

“#5 FOR” PSYCHOLOGISTS, NURSES ETC. (High Five for) – A series of trainings psycho-oncology for various stakeholder groups related to helping cancer patients.

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BACKGROUND AND AIM

BACKGROUND: All people taking care of cancer patients should be trained in up-to-date oncology guidelines.

AIM: This study aimed to increase knowledge in the pediatric oncology field for nurses, volunteers, teachers, and psychologists.



METHODS

The trainings (4) were organized under the supervision of A. Raciborska (pediatric oncologist) and J. Pruban (psycho-oncologist). Additionally, in each subsequent edition, people most closely related to a given topic were invited. The training also included lectures for students (teenagers) whose friends are struggling with oncological diseases. The trainings were accredited by the Polish Psycho-Oncological Society.

ACTIVITIES



Among the people constantly involved in the organization of the event, it is worth emphasizing the participation of Mariola Wujec - psycho-oncologist, and Katarzyna Maleszewska - administrative coordinator.



Additionally, in each subsequent edition, people most closely related to a given topic are invited: e.g. a hospital schoolteacher, a head nurse, a coordinator of volunteer projects, and others.



The first training took place on October 6, 2023, and was addressed to psychologists, teacher educators and school educators. Based on widespread interest, we decided to expand the project to include other beneficiaries supporting oncology patients.



We will make every effort to obtain funds for further educational activities under this project, which is still relevant and necessary. What makes this project so special, is the uniqueness of each group of recipients.



Each participant receives educational materials, including a thematically dedicated and adapted guidebook. Each training includes a moderated discussion to exchange participants' experiences.



The training is organized by members of the Sarcoma Association and specialists from the Institute of Mother and Child who work every day with patients affected by sarcomas. This initiative provides specialist knowledge.



Training includes understanding the treatment process, the psychosocial impact of the disease, and effective mental support strategies for patients and their families. Our Association has been supporting sarcoma patients for over 17 years, providing a unique perspective and knowledge about the specificity of this group of patients.

CONCLUSIONS

The #5 FOR project provided enormous educational value in psycho-oncology for volunteers, nurses, teachers, psychologists, student-colleagues, and other people involved in the care of patients suffering from cancer, not only providing specific knowledge but also building a community of committed people ready to effectively help the sick. It is an investment in education and community, the effects of which may translate into improving the quality of life of patients and their loved ones.

We are proud that our project was recognized and won 3rd place in the Advocacy in Action Awards on SPAGN 2024.

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