



GERONTE

TRANSFORMING PATIENT CARE

NEWSLETTER

A STAKEHOLDER COMMUNICATION
FROM THE GERONTE CONSORTIUM

MARCH 2025

Streamlined **Geriatric** and **Oncological** evaluation based on **IC Technology** for holistic patient-oriented healthcare management for older multimorbid patients.

European Union's Horizon 2020
research and innovation program.



This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement 945218.

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Università Commerciale
Luigi Bocconi



SIORG
INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY
OF GERIATRIC ONCOLOGY

 myPatientSpace



Message from the Scientific Coordinator

We launched the FRONE study five months ago, and two centers, Centre Antoine Lacassagne in Nice and Centre Hospitalier Rance Avenir in St Malo, are already experimenting with the new GerOnTe pathway with the help of the FRONE trial team and the MyPatientSpace team.

We now have an excellent digital application, thanks to the outstanding work of WP1 and WP2. It allows patients to be in close contact with the oncology and geriatric teams through the nurse, enabling them to report their symptoms daily so that their management is carried out quickly. There are currently some tools for this approach, although access varies between European countries. However, one important feature of the application is new. It provides clinicians with a synthetic view of essential patient data on a single screen: lifestyle, description of cancer, comorbidities, geriatric assessment, and patients' priorities and wishes, so that they can participate in decision-making. This dashboard will also offer clinicians an overview of patient follow-up, including important events and the resulting decisions. This will allow better care for these patients with similar access to patient data granted to all health professionals treating the patient.

Overall, we are currently testing the GerOnTe pathway we have designed and its application in each hospital, depending on its organizational structure. We have included cancer centers, university hospitals, community hospitals, and a private practice center to cover all the different practices available in France. This experience will allow us to adapt the GerOnTe pathway to these different contexts.



Message from the Scientific Coordinator

At the same time, even though we regretted the abandonment of the TWOBE project, actively prepared by the Belgian and Dutch teams, the upcoming launch of IMPLEMENT will teach us a lot about the current situation of the care of multimorbid patients in five countries, four centers each, about the potential obstacles and facilitators for the implementation of the GerOnTe approach, as well as the potential health economic challenges to anticipate. This second study is certainly a major asset for the future implementation of the GerOnTe pathway in European countries, and we must work actively on it to gather all the necessary information.

We have demonstrated that we are a very efficient group in meeting these challenges, and now we need to complete the process to a full demonstration.

Prof. Pierre Soubeyran, MD, PhD

Professor of Medical Oncology

University of Bordeaux, France

Work Package 1

Defining the people and the data needed

Stichting Diaconessenhuis - Oslo University Hospital - University College Dublin

We are thrilled to announce that Nelleke Seghers was awarded the Dutch Geriatrics Society Young Researcher 2024 Award for her outstanding PhD research, "Management and Priorities of Older Patients with Multimorbidity and Cancer-Developing a Patient-Centred Care Pathway." This PhD was primarily based on the work she did for GerOnTe's Work Package 1. This recognition highlights the importance of her work in addressing the complex needs of older patients.

Nelleke's research identifies key challenges in managing older patients with multimorbidity and cancer, emphasizing the need for enhanced care coordination, personalized treatment recommendations, and comprehensive monitoring to maintain quality of life. The GerOnTe project aims to develop integrated, patient-centred care pathways to overcome these challenges and optimize healthcare delivery.



Nelleke Seghers (right) with the runner-ups

Work Package 2

Developing the tools for GerOnTe

myPatientSpace

We are thrilled to share that myPatientSpace has joined the GerOnTe Consortium, and our team has been working tirelessly to get the GerOnTe App and Staff Portal ready for the upcoming clinical trials.

About myPatientSpace

myPatientSpace is an award-winning Irish digital health company. Our platform is designed to support personalized, remote care across a wide range of conditions and complex care needs. Built as a medical-grade platform, it is highly configurable—enabling healthcare providers to rapidly deploy digital care pathways that bring together patient engagement, symptom tracking, device integration, education, smart alerts, and clinician tools, all in one seamless solution.

myPatientSpace is used across disease areas such as cancer, COPD, heart failure, diabetes, renal disease, and post-operative care, and is particularly effective in supporting patients with multi-morbidities and older populations who require coordinated care. With strong evidence from real-world deployments in leading hospitals and health systems, the platform has proven impact in improving outcomes, streamlining workflows, and enhancing the patient experience.

In oncology, myPatientSpace has been used in multiple leading cancer centers both for research and in clinical practices, enabling digital pathways that support patients through treatment and recovery. Programs on myPatientSpace have been presented at ASCO, ESMO, and published in the *Cancers Journal*. One of the programs won the top digital health award in Ireland and another the top European Hospital award. Through its role in GerOnTe, myPatientSpace is extending its proven model to co-design and deliver digital solutions that meet the needs of older adults with complex health conditions—ensuring care that is integrated, proactive, and person-centered.

Work Package 2

Developing the tools for GerOnTe

myPatientSpace

Over the past several months, the myPatientSpace team has had the privilege of collaborating closely with clinical teams, particularly with Marije Hamaker, Pierre Soubeyran, and Hans Wildiers, to ensure we fully understood the needs of the GerOnTe pathway. Together, we've configured GerOnTe on our platform, creating key assets, setting up alerts, and integrating informative video content. On the staff side, we've set up the dashboard and all relevant metadata for the pathway.

Our initial pilot took place in Paris, where we worked with seniors, supported by e-Seniors. The feedback was exceptional, with the app receiving high ratings based on standard measures, which was no surprise given that our award-winning app has been used in many digital health programs across chronic diseases and cancer. Seniors provided valuable feedback, sharing suggestions for improvements, which we have since incorporated.

Following this, we conducted pilots with clinical teams, receiving positive feedback and refining the pathway to ensure it was trial-ready. We hosted the environment on OVHCloud in France to meet sponsor requirements, and after going live, we successfully trained and onboarded the first three sites—two in Nice and one in St. Malo. To ensure accessibility, we also provided managed tablets to participants who don't have access to mobile devices.

So, what does the GerOnTe pathway on myPatientSpace offer?

For patients, the app enables them to report relevant symptoms based on their cancer type, stage, and other conditions. This allows their care team to track and manage their symptoms while offering personalized content to help them manage their cancer journey. The app also provides personalized recommendations based on symptoms and alerts patients when they should reach out to their team.

For staff, the platform provides a comprehensive, multidisciplinary environment for Advanced Nurse Practitioners (ANPs), Geriatricians, and Oncologists to capture important patient assessments and details. The intuitive dashboard aggregates this information into a 360-degree view of the patient, supporting informed treatment decisions. Patient preferences are also incorporated, and there are key tools to assist in decision-making along the pathway.

Work Package 2

Developing the tools for GerOnTe

myPatientSpace

We are excited that the trial has gone live and look forward to bringing the GerOnTe pathway to institutions around the world. If you're interested, feel free to reach out at info@mypatientspace.com



myPatientSpace



Work Package 3

Developing the methods for GerOnTe

Bocconi University

Work Package 3's activities conducted during the last months focused on the following:

- Definition of the IMPLEMENT Study Protocol: We have developed the study protocol for observing oncology care pathways in multiple clinical sites across Europe.
- Development of Research Tools: This includes designing case vignettes (eight in total, two per tumor type), surveys, and interview outlines to systematically map and analyze care pathways.
- Identification of Clinical Sites: We are coordinating the selection of up to 20 hospitals across five European countries, ensuring diverse and representative data collection.
- Kick-off Meeting for Data Collection: We are finalizing the preparations for the study's kick-off meeting, which will officially launch data collection activities in each country.
- Scientific Publications: Our research efforts have already resulted in a recent publication in the International Journal of Integrated Care (IJIC): Ferrara, L., Ardito, V., Tozzi, V. D., & Tarricone, R. (2025). Economic Evaluations of Health Service Interventions Targeting Patients with Multimorbidities: A Scoping Literature Review. *International Journal of Integrated Care*, 25(1), 3.
- Dissemination of GerOnTe Results at International Conferences: We are committed to sharing our findings with the global scientific and healthcare communities. Bocconi University will be presenting GerOnTe project results at:
 - ICIC 2025 Conference (International Conference on Integrated Care), Lisbon, May 14-16
 - EHMA Conference (European Health Management Association), Rennes, June 4-6

The IMPLEMENT Study: Understanding Oncology Care Pathways

A key initiative within WP3 is the IMplementation of comPrehensive oncoLogy carE in MultImorbid patiENTs (IMPLEMENT) Study. The IMPLEMENT Study was introduced after the decision not to proceed with the TWOBE trial in Belgium and the Netherlands. By adopting effectiveness-implementation hybrid designs (Type 1 for FRONE and Type 3 for IMPLEMENT), the results of the two studies conducted as part of the GerOnTe Project will be analyzed in a combined way to capture the full impact of comprehensive care models and inform the transition to integrated care models.

Work Package 3

Developing the methods for GerOnTe

Bocconi University

The general objective of IMPLEMENT is to comprehensively describe oncology care pathways for older multimorbid patients across various countries, considering patient, clinical, organizational, implementation, and economic perspectives.

This study seeks to answer four critical research questions:

1. What are the current care pathways for multimorbid patients with cancer in Europe?
2. What are the costs associated with managing multimorbid patients, and what factors influence these costs?
3. What are the challenges, barriers, and facilitators faced by different stakeholders in the care pathway?
4. What approaches to data collection and analysis best support transitioning from disease-specific models to an integrated care model?

Looking Ahead

Our work in WP3 and the IMPLEMENT Study is paving the way for a deeper understanding of oncology care pathways for multimorbid patients. By analyzing real-world clinical settings and engaging with diverse stakeholders, we aim to inform policy recommendations and support the transition to more integrated, patient-centered oncology care across Europe.

Work Package 4

Demonstration and validation

University Hospital Leuven

WP4 is responsible for the two identical randomized prospective GerOnTe clinical trials evaluating the feasibility and effectiveness of the GerOnTe intervention. FRONE was the clinical trial scheduled in France, and TWOBE was originally foreseen as the clinical investigation in Belgium and the Netherlands. Due to several reasons (e.g., delay in contractual agreements, change in partner), the decision has been made to officially close TWOBE and to proceed with a new study, namely IMPLEMENT.

TWOBE Closure

Clinical trial TWOBE, part of the GerOnTe project, will not be conducted in Belgium and the Netherlands. All the necessary administrative steps have been taken, including submissions of early termination notifications to competent authorities such as the Federal Agency for Medicines and Health Products (FAMHP) in Belgium and the Medical Research Ethics Committees United (MEC-U) in the Netherlands. Closure procedures have been initiated at individual participating sites in both countries, including hospitals and research institutions. Additionally, internal procedures at KU Leuven were finalized, and the study status was updated to "withdrawn" on ClinicalTrials.gov.

FRONE Study Launch

Study Launch and Recruitment Progress

The FRONE trial officially launched in France on the 15th of October 2024, marking a key milestone in the GerOnTe project. To ensure a smooth start, refresher sessions of the site initiation visits were conducted online between August and September with the eight investigating sites.

Recruitment is progressing well, with over 150 participants enrolled in the trial to date.

Transition to the GerOnTe Intervention

The first two centers transitioned to the GerOnTe intervention mid-December and mid-February, with MyPatientSpace digital tools being available at both sites.

Work Package 4

Demonstration and validation

University Hospital Leuven

Before each center transitions to the GerOnTe intervention, WP4, in collaboration with MyPatientSpace, conducts on-site visits and training sessions, covering both the intervention workflow and the use of the digital tools to facilitate a smooth integration of the intervention.

Ongoing Support

To support sites in participant recruitment and follow-up, and GerOnTe intervention implementation, we have established monthly meetings with investigating teams, providing a dedicated space for sharing information, challenges, and best practices. In parallel, ongoing one-on-one communication with each site ensures personalized support based on their specific needs.

Looking Ahead

We remain committed to supporting participating centers, optimizing recruitment, and ensuring the effective rollout of the GerOnTe intervention.

IMPLEMENT

In replacement of TWOBE, the IMPLEMENT study was initiated. This study, also part of the GerOnTe project, aims to improve oncology care for older patients with multimorbidity by analyzing existing care pathways across multiple European countries. Through a comprehensive observational study, IMPLEMENT will identify challenges, costs, and best practices in cancer care for this vulnerable population. The findings will help shape more integrated, patient-centered care models, ensuring better outcomes and more efficient healthcare delivery. More information about the IMPLEMENT study can be found in the WP3 section.

Work Package 4

Demonstration and validation

University Hospital Leuven

Dissemination

The GerOnTe protocol paper outlines a study evaluating a new, holistic, patient-centered care pathway for older patients with multimorbidity and cancer. The project aims to assess the impact of a multidisciplinary approach supported by digital tools on patients' quality of life, autonomy, anxiety, and healthcare utilization. The intervention involves a Health Professional Consortium (HPC), coordinated by an Advanced Practice Nurse (APN), to centralize treatment decisions based on comprehensive geriatric assessment (CGA) and patient priorities.

It is published in the **Journal of Geriatric Oncology**.

Reference: Hamaker ME, Wildiers H, Ardito V, Arsandaux J, Barthod-Malat A, Davies P, Degol L, Ferrara L, Fourrier C, Kenis C, Kret M, Lalet C, Pelissier SM, O'Hanlon S, Rostoft S, Seghers N, Saillour-Glénisson F, Staines A, Schwimmer C, Thevenet V, Wallet C, Soubeyran P. Study protocol for two stepped-wedge interventional trials evaluating the effects of holistic information technology-based patient-oriented management in older multimorbid patients with cancer: The GerOnTe trials. *J Geriatr Oncol.* 2024;15(4):101761.



Training session on the Tool at Centre Hospitalier Rance Avenir in St. Malo with the MPS, DCU, and UBx teams in February 2025.

Work Package 5

EU-wide implementation roadmap

Dublin City University

The primary goal of WP5 is to support the rollout of the GerOnTe technology into hospitals, clinics, and directly into the hands of patients. The team studies how the technology works, identifies what works and what doesn't, and understands the concerns and perceptions of the users. They aim to tackle the broader issue of how technology is deployed, used, and diffused within healthcare systems.

Overall, WP5 is dedicated to advancing the understanding of technology use in healthcare and ensuring the successful implementation of the GerOnTe technology.

Work Package 6

Stakeholders' engagement and ethical issues

E-seniors

Following the changes made to the GerOnTe project applications, the partners of WP6, as the work package focusing on stakeholders' engagement, devoted themselves from August 2024 until the start of the clinical trial to adapting all the documents produced in this WP, and intended to ensure the adherence of all the stakeholders involved or interested in the results of our project.

In order to ensure public engagement with the new application and interfaces created by MyPatientSpace, WP6 member partners organized further small-scale pilot sessions between September and October 2024. These took place in France, with medical teams supported by UBx and senior members of ESE. MPS provided support to our teams for each of the pilots, organizing the pilots with dedicated test profiles, simulating all the situations that GerOnTe end-users will face, and identifying all the potential sticking points that need to be modified before launching the clinical trial. This has helped to ensure the smooth integration of our digital tools into the GerOnTe Care Pathway throughout the clinical trial carried from the beginning of 2025.

Following the results of the small-scale pilots, and thanks to regular meetings, the WP6 partners UBx, MPS, and ESE have adapted the training manuals to the needs of the stakeholders, to ensure their involvement through efficient and comprehensive materials. In addition to the training manuals and drawing on the experience of the small-scale pilots, solutions involving various tailor-made media such as videos aimed at medical audiences and patients, audios to facilitate understanding of the Recommendations sections of the Patient application, and additional tools to assist carers in their training at each stage of the application have been developed, ensuring that audiences are engaged with GerOnTe.

Work Package 7

Communication, dissemination, exploitation

International Society of Geriatric Oncology (SIOG)

Barbara Ewals, CEO of SIOG, presented the policy paper of GerOnTe at the ECO (EU Cancer Summit), highlighting the project's significant contributions to cancer care. This presentation was a significant milestone in sharing the project's insights and advancements with a broader audience.

SIOG actively participated in the ESMO congress, where Barbara Ewals, Prof. Etienne Brain, SIOG's GerOnTe Expert, and Nicolò Battisti, President of SIOG 2022-2024, disseminated more information about GerOnTe to the scientific community. These events provided valuable platforms for engaging with stakeholders and promoting the project's objectives.

As of March 2025, 70 publications related to GerOnTe are tracked on Zenodo1. This extensive collection of research and findings showcases the project's impact and the collaborative efforts of the consortium. The publications cover various aspects of the GerOnTe project, including its methodologies, outcomes, and implications for cancer care.

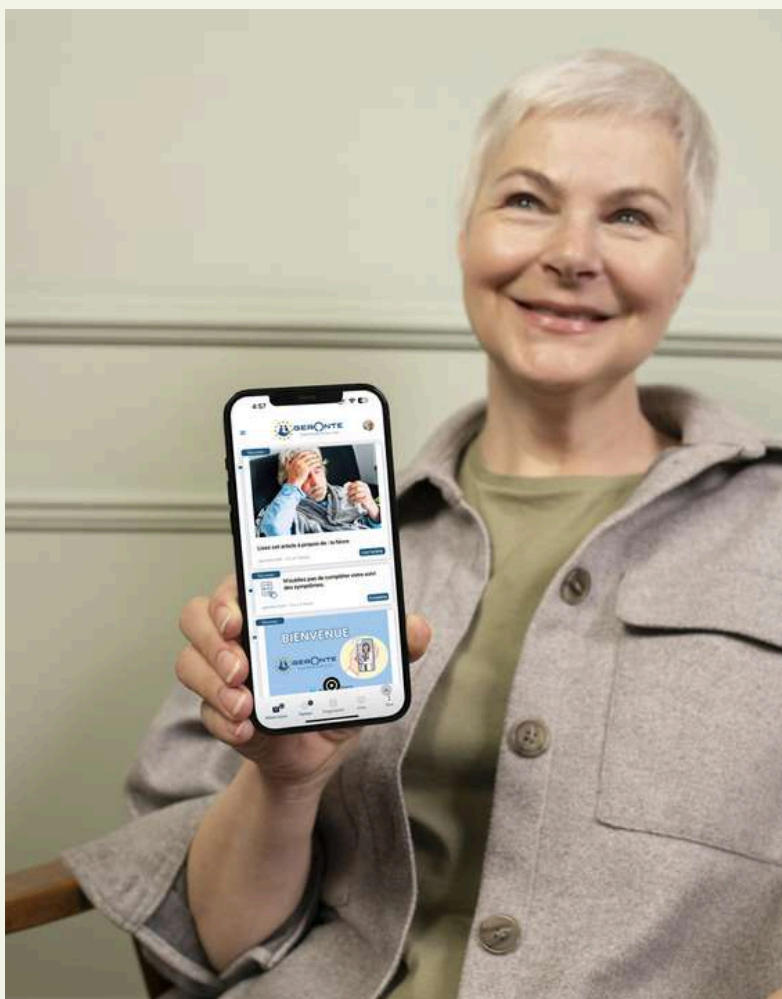
WP7 is dedicated to ensuring that the project's results reach key targeted audiences through effective communication, dissemination, and exploitation strategies.

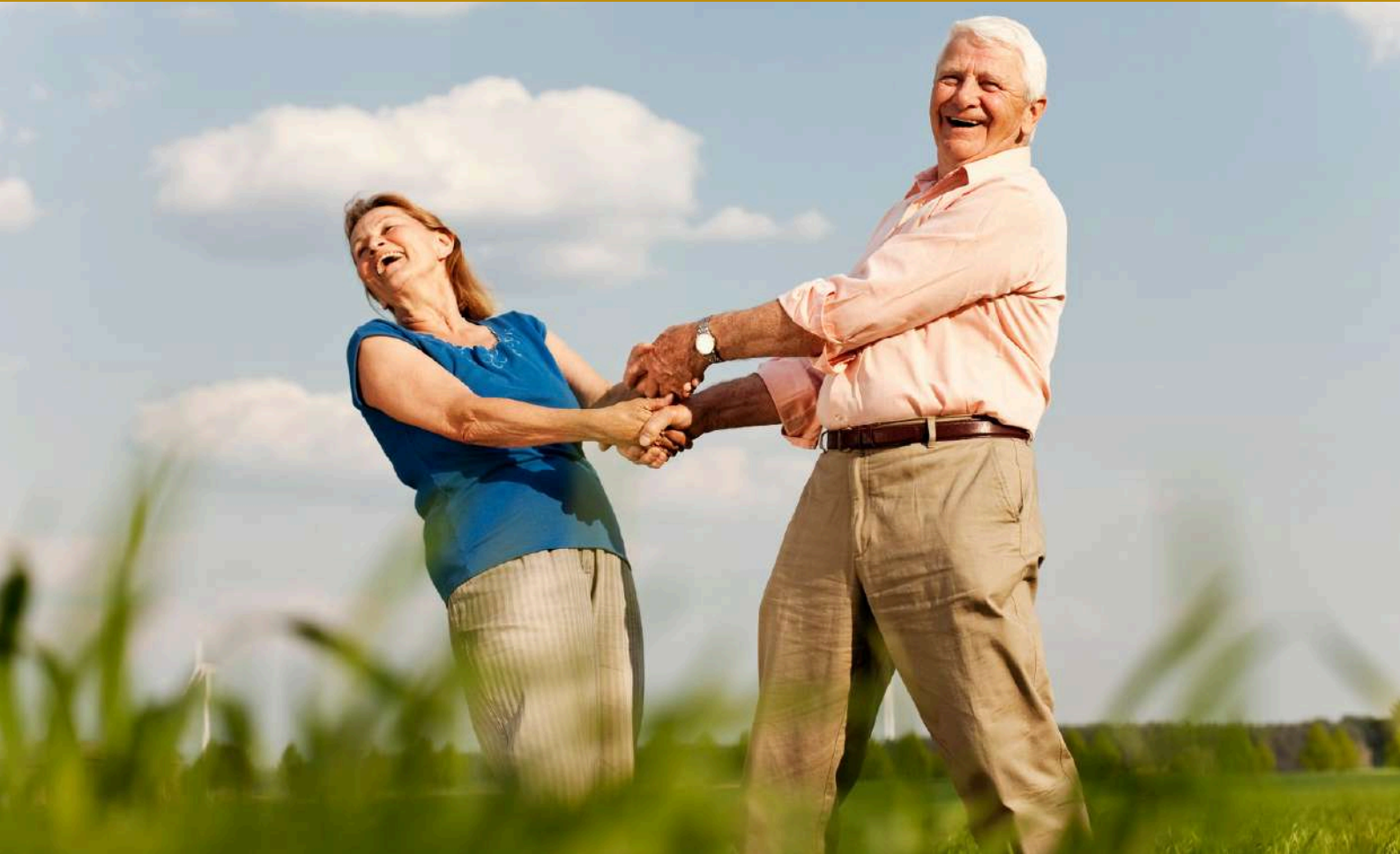


SIOG's team present at ESMO 2024

Next in the GerOnTe Project

The third periodic meeting of the GerOnTe project, focusing on the progress of the FRONE and IMPLEMENT studies, will take place in Milan in early October 2025.





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