Societies' profiles

The European Organisation for Research and Treatment of Cancer (EORTC)

The European Organisation for Research and Treatment of Cancer (EORTC) is an international association under Belgian law, created in 1962 by prominent European cancer specialists.
The aims of the EORTC are to promote, coordinate, analyze and publish translational and clinical cancer research performed by multi-disciplinary groups of clinicians and scientists in Europe. The ultimate goal of the EORTC is to establish state-of-the-art cancer treatment to improve survival rate, quality of life and quality of care for all patients with cancer.

The EORTC is primarily devoted to:

- Translational research and clinical studies, to evaluate new anti-cancer agents including cytotoxic drugs but also innovative agents/modalities such as vaccines, biological response modifiers and other novel treatments resulting from breakthrough laboratory discoveries.
- High-quality clinical research, to establish optimal therapeutic strategies via large multi-center clinical studies in a multidisciplinary approach leading to state-of-the-art treatment.
- Dissemination of knowledge on the methodology of translational/clinical research.

All EORTC research projects and clinical studies are peer reviewed and have to be approved by the relevant EORTC Committees.

The EORTC is collaborating with the pharmaceutical industry to decrease the time needed to develop new anti-cancer agents and to minimize the delay between laboratory discoveries and therapeutic benefit for patients.

The EORTC Early Project Optimisation Department (EPOD) is integrated into the Headquarters and gives support and methodological expertise to the EORTC groups running early clinical trials and pivotal large phase III trials performed in cooperation with the pharmaceutical industry and aimed at registration of new drugs.

The EORTC has initiated a European tumour bank project to improve and harmonise the histological review (including telepathology) and to promote translational research in the context of EORTC trials, by providing rapid access to tumour tissues and to clinical databases.

An Academic Research Fund has been created to allocate support for clinical trials of excellence submitted to the Board after review by the Protocol Review Committee (PRC).

As part of the overall strategy of the EORTC, a Network of Core Institutions (NOCI) has been set up. The network is based on core recruiting academic centers across Europe, specifically apt to develop projects with important translational research components.

The EORTC Headquarters comprises about 150 staff members (15 nationalities) including medical doctors, statisticians, PhD's quality of life specialists, other scientific and administrative staff, computer specialists, as well as research fellows (medical doctors or other scientists).

The Headquarters' methodology (working procedures and Standard Operating Procedures) was filed at the Food and Drug Administration (Drug Master File number 13059) in 1998. This greatly facilitates the submission of EORTC clinical data for drug registration in the USA. Overall, there are more than 6,000 new patients treated each year according to EORTC protocols.

For further information, EORTC Website : **http://www.eortc.be**

The National Cancer Institute (NCI)

The National Cancer Institute (NCI) is a component of the National Institutes of Health (NIH), one of eight agencies that compose the Public Health Service (PHS) in the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS). The NCI, established under the National Cancer Act of 1937, is the Federal Government's principal agency for cancer research and training. The National Cancer Act of 1971 broadened the scope and responsibilities of the NCI and created the National Cancer Program. Over the years, legislative amendments have maintained the NCI authorities and responsibilities and added new information dissemination mandates as well as a requirement to assess the incorporation of state-of-the-art cancer treatments into clinical practice.

The National Cancer Institute coordinates the National Cancer Program, which conducts and supports research, training, health information dissemination, and other programs with respect to the cause, diagnosis, prevention, and treatment of cancer, rehabilitation from cancer, and the continuing care of cancer patients and the families of cancer patients. Specifically, the Institute:

- Supports and coordinates research projects conducted by universities, hospitals, research foundations, and businesses throughout this country and abroad through research grants and cooperative agreements.
- Conducts research in its own laboratories and clinics.
- Supports education and training in fundamental sciences and clinical disciplines for participation in basic and clinical research programs and treatment programs relating to cancer through career awards, training grants, and fellowships.
- Supports research projects in cancer control.
- Supports a national network of cancer centers.
- Collaborates with voluntary organizations and other national and foreign institutions engaged in cancer research and training activities.

The American Association for Cancer Research (AACR)

The American Association for Cancer Research (AACR) is the oldest and largest scientific organization in the world dedicated to advancing cancer research. Established in 1907, the AACR's mission to prevent and cure cancer is served through the exchange of ideas and information among its members, the wider cancer community, and the general public. More than 24,000 scientists from 60 nations are currently members of AACR; nearly 30 percent of AACR's members live outside the U.S.

AACR marshals the full spectrum of expertise from the cancer community to accelerate progress in the prevention, diagnosis and treatment of cancer through high-quality scientific and educational programs. It funds innovative, meritorious research grants.

The AACR Annual Meeting is the largest gathering of its kind in the world, encompassing all areas of basic, clinical, and translational cancer research, attracting more than 17,000 scientists, several thousand exhibitors, and hundreds of interested lay persons each year. High school and college students attend special educational activities, scientific sessions, and exhibits. The Public Forum on Progress and New Hope in the Fight Against Cancer opens the doors of the Meeting to the general public and the cancer survivor community.

In addition to the Annual Meeting, the AACR holds international scientific meetings of special interest, such as the Frontiers in Cancer Prevention Research meeting, the international conference on Molecular Targets and Cancer Therapeutics (co-sponsored with the EORTC and NCI), and the inaugural meeting of the Molecular Diagnostics in Cancer Therapeutic Development.

The AACR Special Conferences, a series of focused scientific meetings, take place each year primarily in North America but also in Europe and Asia. These Conferences, and the Association's Summer Training Workshops, offer scientists the latest research and techniques in the field.

The Association publishes five peer-reviewed journals in print and online at www.aacrjournals.org. *Cancer Research*, a comprehensive journal covering all fields of research, is the most frequently cited cancer journal in the world. The AACR's journals targeted to specialized audiences include *Clinical Cancer Research; Cancer Epidemiology, Biomarkers, & Prevention; Molecular Cancer Research;* and *Molecular Cancer Therapeutics*.

AACR's most recent publication, *CR*, is a magazine for cancer survivors, patient advocates, their families, physicians, and scientists. It provides a forum for sharing essential, evidence-based information and perspectives on progress in cancer research, survivorship, and advocacy.

The AACR is committed to the training of young investigators and provides reduced membership fees and journal subscriptions, employment opportunities through AACR's careers Web site, www.CancerCareers.org, and special educational programs intended for researchers at the critical early stage of their careers.

Two AACR Councils, the Minorities in Cancer Research Council (MICR) and Women in Cancer Research Council (WICR), are committed to meeting the professional and career needs of minority and women scientists. The AACR's Sustaining Membership Program provides an opportunity for companies, foundations, and organizations to support the work of the Association and promotes ongoing interactions between the AACR, scientists and other professionals affiliated with Sustaining Members.

The Association funds research through the AACR Foundation for the Prevention and Cure of Cancer with the financial assistance of corporate and non-profit sponsors. Fellowships and grants are offered through the AACR Research Fellowship Program for basic, clinical, translational, and prevention research to

young investigators, junior faculty, and others. Scholar-in-Training Awards help promising young scientists participate fully in AACR programs by providing travel subsidies, housing and subsistence allowances, and other support.

To learn more about the AACR, please visit www.aacr.org.