



**NATIONAL  
CANCER POLICY:**

**EQUITY, ACCESS  
AND QUALITY  
IN ONCOLOGY CARE**

**ΣfEE**

HELLENIC ASSOCIATION OF PHARMACEUTICAL COMPANIES

## NATIONAL CANCER POLICY:

# Equity, Access and Quality in Oncology Care

Athens, 26 January 2026



*This year's meeting, titled «National Cancer Policy: Equity, Access and Quality in Oncology Care», once again highlighted the importance of cross-sector collaboration and interdisciplinary engagement as key prerequisites for the development and implementation of a comprehensive national strategy for the prevention and management of Cancer in Greece.*

*This annual meeting, which has become an established institutional forum for dialogue and has contributed to the formation of an informal alliance between the State and the stakeholders involved, reaffirms the fundamental value of dialogue, cooperation, and consensus in addressing not only cancer but also broader challenges within the health system.*

At the center of the discussion was the need for a comprehensive national cancer strategy covering the entire continuum of care. This approach underscores that addressing cancer constitutes a cross-government priority. Participants placed particular emphasis on the importance of clearly defining objectives and timelines for the successful implementation of the National Plan (N. Dedes, G. Kapetanakis), as well as its full alignment with the European Action Plan (K. Athanasakis).

Prevention emerged as the most efficient investment in safeguarding public health. The implementation of the «Prolavamno» program was described as a historic milestone for the country, with a direct impact on reducing mortality and improving citizens' quality of life (N. Dedes, Em. Saloustris, G. Kapetanakis). Particular reference was placed on the need to establish an organized lung cancer screening program within the «Prolavamno» program (S. Loukidis), as well as to the development of policies addressing the full spectrum of environmental and social determinants that affect population's health (Nikos Papandreou, Em. Saloustris).

Biomarkers constituted a central pillar of the discussion. Their decisive role in enabling personalized oncology care was highlighted, as well as the progress achieved through the recent update of the biomarker list (G. Kapetanakis, El. Kourea, Em. Saloustris, Am. Psyrris). Furthermore, the need to establish a permanent biomarker evaluation process was underscored, which would enable the continuous updating of the reimbursement list so that patients can have timely access to modern diagnostic tools (K. Athanasakis).

There was also broad agreement on the need to develop appropriate mechanisms ensuring timely and equitable access to innovation, both at the diagnostic and therapeutic stages of care (N. Dedes, G. Kapetanakis, Em. Saloustris, Am. Psyrris). The Minister of Health referred extensively to the serious fiscal challenges arising from the rapid increase in the number of patients receiving immunotherapies, noting that if this trend continues, a redesign of resource management will be required, through smarter and more flexible financing tools, as well as the development of new mechanisms to manage and ensure timely patient access to innovation. In this context, the Minister of Health announced the immediate implementation of the Innovation Fund and the development of a legislative framework enabling the production of CAR-T therapies within the public health system.

The Minister of Health also emphasized the importance of the health system's digital transformation, particularly in addressing a complex health challenge such as cancer. In particular, he highlighted the role of the National Cancer Registry and digital oncology boards as critical policy tools. It was underlined that the further development and utilization of digital health tools require the active and systematic participation of both the medical society and patients, as a necessary condition for their broad acceptance (N. Dedes, G. Kapetanakis, El. Kourea, Em. Saloustris, N. Tsouma).

Early cancer diagnosis programs, the introduction of evidence-based therapeutic protocols, and the development and renovation of oncology care infrastructures constitute significant steps in cancer management. Nevertheless, particular importance should also be given to policies concerning pediatric cancer (An. Paisiou), as well as to palliative and psychosocial care, which was identified as an integral pillar of a comprehensive national cancer strategy (Em. Saloustris, Am. Psyrris, Kyriakos Souliotis). In this context, the Deputy Minister of Health announced that the National Action Plan for Pediatric Cancer is ready and will be presented in the coming months, while Ms. N. Tsouma, CEO of IDIKA S.A., announced the design of a new application for psychological and supportive care for patients and their caregivers.

All stakeholders participating in the meeting shared the belief that addressing cancer is a collective responsibility and requires coordinated action by all involved parties and the State. Only through commitment and steady cooperation between the State, the scientific and medical community, patient associations, and industry can the conditions be established for an effective, sustainable, and patient-centered national cancer strategy capable of responding to contemporary challenges and the real needs of patients.

## Participants

- **Kostas Athanasakis**, Associate Professor, University of West Attica
- **Nikolaos Arkadopoulos**, Professor of Surgery, Dean of the Medical School of the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens
- **George Vasilopoulos**, Professor of Internal Medicine-Hematology, University of Thessaly, President of the Hellenic Society of Hematology
- **Adonis-Spyridon Georgiadis**, Minister of Health
- **Nikos Dedes**, General Secretary, Greek Patients' Association
- **Marios Themistocleous**, Deputy Minister of Health
- **George Kapetanakis**, President, Hellenic Cancer Federation (ELLOK)
- **Eleni Kourea**, Professor of Pathological Anatomy, University of Patras, President of the Hellenic Society of Pathology
- **Stylianos Loukidis**, Professor of Pulmonology, Medical School of the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, President of the Hellenic Thoracic Society
- **Olympios Papadimitriou**, President, Hellenic Association of Pharmaceutical Companies (SFEE)
- **Nikos Papandreou**, Member of the European Parliament PASOK-KINAL (S&D)
- **Anna Paisiou**, Vice-President, Hellenic Society of Pediatric Hematology-Oncology (EPEAO)
- **Niki Tsouma**, CEO, IDIKA S.A.
- **Emmanouil Saloustris**, Associate Professor of Oncology, University of Thessaly, President of the Hellenic Society of Medical Oncology (HeSMO)
- **Kyriakos Souliotis**, Professor of Health Policy, Dean of the School of Social and Political Sciences, University of the Peloponnese
- **Amanda Psyrris**, Professor of Medical Oncology, NKUA, Director of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Department of Internal Medicine at Attikon University General Hospital
- **Moderator: Vasilis Chiotis**, Journalist, General Director of News and Information, SKAI 100.3 Radio

# ΣfEE

HELLENIC ASSOCIATION OF PHARMACEUTICAL COMPANIES

From the SFEE Oncology Platform

