On January 13 and 14, 2011, The Third Breast Gynecological International Conference (BGICC) was conducted as one of the ESMO supported programs at the Fairmont Towers Hotel, Cairo, Egypt.

With this Conference, about thirty International experts have gathered to share their knowledge, trying to make an attempt to close some of the gaps regarding Breast & Gynecological Cancers in all its aspects from diagnosis, Management & Palliative Care.

Prof. Hesham Elghazaly
(Prof. of Clinical Oncology, Ain Shams University, Secretary General of the Conference)

Prof. G. Hortobagy
(BGICC Honorary President)

Prof. Thomas Tursz
(BGICC Honorary President)
The goal of the conference was to facilitate a discussion, derive a consensus, definition, and develop recommendations for Breast & Gynecological Cancers.

The conference was a key activity for a growing network of professionals interested in Breast & Gynecological Cancers. It also helped to look beneath the surface of Breast & Gynecological Cancers to explore its underpinnings and to learn from the diversity of experience that participants brought to the conference. The conference was attended by a wide range of participants: Deans of the Faculties of Medicine among the Egyptian Governorate, Professors, doctors, physicians, nurses, researchers, pharmacists as well as Medical Students, practitioners, educators, health promoters and community activists. More than 1500 attendees enjoyed listening to the highly selected speakers and Chairperson, who represented different types of health care professionals.
As the theme of the Conference indicates, the scientific program addressed the current challenges & covered a broad range to give a good platform for the exchange of experience on cancers & To Outline the actual status of the problems relating to the Breast & gynecological cancers with Discussion of the prospects in the context of the most recent international trends and initiatives for the treatment.

The Conference sessions was divided into fifteen Scientific sessions, three Workshops, two Satellite Symposia, Poster Session & a Breast Cancer Consensus Panel discussion which highlighted the updates on evidence-based practice and information mastery, new initiatives in reducing disparities in Breast & Gynecological Cancers, prevention, screening, service delivery, spirituality, international education, interdisciplinary collaboration, and cultural competency.

Panel Discussion, From the left:
Prof. G. Hortobagi (BGICC Honorary President), Prof. Edith Perez, Prof. Nagi Alsaghir, Prof. Dennis Slamon, Prof. Yasser Abde Kader, Prof. Rabab Ghaafar, Prof. Gamal Al Housseiny, Prof. Marwan Ghosn, Prof. Sami Alkhattab, Prof. Alvarez Ricardo, Prof. Matti S. Aapro, Prof. Thomas Tursz (BGICC Honorary President)

Hall A during the Sessions
The closing ceremony was an open format in the form of Patient & Public Forum & attended by some social figures among them H.E. Moushira Khattab Minister of Family & population, Prof. Maged abou Seeda (Head of Gyne-oncology Department, Ain Shams University), Prof. Rabab Ghaifar (Head of Oncology Department, NCI, ESMO National Representative), Mr. Wael Al-Ibrashy (a renowned Media Figure), Dr. Maha Radames (Expert Nutritionist). The Introductory Messages was presented by Prof. Hesham Alghazaly (Secretary General of the Conference, Professor of Clinical Oncology, Ain Shams University, Head of Oncology Department, GOTH). Amongst the topics of discussion within the conference & also mentioned during the forum was accelerated partial breast irradiation (APBI), which is a potentially important new way to incorporate radiotherapy in the treatment of women with breast cancer. Currently women with breast cancer who undergo a lumpectomy typically have 6 1/2 weeks of irradiation (APBI) changes this approach in two ways. It shortens the treatment time from 6 1/2 weeks to between 1-5 days & reduces the treatment area from the entire breast to the breast immediately around the lumpectomy site. This is the part of the breast where most cancers are likely to recur.
After the general debate, all the participants enjoyed the magic of music with the Musician 'Manal Mohy El Dien' & her Orchestra which presented a very warm Concert ending the conference with a peace of mind.
The conference was only one step in visualizing the Breast & Gynecological Cancers. Outcomes from the conference will be used to formulate action plans that will further test the viability of the concept and, ultimately, transform the concept into meaningful practice in the clinical setting, the research arena, and any other environment in which knowledge-based information is crucial to the decision making process.

CONCLUSION

Grappling with a very amorphous subject, the conference provided an unprecedented opportunity for participants to share ideas, reach some consensus, agree on differences of opinion, and create a future action agenda. Health professionals from different aspects of Breast & gynecological Cancers were able to bring their specific knowledge to the discussion and benefit from the concept exploration.
RECOMMENDATIONS

The following recommendations were advanced:

1. The pattern of high risk diseases prevalent in Egypt and the Worldwide should be studied and documented to facilitate prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of these diseases.
2. Drawing attention to the importance Females screening for Breast & Gynecological Cancers.
3. Encouraging scientific research in genetically based conditions to help improve means of prevention, diagnosis, and treatment and providing a database for further scientific research.
4. Calling for a league for worldwide doctors in different aspects of Medicine and outlining its targets to reach a multidisciplinary approach in Breast & Gynecological Cancers.
5. Encouraging scientific collaboration between doctors & cancer societies in Egypt and worldwide who are most willing to serve their career.
6. Increasing people awareness of high risk diseases as the Breast & Gynecological Cancers
7. Encouraging young doctors working in various fields of medicine to have higher degrees of education by brainstorming with the International Experts.
8. Setting up of clinics in hospitals affiliated to the ministry of health.
9. Privacy, social, and ethical issues should be considered when dealing with the female patients suffering from Breast & Gynecological Cancers.
10. Fostering the development of scientific knowledge needed to enhance the health, productivity, independence and quality of life of Cancer patients.

Feedback from the conference was very positive – participants greatly enjoyed the chance to meet like-minded people from so many countries, the opportunity to network and to learn from one another, and the chance to explore ideas. As the delegates mentioned the Breast & Gynecological Cancers had fulfilled all its goals. The delegates applauded the Conference Board on their great efforts and dedicated work.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

Appreciation is expressed to the European Society for Medical Oncology (ESMO) for their support & to the Conference Board & to all our international experts for their efficient & professional cooperation & to the Conference Organizing Company "The Arab Organizers" & the Conference Coordinators for their help & enthusiastic support to maintain the continuity of the conference.

Sincerely,

Prof. Hesham Elghazaly
Professor of Clinical Oncology
Ain Shams University
Head of Oncology Department, GOTH
Secretary General of the BGICCC