

## **Pharmacological specificities of anticancer drugs in older patients**

**Hans Wildiers, medical oncologist, chair of the Leuven Multidisciplinary Breast Center, Leuven, Belgium**

The elderly comprise the majority of patients with cancer and are the recipients of the greatest amount of systemic anticancer therapies. Unfortunately, there is a lack of solid data to make evidence-based decisions with regard to systemic therapy dosing and usage. This is due to the minimal participation of older patients in clinical trials. I will review the available information with regard to systemic therapy use and pharmacology in older persons with cancer. Studies on new anticancer drugs often inappropriately conclude that these treatments are well tolerated and feasible in the older population with cancer, despite the drug being investigated in only a selection of healthy older patients who are not representative of the true older population. I will provide solutions on how to inform clinicians, patients, and health authorities more clearly about the benefits and disadvantages of new and upcoming anticancer drugs for older people with cancer.