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Nathan Cherny is married (to Nancy) with four children (Gil, Eitan, Noa and Calanit). He lives in the town of Maccabim, in central Israel.

Education

He was born in Melbourne, Australia in 1958, where he was raised and educated. He studied medicine at Monash University Medical School where he graduated in 1983 with high distinction.

Advanced Training

He completed his Fellowship of the Royal Australian College of Physicians attaining specialist recognition in both Oncology and Palliative Medicine. During that time he established the undergraduate training program in palliative care at Monash University. 1991-1994 he completed a (very prolonged) fellowship in Cancer Pain and Palliative Medicine at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, New York, where he worked with Kathleen Foley and Russell Portenoy.

Appointments

In 1994 Dr Cherny joined with Prof Raphael Catane to establish the Oncology and Palliative Medicine Unit at the Shaare Zedek Hospital in Jerusalem. The model and standards for integrated oncology and palliative care developed by Prof Cherny and Prof Catane have since served as the basis for the designation criteria for the ESMO Designated Center program in Integrated Oncology and Palliative Care. He continues to head the Multidisciplinary Cancer Pain and Palliative Medicine Service at Shaare Zedek Medical Center, and, in addition, he maintains an active practice in general oncology.

In 2008-9 he was visiting scholar to the Dept of Bioethics at the National Institutes of Health (NIH) in Bethesda Maryland. Since 2011 he also chairs the board of the NPO B'Ruach (By Spirit) for the promotion of professional chaplaincy in Israel

International Work

Since 1997 he has served on the research steering committee of the European Association of Palliative Care. In 1999 he helped established the European Society of Medical Oncology Palliative Care Working Group.

He led the ESMO initiative to develop policies on the role of the oncologist in palliative care, oncology training for medical oncologists and minimal standards for palliative care in cancer centers. 2008-2014 he served as the chairman of the ESMO Palliative Care Working Group. During that time he led the working group policy and research initiatives including:

- The ESMO policy statements on Palliative care (2003)
- The designated center program for the integration of oncology and palliative care (2003)
- The Palliative Care Curriculum Guidelines for Medical Oncology Trainees (2003)
- The survey of the Oncologists Role on Palliative Care In Oncology in Europe (2003)
- The survey of the Communication and Disclosure Practices of Oncologists in Europe (2009)
- The ESMO Guide for Patients with Advanced Cancer (2010)
- The European and subsequently the global studies of the availability and accessibility of opioids for the management of cancer pain (2009, 2012)
- The European and subsequently the global studies evaluating the availability and accessibility and out of pocket cost of anti cancer medications. (2013, 2105)

Most recently he initiated the ESMO project to develop a "magnitude of clinical benefit scale" to provide an unbiased assessment of the effectiveness of anticancer treatments, and has served as member of the ESMO working group addressing this issue culminating in its acclaimed publication in May 2015 and the subsequent version 1.1 published 2017.

Prof Cherny has been an active member of the Middle East Cancer Consortium and works closely with Palestinian oncology colleagues. He is a believer that health care provision can bring peoples together and build bridges of understanding, humanity and shared purpose and that it can bring people closer to peaceful and respectful coexistence.

Research, Publications and Education

Prof Cherny has had diverse research interests including opioid responsiveness of neuropathic pain, opioid rotation, opioid side effects and their management, cancer pain syndromes, suffering, palliative sedation, communication issues in oncology and palliative care, bioethics and public health.

He teaches in the Hebrew University Medical School and runs courses in communication and palliative medicine.

He runs a mentorship program for Palestinian oncologists from the West Bank and for the Al-sadeel Palliative Care Society in Bethlehem.

Prof Cherny has edited five books:

1. Cherny N.I., Foley K.M.(eds), Hematology Oncology Clinics of North America: Pain and Palliative Medicine. Saunders Feb 1996.;
2. Hanks G., Doyle D., Cherny N.I., Calman K. (eds), The Oxford Textbook of Palliative Medicine, 3rd Edition. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2004
3. R Catane, NI Cherny, M Kloke, S Tanneberger and D Schrijvers (Eds), ESMO Handbook of Advanced Cancer 2005 Taylor and Frances.
4. Hanks G.,Cherny N.I., Christakis N, Kassa S, Fallon, M, Portenoy RK. (eds), The Oxford Textbook of Palliative Medicine, 4th Edition. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2009
5. Cherny N.I., Currow D, Fallon, M, Kassa S, Fallon, M, Portenoy RK. (eds), The Oxford Textbook of Palliative Medicine, 5th Edition. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2015

Prof Cherny has published over 120 peer reviewed papers and has made numerous invited lectures in the US, Europe, Asia and Australia.

Since 2005 The Shaare Zedek Oncology and Palliative Medicine Program has been 4 times awarded ESMO designation as a center of excellence in the integration of oncology and palliative care (2005, 2008, 2011, 2014).

Awards and appointments

2007: appointed to the Norman Levan Chair of Humanistic Medicine at Shaare Zedek Medical Center and in 2008 was promoted to Associate Professor in Medicine in the Ben Gurion University of the Negev.

2015: ESMO (European Society of Medical Oncology) Award for his contributions to the development of oncology in Europe

2016: EAPC/EJPC (European Association of Palliative Care/ European Journal of Palliative Care) award Palliative Care Policy Development Award

2017 Monash University Doctor of Laws Honoris Causa