GERONTE
TRANSFORMING PATIENT CARE

NEWSLETTER

A STAKEHOLDER COMMUNICATION
FROM THE GERONTE CONSORTIUM
DECEMBER 2025

Streamlined **Ge**riatric and **On**cological evaluation based on IC **Te**chnology for holistic patient-oriented healthcare management for older multimorbid patients.
European Union's Horizon 2020
research and innovation program.

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INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY OF GERIATRIC ONCOLOGY

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DCU

myPatientSpace

Message from the Scientific Coordinator

The GERONTE programme is now entering its final phase. FRONE is fully launched, with many patients already included and six centres currently using the MyPatientSpace applications for both health professionals and patients. We are gathering valuable experience on the use of this new pathway, building on a new organisation centred on patients and nurses, and supported by digital tools that facilitate and secure patient management.

The IMPLEMENT study has also been launched, and the Bocconi team is doing an excellent job collecting information on the current management of multimorbid patients. This work will allow us to better prepare the implementation of the GERONTE pathway. These results will be usefully complemented by observations from the WP5 team during the FRONE study, as well as by the experience of the WP6 team focused on patient experience, helping to facilitate further implementation.

While our work is supported by digital technologies and virtual meetings, the opportunity to meet in person, this time in Milan, remains crucial to making our collaboration concrete and effective. These moments are essential for us, as a group, to shape the future of multimorbid patient management together.

Prof. Pierre Soubeyran, MD, PhD
Professor of Medical Oncology
University of Bordeaux, France

GerOnTe partners meet in Milan to review progress and prepare upcoming milestones

The GerOnTe project continues to make significant progress as it prepares for its final phase. In this context, the consortium gathered at SDA Bocconi in Milan, hosted by Lucia Ferrara, leader of Work Package 3, which is in charge of the IMPLEMENT Study, and her team.

Over two days, the partners reviewed recent progress across the different Work Packages and prepared for the upcoming milestones and challenges in the months ahead. These discussions were essential to ensure alignment in the management of the various components of GerOnTe, particularly regarding the progress of the FRONE and IMPLEMENT studies. Meeting in person also provided an excellent opportunity to take collective decisions to guide the project towards its successful completion and the achievement of its objectives.

The consortium had the honour of being joined by four members of the External Scientific Advisory Board (ESAB), who shared their expertise and provided valuable perspectives on key aspects of the project. Two presentations were delivered remotely by Mieke Rijken and Andreas Charalambous, focusing respectively on "Feasibility to implement the GERONTE clinical pathway in health organisation systems in Europe" and "How the GERONTE clinical pathway can be implemented for nurses in Europe."

The discussions that followed the ESAB's questions proved highly insightful and helped identify several opportunities to further strengthen the project's quality and impact.

In addition, the consortium had the pleasure of attending presentations from two other European projects coordinated by Bocconi:

- **Cinderella**, a project promoting shared decision-making in locoregional breast cancer treatment
- **APOLLO 2028**, which aims to improve mental health, wellbeing, and resilience among the healthcare workforce

The latest developments of GerOnTe are very promising and remain on track to meet the project's initial objectives, despite delays caused by the liquidation of the former partner MyPL, which affected the launch of FRONE. All teams remain fully committed and continue to collaborate closely to advance the project's studies while meeting the regulatory framework and expectations of the European Commission.

The following section provides updates and an overview of each Work Package, offering a closer look at the most recent progress within GerOnTe.

Work Package 2
Developing the tools for GerOnTe

myPatientSpace

Over the last few months, the MyPatientSpace team has been busy training new sites and onboarding clinicians in the FRONE trial to GERONTE via the MyPatientSpace digital platform. We have now supported teams at Tenon in Paris, Institut Bergonié in Bordeaux, Nice, Mougins, Saint-Malo, and most recently La Roche-sur-Yon. It has been a pleasure to meet so many teams across France, and early clinical feedback is already feeding into iterative enhancements.

As part of the periodic review with the European Union and its external reviewers, we were delighted to present and provide access to a detailed demonstration of the digital intervention and to receive very positive feedback.

At the GERONTE annual meeting at Bocconi in Milan, we showcased the platform to project partners and the consortium's external advisors, who actively downloaded and tested the app during the session and shared encouraging comments on the progress to date.

Work Package 2
Developing the tools for GerOnTe

myPatientSpace

MyPatientSpace was also featured at HLTH Europe, a major European digital health conference in June, where GERONTE was showcased during a speaking session.

The MyPatientSpace team also exhibited at the recent SIOG Annual Conference in Ghent, showcasing the GERONTE digital tools developed within Work Package 2. It was encouraging to see how geriatric oncology is moving from research into routine clinical practice worldwide.

Work Package 2
Developing the tools for GerOnTe

myPatientSpace

During the conference, our CEO, Una Kearns, recorded an interview with OncoDaily highlighting GERONTE's aims and how the MyPatientSpace platform can support teams in implementing best practices in geriatric oncology.

Watch it here

Pierre Soubeyran also gave an interview providing an overview of the GERONTE project and clinical pathway.

Watch it here

Work Package 2
Developing the tools for GerOnTe

myPatientSpace

Looking ahead, the main areas of focus for Work Package 2 are:

Exploitation

Exploring how GERONTE and the digital intervention can be scaled, expanded, and commercialised in Europe and beyond. Teams interested in using or adapting GERONTE on MyPatientSpace for geriatric oncology practice, or in contributing to exploitation planning, are invited to contact **una@mypatientspace.com**. Supporting exploitation and SME growth is a core aim of H2020 programmes.

Interoperability

Ensuring that GERONTE can integrate seamlessly into existing digital ecosystems is critical for wider adoption. Work is ongoing on standards-based and EHR interoperability across Europe, with close attention to developments related to the European Health Data Space (EHDS), enabling GERONTE to both support and benefit from next-generation research.

AI, large language models, and machine learning

The team is exploring how advances in AI and large language models can make GERONTE tools more accessible for both older adults and busy clinical teams. For patients, age-friendly conversational interfaces, voice input, and personalised explanations may help navigate complex information, report symptoms, and understand care plans. For clinicians, machine-learning models are being investigated to support decision-making by identifying patterns in symptoms and outcomes, highlighting higher-risk patients, and generating smart alerts to prioritise care.

A key focus at this stage is **laying strong foundations**, including high-quality and well-labelled data, clear consent and governance frameworks, interoperability with existing systems, and robust clinical and ethical oversight. Any AI-driven triage, risk stratification, or decision-support tools will be designed to augment, not replace, clinical judgement and will be developed to be clinically safe, transparent, and explainable.

Work Package 3
Developing the methods for GerOnTe

Bocconi University

Within Work Package 3, Bocconi has developed the IMPLEMENT study, a complementary initiative within the GERONTE project aimed at exploring the organisational and clinical processes that support integrated care for older multimorbid oncology patients. The study has received ethical approval from the Bocconi Ethics Committee and has initiated collaboration with participating centres in the Netherlands, Belgium, France, Italy, and Ireland.

Data collection is now underway, with interviews being conducted with clinical leads and key hospital stakeholders to map patient care pathways and identify facilitators and barriers to implementation.

As part of dissemination activities, the Bocconi team has presented preliminary findings and methodological approaches at major international conferences. At the IFIC Conference in Lisbon, held from 14–16 May 2025, the team presented **"IMPLEMENT Study: A comparative analysis of oncology care pathways for older multimorbid patients across five European countries."** Subsequently, at the EHMA Conference in Rennes, held from 4–6 June 2025, Bocconi presented **"Exploring Oncology Care Pathways for Multimorbid Older Adults: Insights from the IMPLEMENT Study Across Five European Countries."**

Next steps include finalising the involvement of clinical sites in each participating country and continuing the data collection phase to deepen understanding of care coordination and patient experiences across diverse healthcare contexts.

Work Package 4
Demonstration and validation

University Hospital Leuven

Work Package 4 is responsible for conducting the FRONE clinical trial to evaluate the feasibility and effectiveness of the GERONTE intervention.

Since the last update in March 2025, recruitment for the FRONE trial has continued to progress, with over 300 participants enrolled across all eight French investigating sites. Recruitment will continue until 14 April 2026.

To date, six of the eight FRONE investigating sites have transitioned to the GERONTE intervention:

- Institut Bergonié (Bordeaux)
- Nice University Hospital
- Centre Antoine Lacassagne (Nice)
- Centre Azuréen de Cancérologie (Mougins)
- AP-HP Tenon (Paris)
- Groupe Hospitalier Rance Emeraude (Saint-Malo)

The remaining two centres, Centre Hospitalier Départemental Vendée and Centre Hospitalier de la Côte Basque, are scheduled to implement the GERONTE intervention in December 2025 and February 2026, respectively.

The first participants reached the end of their 12-month follow-up at the end of October 2025, marking a significant milestone in the study timeline.

Ongoing collaboration between WP4 and MyPatientSpace has supported smooth site transitions and rapid resolution of any technical issues related to the MyPatientSpace Dashboard and Patient App. In addition, DCU continues to participate in training sessions, monthly site meetings, and dedicated discussions with advanced practice nurses to support WP4 in optimising implementation across sites.

To further support successful implementation, monthly meetings have been established with nurses from centres already in the intervention phase, providing a dedicated space to share experiences, best practices, and strengthen inter-site collaboration.

Work Package 5
EU-wide implementation roadmap

Dublin City University

Work Package 5 continues data collection to document and analyse the implementation of GERONTE at clinical trial sites. Implementing GERONTE as an integrated care pathway across diverse healthcare settings is generating detailed insights into the steps, challenges, and facilitators associated with deploying complex interventions and digital technologies. Findings will be reported at the end of the study.

Given the increasing use of complex interventions and the need for reproducible, robust, and practical implementation methods, GERONTE's implementation and business model evaluation approaches are being developed and reported throughout the project.

GERONTE's **F**ramework to **I**mplement **T**echnology-supported Integrated Care (FIT in Integrated Care) was presented at the SIOG Annual Conference in Ghent from 20 to 22 November. The framework combines Realist research principles, the Consolidated Framework for Implementation Research (CFIR), and the NASSS framework as a comprehensive and practical approach to implementing technology-supported integrated care.

Work Package 5 has also begun identifying challenges and facilitators for wider adoption and adaptation of the GERONTE intervention in non-trial sites. In the context of rapidly evolving regulatory and financial environments, GERONTE is generating valuable insights into implementing integrated, technology-supported care across diverse clinical settings.

Next steps

DCU will continue data collection and analysis as the intervention is implemented across trial sites, informing the business, implementation, and economic evaluations.

Work Package 6
Stakeholders'engagement and ethical issues

E-seniors

Work Package 6 is responsible for ensuring stakeholder engagement throughout the GERONTE project.

Following the implementation of the new MyPatientSpace tools, including a Dashboard for healthcare professionals and a Patient App, MPS conducted several co-creation pilot sessions between September and November 2024 with professionals and healthy seniors, in collaboration with UBx, Institut Bergonié, and E-Seniors.

These sessions validated the tools, training resources, and materials developed to support clinicians and ensured that all target groups, particularly patients, could use the tools effectively. Materials included tailored training manuals, audio and video resources to support patient understanding of health recommendations, and concise guidance for integrating new patients into the Dashboard.

The pilots confirmed the usability, navigation, and overall functionality of the MyPatientSpace tools and identified areas for improvement prior to the launch of the clinical trial phase. All tools and resources were subsequently reviewed and refined to support engagement across the GERONTE pathway.

Work Package 7
Communication, dissemination, exploitation

International Society of Geriatric Oncology (SIOG)

The SIOG Annual Conference took place in Ghent from 20 to 22 November and featured several presentations related to the GERONTE project. During the conference, Nelleke Seghers, a member of Work Package 1, presented lessons learned from the GERONTE project as part of her thesis work. She introduced the project, outlined key challenges, and explained how GERONTE addresses them through its core components.

In addition, a stand showcasing the MyPatientSpace app was featured during the conference.

Work Package 8
Coordination

Extending the GerOnTe project timeline

To address delays caused by the departure of MyPL and its impact on the launch of the FRONE study, it became necessary to extend the project beyond its initial end date of 31 March 2026. Under the Commission's guidance, the consortium is preparing an amendment to the Grant Agreement to request a 12-month no-cost extension, extending the project to 31 March 2027.

The Commission has already provided informal approval, with official signature expected in the coming weeks. Preparing this amendment required a thorough review of all remaining deliverables and milestones to ensure alignment with the revised timeline.

During the two-day meeting in Milan, the consortium assessed the feasibility of completing all deliverables by March 2027 and implemented the necessary adjustments to support effective management of the remaining Work Packages during the final phase.

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