



OVERCOMING CANCER WITH RESEARCH

AN EC-FUNDED PROJECT PROVIDES KNOWLEDGE

„Overcoming Cancer With Research“ is a cooperative project of the

- Children's Cancer Research Institute (project coordinator located in Vienna)
- German Childhood Cancer Foundation
- St. Anna Children's Hospital
- Otto Pammer Filmproduction

and is funded under the 7th Framework Program by the European Commission (budget 618.000 Euro) ending in March 2010.

In order to highlight the breakthroughs in the fight against childhood cancers, we wish to

- report on the improved treatment strategies and increased survival rates in pediatric oncology
- strengthen the international networking between physicians, researchers and clinicians
- provide evidence that private and public funding, i.e. the EU's Framework Programs, have significantly contributed to the current success
- emphasize that continuous funding is required to further improve the care of children with cancer

PROJECT TASKS AND OBJECTIVES

To promote the understanding of pediatric cancer research, we

- highlight discoveries and explain their impact on the society on our web site www.forschenheiltkrebs.eu
- organize symposia for researchers, physicians, clinicians, patient-organizations and events for the public
- organize, together with our German partner, the „Rainbow Tour“, a cycling event with former childhood cancer patients. During this tour, the former patients visit children and teenagers at cancer centers to inspire them, instill courage, and give them hope
- organize a mountaineering event with former patients in Austria
- produce together with the Otto Pammer Filmproduction, a TV documentary and information DVDs for journalists, stakeholders, decision-makers...

Media contact: Sandra Brezina-Krivda
Children's Cancer Research Institute
Kinderspitalgasse 6 | 1090 Vienna
Phone: +431/ 404-70-4450
Cell phone +43 / 664-156-29-14
Email: sandra.brezina@ccri.at

German Childhood Cancer Foundation:
www.kinderkrebsstiftung.de
St. Anna Children's Hospital: www.stanna.at
Otto Pammer Filmproduction: www.pammerfilm.at

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www.forschenheiltkrebs.eu



CANCER CAN AFFECT ANYONE AT ANY TIME, EVEN CHILDREN AND TEENAGERS

The diagnosis of cancer abruptly changes the lives of those affected. Children and teenagers experience disruptions of their daily lives. Going on with everyday's life becomes a challenge for the whole family.



In Austria and Germany, the annual rate of cancer in children aged 0-14 years is about 2000 new cases. Each year, 250,000 new cases of childhood cancers are diagnosed worldwide.

The three most common types of childhood cancers are leukemias, brain cancers and lymphomas.

The public must be informed that nowadays, 3 out of every 4 children are cured. This has been one of the biggest success stories of medical research. Yet, cancer is a life-threatening disease which is fought against with therapies which may be very burdening for the young patients.

It is our clear goal to find a cure for all children with cancer and further improve therapeutic options.



REMARKABLE STEPS FORWARD

In industrialized nations, the overall cure rates of childhood cancer could have been raised to above 75 % thanks to

- advances in chemotherapy, radiation therapy and surgery
- introduction of modern methods of diagnosis
- individualized therapies to reduce side-effects
- standardized protocols for examination and treatment

INTENSIVE RESEARCH – THE KEY TO SUCCESS

Physicians, researchers and clinicians in pediatric oncology have focused on international collaboration during the last 20 years, leading to enhanced understanding of childhood cancers and treatments.



The best possible care is provided by

- international networking among experts
- intensive biomedical and clinical research
- further development of treatment protocols based on therapy optimization studies (TOS)

QUALITY OF LIFE AFTER CANCER

More children survive cancer than ever before owing to intensive research and new therapeutical approaches. Many survivors, however, suffer from serious health problems and are challenged in their learning abilities and social adjustment; these may linger long after the end of the treatment.



They often experience social discrimination when they return to school, apply for a job or want to contract a life insurance. This stems mostly from the fact that the general public is unaware that, once treated and cured, former cancer patients are in good physical and mental standing, and given the opportunity, will serve as active members of society.

Adequate after-care for pediatric cancer survivors is urgently required.

Medical, educational and social care are therefore important aspects of research.

It is the agreed aim of „Overcoming Cancer With Research“ to disseminate knowledge about effective approaches of how society may help children and young adult cancer survivors re-engage into active life. With your help, we know we can achieve this goal.

Yours sincerely Helmut Gadner
Professor of Paediatrics
Medical Director

St. Anna Children's Hospital & Children's Cancer
Research Institute, Vienna, Austria
Project-coordinator