Building research competency across low and middle resource settings: an ENGOT initiative and NOGGO mentorship program at the ESGO 2022 in Berlin

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The North Eastern Society of Gynecological Oncology (NOGGO) hosted a meeting to further increase the European Network for Gynecological Oncological Trial groups (ENGOT) collaboration in low and middle resource regions. The research groups attending were the Mediterranean and Middle Asian Associations of Gynecological Oncologist Research Group (MEMAGORG), the Middle East and Mediterranean Association of Gynecologic Oncologists (MEMAGO), the Central Asia and East Europe Trial Group (CentEast), the National Society of Medical Oncology in Romania (SNOMR), and the Pan-Arabian Research Society for Gynecologic Oncology (PARSGO) (Figure 1). These groups joined the meeting to present their activities, their potential contributions, and to express their willingness to collaborate.

MEMAGORG is a French non-profit organization. As an international group, MEMAGORG covers a population of over 655 million. Their major challenges include the availability of medical records, low health expenditure, political instability, tribes with very different dialects and practices, and low public awareness.

CentEast, covering over 400 million people, brings young and senior researchers together to increase scientific output of the region. CentEast covers the regions with a high annual incidence and mortality due to cervical cancer of approximately 40,000 and 20,000, respectively. CentEast includes more than seven countries including Turkey, Iran, Kazakhstan, Armenia, Georgia, and

Figure 1 Logos of the participating societies and research groups.
Azerbaijan. It holds webinars with world-known experts as well as regional experts.

SNOMR has over 600 members from different fields in healthcare and covers four areas: networking between oncological centers, cancer treatment, research, and education. They have annual, multidisciplinary, and national congresses where they host over 500 participants. Furthermore, they initiated the Young Oncologists’ Annual National Meeting to encourage them to participate more in academia.

PARSGO is a German non-profit organization covering North Africa, Middle East and sub-Saharan Africa regions. Its main mission is to promote the health and well-being of women with gynecological cancers in the Arab world. The ongoing projects include online multidisciplinary tumor boards and building collaborative research competency across the pan-Arabian region. With over 400 members from 22 Arabic countries, PARSGO is currently collaborating with NOGGO on patient surveys, BRCA screening projects, and involving patient advocates in clinical trial design.

NOGGO is a German research association for gynecological cancers and conducts clinical trials and patient surveys at national and international levels. It is one of the ENGOT research groups. NOGGO provides mentorship and guidance to the above societies in order to attain ENGOT membership and build a solid research infrastructure.

Overall, all the presented groups have two common goals: (1) to develop a scientific network of gynecologic oncologists; and (2) to be part of or lead high-quality research. Several of the groups have already published their collaborative work. All of the groups stressed their willingness to cooperate with each other for research and educational activities. We strongly support the implementation research to decrease the discrepancies among women with gynecologic cancers at a global level.

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