



## **Women Against Cervical Cancer (WACC) Network Media Backgrounder**

The Women Against Cervical Cancer (WACC) Network is a new international network of voluntary organisations, institutions, NGOs and individuals committed to the fight against cervical cancer.

The WACC Network is launched under the auspices of EUROGIN (EUropean Research Organization on Genital Infection and Neoplasia), the leading international multidisciplinary organisation involved in research, training, screening, prevention and information concerning genital infections, pre-cancers and cancers in women.

### **Vision**

The WACC Network's vision is a world where all women are informed about human papillomavirus (HPV), its associated diseases, and how to prevent and control cervical cancer, so they can make informed choices and take action to eliminate the diseases.

### **Goals**

To decrease the incident rates of cervical diseases and cervical cancer by:

- Educating healthcare professionals to further disseminate accurate information about cervical cancer
- Promoting public awareness and knowledge of HPV infections associated diseases, and cervical cancer
- Providing high quality, comprehensive and most accurate information about strategies and novel tools to eliminate cervical cancer, ensuring all women are aware of, and have access to these tools
- Empowering women to take action on their own health and the health of their families and communities, by seeking prevention through vaccination and regular cervical screening
- Educating, and engaging social responsibility of public leaders and decision makers, and all stakeholders on actions undertaken all around the world that may drive implementation in their own regions
- Promoting equitable access to prevention tools and screening for all women.

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The WACC Network is committed to accompany women before, during and after their medical care in providing:

- A Forum to exchange experiences, for mutual help and support among women affected by the diseases
- Educational materials to provide answers to all questions asked, to facilitate that women after treatment can re-establish their affective, sexual, social and professional lives
- Psychological support for those who desire it, through personal meetings, confidential counseling and professional orientation.

### Activities

Under the umbrella of the WACC Foundation a number of activities will be undertaken:

- **WACC Forum** – an annual meeting enabling healthcare professionals, patient organisations, public leaders and the general public to exchange high quality and comprehensive information about ongoing and successful projects in European countries. The first WACC Forum is being held on Wednesday, 12 November 2008: <http://www.eurogin.com/2008/wacc/program.html>.
- **WACC Network** – an online platform through the WACC website which actively promotes information gathering, distribution and education about the major causes of cervical cancer and prevention.
- **WACC Education** – the creation of educational kits and targeted educational campaigns aimed at women, educators and the general public which inform about the risks of HPV infections and encourage preventative care for genital infections and neoplasias.
- **WACC Surveys** – questionnaires which seek to ascertain the level of knowledge of HPV among women and the general public, the results of which will be widely publicised through reports and publications.
- **WACC Award** – a European Women's Health Award which will be given to the advocacy action or campaign, initiated by an individual or organisation that shows a significant impact on public awareness of HPV diseases and prevention behaviours.

### Further information

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For further information, please visit [www.eurogin.com/2008/wacc](http://www.eurogin.com/2008/wacc).