

## **Optimal Nutritional Care for all (ONCA)**

### ***Co-creating the Patient Nutritional Pathway, Conference in Cambridge, 2019***

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The Cambridge Conference of the Optimal Nutritional Care for All campaign was held at the Cancer Research UK Cambridge Institute and the University Arms Hotel Cambridge on 19 & 20 November 2019. The conference is hosted by The British Association For Parenteral And Enteral Nutrition (BAPEN), the European Nutrition for Health Alliance (ENHA), Patients on Intravenous and Nasogastric Nutrition Treatment (PINNT), the Association of UK Dietitians (BDA), Cambridge University Health Partners (CUHP), NNEdPro and the British Specialist Nutrition Association (BSNA)

High-level speakers from 18 countries in Europe presented on good practices in nutritional care. Some key messages highlighted the unrecognised issue of malnutrition, some of the economics of managing the effects of malnutrition and the need for education in the healthcare team. Many examples of implementation of nutritional care on hospitals and the community were shared highlighting the impact of these initiatives, often through the knowledge and skills of the dietitian. The conference was also an ideal opportunity to share innovative ways to improve the public awareness of malnutrition. Some high profile campaigns including the Malnutrition Awareness Week in the UK were showcased as bringing the subject of malnutrition into the public arena. More recently such discussions around nutrition have focused on obesity with its impact on population health leaving malnutrition being unrecognised by the public. Perhaps the most powerful presentations were from people who had experienced malnutrition – those who had struggled to maintain their dietary intake and nutritional status. We heard first-hand the impact this has and how good nutritional care can be life changing.

There was plenty of time for networking and discussion groups to plan future initiatives. These were eloquently summarised by Frank de Man, secretary general of the European Nutrition for Health Alliance, London, UK. The aspirations for ONCA 2020 are available on the website along with slides from the key speakers

<https://european-nutrition.org/homepage/events/conference2019/>

Optimal Nutritional Care for All (ONCA) campaign is a multi-stakeholder initiative to facilitate greater screening for risk of disease-related malnutrition/undernutrition and nutritional care implementation across Europe.