



OVERCOMING CANCER WITH RESEARCH

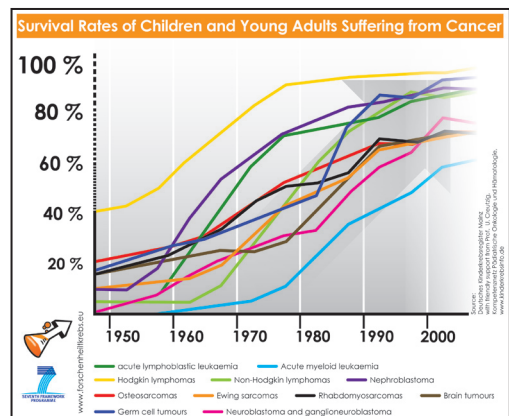
EC-funded project to promote improved cure rates after childhood cancer to the general public

“Today we can provide a cure for three out of four children”, states Prof. Helmut Gadner, head of the Children’s Cancer Research Institute and coordinator of the two-year project “Overcoming Cancer with Research”. Funded by the EU’s Seventh Framework Programme and launched in 2008, the Austrian-German initiative aims to communicate breakthroughs of child-cancer research, associated successful therapies and the need of continuous funding.

Improved long-term survival from 20% in the 1960s up to 75% of cancer-stricken children and youths represent one of the major biomedical advances of the past four decades. This success is attributed to systematic biomedical and clinical research, international networks of pediatric cancer units and standardised treatments.

However, childhood cancer is still a life-threatening disease, treated with toxic therapies. Survivors may suffer from long-term sequelae and psychosocial strains. “Today we increasingly focus on limiting side-effects and raising quality of life”, states pediatric oncologist Michael Dworzak. Since cancers in children are rare, research is not financially attractive to the pharmaceutical industry, explaining its dependency on private and public funds for optimising qualitative and quantitative outcomes.

The tools to raise public awareness of these key messages include a multi-lingual website www.overcomingcancerwithresearch.eu, public events, expert meetings and a tv documentary.



5-year survival rates of children and youths with cancer



Mountaineering event with survivors, planned for 2009
“We want to be treated the same as our healthy peers in education, jobs and insurance.”

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