Why we feel STEPS is an important progression: A statement from ESOU

The EAU Section of Oncological Urology (ESOU) held its first annual meeting in January 2004 with the intention of broadening the debate in urological cancers and stimulating high-level scientific teachings and exchange.

With this objective in mind, and in recognising the need to encourage wider debate involving younger clinicians, ESOU has developed the STEPS programme.

Consisting of scientific sessions on prostate, bladder, renal, testis and other rare urological malignancies, ESOU 2020 will discuss optimal diagnosis, treatment guidelines, latest controversies, and the newest technologies available. Sessions will be delivered by leading experts who will take part in state-of-the-art lectures, panel discussions, head-to-head debates, and, demonstrations of surgical techniques.

ESOU has become the showcase for the role of European Urologists as the principal caregivers in the field of genitourinary cancers. The next challenge is to promote this role. With the help of the STEPS programme, ESOU can provide a strong network for the next generation of young urologists who are involved in oncology research, clinics, and education.

This is a particularly special time for STEPS; in January 2020 we are celebrating the 10th anniversary of the programme!

By complementing the overall ESOU programme, STEPS will give promising young clinicians and researchers a direct opportunity to maximise their involvement in ESOU, access established thought leaders to discuss relevant case study and research questions, and create a network of colleagues to run future research across Europe in the years to come.

The STEPS programme is supported by Ipsen.
What is STEPS?

A programme to:

- Maximise the opportunities open to younger clinicians through direct interaction with the ESOU Board and high level experts
- Strengthen existing ties and encourage projects that will offer scientific authenticity and integrity
- Support ESOU in its continued scientific ambitions and research focused projects

The programme has three key objectives:

- To offer an innovative educational opportunity to selected young clinicians
- To introduce young clinicians to ESOU
- To build, over time, a network of specialists with complementary interests and expertise

Which experts will be involved?

- The experts who will lead discussions are currently being confirmed – in 2019 these sessions were led by Seth Lerner (bladder), Judd Moul (prostate), Peter Mulders (renal) and David Pfister (testis).

How will STEPS be run?

Roundtable discussions, each focusing on a different topic (prostate cancer, bladder cancer, renal cancer, and testicular cancer) with up to 20 clinicians, four expert mentors and four ESOU Board members split between the tables. Specific clinician interests will be matched to the relevant roundtable.

After a short introduction by the designated ESOU board member, attending clinicians will discuss a specific case with the expert mentor and other participants in their group.

The experts will moderate, pose questions, open discussions and propose alternative therapies and outcome options to stimulate discussion; they will also ask open questions and offer guidance on what alternative options could have been considered in dealing with the case.

To take part in STEPS you will need to complete an application form and return it to: matthew.hebdon@atriumhealth.co.uk or fax to +44 (0)1245 808 267

Your application must be accompanied by a current CV, an up to date publication list and a letter from your Head of Department endorsing your application.

What is expected from STEPS participants?

The overall expectation is for you to demonstrate your keen interest in the field, and learn from discussing cases with high-level experts. In addition to this, it is hoped that these interactions help foster links between countries and centres to facilitate research opportunities around Europe.

It is also hoped that STEPS will help to energise the annual ESOU meeting by bringing in young motivated clinicians who will endeavour to meet and advance the high scientific standards already established by ESOU.

For promising young clinicians, STEPS offers a privileged opportunity to interact with, and receive high-level guidance from, experts in the field.

Timeline

March - September 2019: Application process through European Academic Centres

4th October 2019: Application deadline

25th October 2019: Announcement of successful applicants and circulation of patient cases for review