

Jan Geißler

**Director, European Cancer Patient Coalition (ECPC)
Chair, Leukämie-Online, Germany
Co-Founder, CML Advocates Network**



The **European Cancer Patient Coalition** (ECPC, <http://www.ecpc-online.org>) was established in 2003 to represent the views of cancer patient organisations in the European healthcare debate, as well as to provide a forum for European patients to share best practice on patient advocacy. In the first years, Jan has been a founding member and vice president of ECPC. At that time, his activities included getting more than 300 ECPC member organisations in 41 countries connected, to speak on behalf of cancer patients at conferences, as well as working with various stakeholders to make information about clinical trials more available to patients. In 2008, he has quit his managerial career in telecommunications and media to become the full time **Director of the European Cancer Patient Coalition**. His job there is to run and further build and grow the organisation, to guide the staff, and to run various projects of the Coalition. He represents the organisation in various steering committees and advisory boards.

In July 2001, Jan received his diagnosis of a rare cancer, Chronic Myeloid Leukemia (CML), at a routine check-up. He then joined a phase I/II clinical trial. As hardly any information on upcoming treatments was available in the German language, he started to simplify and translate medical publications into German language. In 2002, he started to publish them by founding the online patient community **Leukämie-Online** (<http://www.leukaemie-online.de>), which is one of the most frequented patient websites on leukemia in the German speaking Internet today. Leukämie-Online became a charitable organisation in Germany in 2006, with Jan being the Chair.

In 2007, Jan has co-founded the **CML Advocates Network** (<http://www.cmladvocates.net>) together with other CML groups from Israel, the UK and Czech Republic. The goal of the web-based platform is to get organisations connected that are supporting patients with Chronic Myeloid Leukemia. Today, members include 42 CML groups from all continents, sharing best practice in cancer patient advocacy and campaigning on the CML Advocates Network.

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