



**ASCO International Affairs Department  
American Society of Clinical Oncology  
1900 Duke St, Suite 200  
Alexandria, VA 11314  
Email: international @asco.org**

**Dear Sir/Madame,**

**We have read with interest your ASCO-ESMO Consensus Statement on Quality Cancer Care published in the Journal of Clinical Oncology 24 (21) July 20,2006 p 3498-9.**

**In section 7 of this article, Multidisciplinary Cancer Care, we were surprised by the absence of the clinical oncology pharmacist as part of the multidisciplinary team.**

**The practice of oncology is becoming more complex. With the advent and diversity of the newer antineoplastic agents, targeted therapy, and radio-immunotherapy, the pharmacotherapeutic management of cancer requires a high level of expertise. Many pharmacists in oncology in Canada work in oncology clinics and in multidisciplinary treatment teams. These pharmacists are highly skilled in the pharmacotherapy of cancer and supportive care. They are experts in communication and have an important educative role as caregivers.**

**These pharmacists are actively involved at Provincial, National and International levels; they participate in the Pharmacists Network of the NCIC Clinical Trials Group, they are members of CAPHO, the Canadian Association of Pharmacy in Oncology and they are members of ISOPP, the International Society of Oncology Pharmacy Practitioners.**

**In the United States, the practice of oncology pharmacy is a recognized specialty by the American Board of Pharmaceutical Specialties. Many pharmacists practicing in oncology in Canada have completed this specialty certification as well and are designated oncology specialists.**

**In Canada, although the practice of oncology pharmacy is not yet a recognized specialty practice, many pharmacists practicing oncology are members of CAPHO. CAPHO's mission is the promotion of oncology pharmacy in Canada, by conducting educational events, maintaining appropriate professional practice standards, facilitating communication between oncology pharmacists and other interested health professionals, and developing oncology pharmacy as an area of specialty practice.**

**In Canada, oncology pharmacists play an important role in the provision of quality pharmaceutical care to cancer patients. They are actively implicated in Multidisciplinary and Interdisciplinary Cancer Care teams and recognized as international leaders in their fields.**

**We therefore hope that you will review this statement and address this omission.**

**Respectfully,**

**Gabriel Gazzé, B. Pharm., D.P.H.  
CPhO, President  
MUHC – Royal Victoria Hospital  
Oncology Pharmacy A2.01  
687 Ave Des Pins Ouest  
Montréal, Québec  
H3A 1A1 Canada  
Tel : 514-934-1934 ext : 34121  
Fax : 514-843-1724**