

19th IPOS WORLD CONGRESS 2017
ACADEMY WORKSHOP DESCRIPTION

Workshop title: **Treating Patients Coping with Hereditary Cancer: What do I Need to Know?**

Workshop chairs: Andrea Farkas Patenaude, PhD, Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, Boston, USA

Length and Language: Half-day workshop. The workshop will be held in English.

Workshop description:

An increasing number of pediatric and adult cancer patients are undergoing genetic testing or genomic sequencing. When patients are found to be carriers of mutations which predispose them to hereditary cancers, they and their families experience complex and difficult psychological issues which can induce fear about cancer risk, identity and insurability, uncertainty about screening and risk-reducing surgery, family communication problems and generalized vulnerability and worry. Well-prepared psychosocial providers will increasingly be needed to support this population. This workshop identifies genetic knowledge and psycho-therapeutic skills which are essential to treat individuals, couples, and families in their interactions among themselves and with geneticists, oncologists and genetic counselors. Case discussion will focus teaching about the challenges and satisfactions of psychotherapeutic and support roles in this emerging area of psycho-oncology practice.

Learning objectives:

1. Participants will learn characteristics of hereditary cancer syndromes and typical processes patients experience when undergoing genetic testing or genomic sequencing.
2. Participants will recognize typical areas of emotional, interpersonal and social concerns in members of families coping with hereditary cancer.
3. Participants will understand the value of informed psychosocial intervention with this emerging population of cancer patients and will increase their self-competence to deliver care to patients with hereditary cancer risk.

Target audience: Psychologists, psychiatrists, social workers, geneticists



Dr. Andrea Farkas Patenaude, a clinical and research psychologist, is the Director of Psychological Research and Clinical Services in the Center for Cancer Genetics and Prevention at the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute. She has over 20 years of experience working with adult and pediatric cancer patients undergoing genetic testing and their family members. At the Dana-Farber, she has developed a consultation model to see patients and families and provide psychosocial support. Dr. Patenaude is the author of two books and many articles on psychosocial aspects of cancer genetics.