

## **About MACC**

The **Malta Association of Crohn's and Colitis (MACC)** is a registered non-profit-making organisation which supports the needs of patients suffering from Crohn's disease and Ulcerative Colitis.

MACC aims to offer support and information to persons and relatives of persons suffering from Crohn's Disease and Ulcerative Colitis, and to promote public awareness about these two chronic conditions. MACC strives to help patients suffering from these conditions to enhance their self-confidence, improve their quality of life and improve their overall wellbeing. MACC also intends to promote patients' needs and rights and to encourage and promote research on these conditions.

MACC became affiliated with the *European Federation of Crohn's and Ulcerative Colitis Associations* (EFCCA) during the annual general conference of EFCCA held in Helsinki, Finland in April, 2010.

If you would like more information one can either write to:

**Malta Association of Crohn's and Colitis,  
c/o Kisba, 28, Triq il-Karwija,  
Kirkop Malta KKP 1231**

Or use email: [info@macc.org.mt](mailto:info@macc.org.mt)

Website: [www.macc.org.mt](http://www.macc.org.mt)

## **Origin**

MACC was officially launched on Friday, 29<sup>th</sup> January, 2010 by the Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Health Dr Kenneth Grech, at the Medical School Auditorium, Mater Dei Hospital, Msida. The Chairperson of MACC, Notary Dr Mary Grech Pace introduced the meeting with a background on what led to the formation of the Association. She also spoke on the aims and future plans of the MACC.

Dr Grech said that the government supports and looks forward to work together with the Association for the benefit of patients. He said that the contribution of Associations like MACC was very important in policy making and reforms plans. He also mentioned that improved treatment of sufferers of these conditions, collectively known as Inflammatory Bowel Disease (IBD), also has economic implications.

Other speakers in the launch were Dr Mario J Vassallo, Chairman of the Department of Medicine (MDH), Dr. Thomas Attard, Consultant Paediatrician (MDH) and Valerie Vella, Senior Clinical Pharmacist, also from Mater Dei Hospital.

Dr Vassallo spoke amongst others on the importance of IBD in the light of increasing incidence of IBD especially in Southern Europe. Dr Vassallo said that through MACC, patients could share common concerns and empower them to improve relations with doctors. Apart from raising awareness on IBD, the association will represent patients in dealing with government, health professions and the public.

Dr Attard spoke on future trends in diagnosis and treatment of IBD. With the goals of treatment being the remission and maintenance of the disease, the diagnosis requires a multidisciplinary approach. Therefore doctors, psychologists, pharmacists, the family and work/ school environment are all involved.

Ms Valerie Vella said that in Malta there were currently 1600 patients getting treatment for IBD. However the number of patients is on increase. The prevalence of the disease is 400/ 100,000 which is similar to that in the UK.

### **Activities**

Since its launch, MACC has organised seminars where experts in the field of IBD gave a presentation on a particular topic of particular interest to persons who suffer from Crohn's disease or ulcerative colitis. Among the topics treated in these seminars were:

- **Nutrition and IBD – Adult and Paediatric Perspectives** (held on 23<sup>rd</sup> April, 2010)
- **Reproductive Issues and Medicine in IBD** (held on 5<sup>th</sup> November, 2010)

All seminars to date were held at the Medical School Auditorium in Mater Dei Hospital, Msida. More seminars with varied themes are being planned for the future.

On Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> May, 2010, MACC celebrated **World IBD Day** which is celebrated on 19<sup>th</sup> May, with an IBD awareness activity and a poster exhibition in the foyer of Mater Dei Hospital, Msida. During the activity, the Hon. Minister for Health, Elderly and Community Care, Dr Joe Cassar addressed the activity and spoke at length on the need to create more awareness on these conditions. The exhibition was open from the 15<sup>th</sup> till the 19<sup>th</sup> May 2010.

### **Membership**

All persons suffering from Crohn's or ulcerative colitis over the age of eighteen (18) are eligible to become **members** of the Association with full voting rights.

As per Article 6.1 of the Statute of MACC, minors under the age of 18 years suffering from Crohn's or ulcerative colitis are eligible to become **provisional members** of the Association with their voting rights delegated to one parent or legal guardian.

Also as per Article 6.2 of MACC Statute, physicians, health care professionals and entities with an interest in the Association are eligible to become **associate members** without voting rights.

Special application forms can be downloaded from the **Downloads** section of this site. It is to be noted that all details provided will be entered in our database and any information given to MACC will be treated as highly confidential. The completed form/s together with the annual subscription fee of €12 and certification that applicant suffers from Crohn's or ulcerative colitis, are to be handed either a member of the Executive Committee of MACC, or else returned by post to: The Treasurer, c/o JimGrace, 52, Triq San Gwann, Siggiewi SGW 1450. In a short time, the applicant will receive a payment receipt by post.

Note: The personal data of members or members' representatives (including name, telephone number, e-mail address and other membership details) are held by the officials of the Association for account and order administration, internal marketing, to facilitate better communication and subject to the provisions of the Data Protection Act (2001) and any other applicable law.