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EUROPA DONNA – The European Breast Cancer Coalition is an independent non-profit organisation whose members are affiliated groups from countries throughout Europe. The Coalition works to raise awareness of breast cancer and to mobilise the support of European women in pressing for improved breast cancer education, appropriate screening, optimal treatment and increased funding for research. EUROPA DONNA represents the interests of European women regarding breast cancer to local and national authorities as well as to institutions of the European Union.
EU Accreditation of Breast Cancer Services
EUROPA DONNA has been participating in the European Commission’s project to develop the first voluntary accreditation scheme for breast cancer services in the EU, in response to the Council of the European Union’s conclusions on reducing the cancer burden. The development of the scheme will be based on information gathered through a survey of EU health systems and will also involve producing a 5th edition to the European Guidelines for Quality Assurance in Breast Cancer Screening and Diagnosis. The resulting breast cancer services are to cover all aspects from diagnosis, surgery and treatment to post-treatment and palliative care, ensuring a multidisciplinary approach where the patient is always at the centre of the process.

The Role of Advocates in Breast Cancer Research and Clinical Trials
EUROPA DONNA will host an internal meeting with invited experts to discuss the clinical trial process and the role of advocates in contributing to trial committees. The aim is to understand what contribution advocates can and should make in clinical trials and research, and to ensure that they understand how to evaluate the trial and provide meaningful input into the committee meetings and/or documents related to the research. This project follows on EUROPA DONNA’s current involvement in clinical trials, such as MINDACT, and in international research consortia, such as BIG.

11th EUROPA DONNA Pan-European Conference
Prague, Czech Republic • 19-20 October 2013
EUROPA DONNA’s biennial conference features European experts presenting on key topics for breast cancer advocacy, such as the European Commission breast cancer service accreditation scheme, personalised medicine, advances in treatment, evidence on prevention, as well as survivorship and how to ensure access to state of the art services. In keeping with this year’s conference theme, “Ensuring quality services and equal access”, workshops will give advocates the opportunity to discuss how to advocate for these services on behalf of special populations. The conference is unique in that it is the only conference dedicated primarily to breast cancer advocates and survivors.

Breast Health Day
15 October
EUROPA DONNA’s breast cancer prevention initiative is held on 15 October every year to disseminate information about breast health among women and girls across Europe and beyond. Now in its 6th year, the campaign makes use of social networking sites to spread the message that maintaining a healthy weight, eating a healthy diet and engaging in physical activity can help to protect a woman’s future breast health. The Coalition also takes the campaign to the European Parliament every year with an Information Day for members of parliament and other interested parties.

Advanced Breast Cancer Second International Conference (ABC2)
Lisbon, Portugal • 7-9 November 2013
EUROPA DONNA is a member of the Advocacy Committee of ABC2, a conference that features several breast cancer patient advocacy sessions for advocates, in addition to presenting the latest in treatment and imaging, surgery, special populations, palliative care and survivorship. In the opening advocacy session, the Coalition is to present the main challenges for European countries in providing services for women with metastatic breast cancer and will distribute its brochure based on the EUROPA DONNA survey and its Breast Cancer Advocacy Leader Conference workshops on the topic. An advocacy report is to be presented to all attendees on the last day of ABC2.

EUROPA DONNA Annual Breast Cancer Advocacy Training Course
Milan, Italy • 15-17 November 2013
EUROPA DONNA’s annual Advocacy Training Course equips advocates from member countries with the information they need to know on cancer research and treatment as well as advocacy techniques and communications skills that can be used to influence public health policy in their countries. The two-and-a-half day course covers scientific topics, mammography screening guidelines, specialist breast units and psychosocial factors, as well as advocacy, communication and implementing the EU guidelines.
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