects that will concern campaigns – or tools, or films, or actions - to improving cervical cancer prevention. These projects need to relate more particularly to educational work improving, directly or indirectly, women's level of cervical cancer prevention knowledge. More details to come.

Please visit: www.wacc-network.org

The third forum will be held in Monaco on Feb. 18th 2010 at EUROGIN congress.