

# P-4

## Think NENs Global Education Program on Neuroendocrine Neoplasms Diagnostics and Management for Primary Care Physicians

*Sugandha Dureja<sup>1</sup>, Teodora Kolarova<sup>2</sup>, Stephanie Alband<sup>3</sup>, Mark McDonnell<sup>4</sup>, Catherine Bouvier<sup>5</sup>, Elyse Gellerman<sup>6</sup>, Christine Rodien-Louw<sup>7</sup>, Yannis Chlioui<sup>8</sup>, Dirk van Genechten<sup>9</sup>, Mehmet Ungan<sup>10</sup>, David Bartlett<sup>11</sup>, Dermot O'Toole<sup>12</sup>.*

*<sup>1</sup>CNETS India; <sup>2</sup>INCA, Bulgaria; <sup>3</sup>Pheo Para Alliance, USA; <sup>4</sup>NET Patient Network Ireland; <sup>5</sup>Neuroendocrine Cancer UK; <sup>6</sup>NETRF, USA; <sup>7</sup>APTED, France; <sup>8</sup>Victory NET Foundation, Switzerland; <sup>9</sup>vzw NET & MEN Kanker Belgium; <sup>10</sup>WONCA Europe; Ankara University, Greece; <sup>11</sup>Neuroendocrine Cancer UK; <sup>12</sup>NET Centre of Excellence, St. Vincent's University Hospital; St. James Hospital, Ireland.*

### BACKGROUND

Neuroendocrine neoplasms (NENs) are complex neoplasms with increasing incidence and prevalence worldwide that can originate in various organs, but most commonly in the gastrointestinal tract and the respiratory system.

Previously INCA demonstrated via a Survey of Challenges in Access to Diagnostics and Treatment for NET Patients (SCAN) survey significant challenges in NEN patient management: a long mean time to diagnosis of 5 years; and almost half, 46%, were advanced stage IV at diagnosis. SCAN also underlines the important role primary care physicians (PCPs) play in NENs detection and care – with 19% of HCPs alerting a diagnostic test and 44% of them actively involved in the ongoing monitoring of NEN patients.

### METHODS

A team of medical experts in NENs, PCPs and patient advocates from across the globe developed Think NENs Global Educational Program. NEN leaders working with PCP partners provided a framework of particular knowledge around NEN that was further streamlined into a format deemed suitable for PCP learning. The free online training includes everything PCPs need to know about diagnostics, treatment and care of patients with NENs. Its objective is to equip PCPs with competence and skills in detecting and managing NENs in primary care, including referral pathways.

### RESULTS

Think NENs Global Educational Program for PCPs includes 1 main module of 3 videos providing concise knowledge about neuroendocrine cancer diagnosis and managing patients via Q&A sessions between PCPs and neuroendocrine neoplasm (NEN) experts from around the world, as well as 13 supplementary videos on common NEN types, the impact of treatments and genetic NENs. Upon successful completion of exam, the main module can provide 1 UEMS-EACCME® credit, which has a reciprocal agreement of mutual recognition of credits with the American Medical Association. The program provides heightened diagnostic awareness and skills to evaluate the common diagnostic pitfalls in the most frequent type of clinical diagnostic scenarios in primary care. It also maps the common NEN treatments and their implications that can be seen in primary care, as well as ways to

deal with them. The program is available in English, French, German, Italian, Portuguese and Spanish.

## **CONCLUSIONS**

Delayed NEN diagnosis and suboptimal patient care are enduring global challenges. PCPs play a key role in NEN diagnostics and ongoing patient monitoring. Improved understanding of NENs among PCPs is of instrumental importance for improving patient diagnostic and care pathways, as well as patient outcomes. Continuous educational efforts should be employed to support PCPs in their practice.

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