The ESMO – SNOMR symposium now has a history. Three similar events preceding this meeting were organized in 2008 -2009 in Romania.

SNOMR stands for National Society for Medical Oncology of Romania. The ESMO –SNOMR symposium were arranged and organized at the same time as the National Conference in Medical Oncology.

This year the speakers from ESMO which we had the pleasure of inviting were Rafael Catane from Israel and Peter Boyle from France.

The topics of this symposium covered the main issues of Medical Oncology. The most important topics discussed were: “The Globalization of Cancer”; this was a general talk about the future cancer burden and inequalities faced by patients. Other topics covered were “Principles and indications of chemotherapy”, “Principles and indications of surgery in oncology”, “The immune response to tumors: targets, mechanisms, and clinical applications”. Also presented were topics on “First line chemotherapy” with exemplification of chemotherapy for lung cancer, “Second line chemotherapy”, “Principles of maintenance chemotherapy with the example used: lung cancer”, “Principles of hormone therapy”, “Principles of individualized systemic treatment with the example used: breast cancer”.

The Romanian speakers were Alexandru Grigorescu, Tudor Ciuleanu, Alexandru Eniu, Mircea Dediu, Alexandru Blidaru and Dana Stanculeanu, with representation from heads of several Romanian Medical Oncology departments located in significant towns in Romania, with large experience in clinical trials.

Rafael Catane made an introduction in palliative care and emphasized the roll of the ESMO Palliative Care Working Group.
The participants were represented mainly by Romanian medical oncologists, but also some specialists in radiotherapy and a few surgeons. In Romania there are about 300 medical oncologists and about 200 were present at this meeting which confirmed the interest of medical oncologists for this event.

The conclusion of the meeting was provided by Rafael Catane from ESMO and Alexandru Grigorescu, chairman of the symposium. The event was felt to be a great success shown by the number of participants attending and the active discussions shared by all with the experienced lecturers.

Alexandru Grigorescu
Chairman of the symposium