

Societies' profiles



The EORTC is a unique organization – a vibrant example of the fact that science and research know no national boundaries. It was established in 1962 as non-profit research organization operating as an international association under Belgian law.

The EORTC was an initiative and an organization that was ahead of its time – a pioneer in promoting multi-disciplinary cancer research and international collaboration. The fundamental aim – to set up a clinical research organization in Europe that would promote and coordinate high-quality clinical trials and provide a base of scientific expertise and administrative support for a network of scientists and clinical investigators – remains the same today.

The EORTC currently links a network of more than 2,500 pre-clinical scientists and oncologists in more than 300 hospitals in over 30 countries. It encompasses all aspects of cancer research, from translational research and new drug development to large phase III clinical trials and meta-analyses. Some 30 protocols are permanently open to recruitment, and every year about 6,500 new patients are treated in EORTC trials. As an international organization, the EORTC is uniquely placed to organize multinational, multicenter studies.

The ultimate goal of the EORTC is to improve the standard of cancer treatment by developing new agents and innovative approaches and to test more effective treatment strategies using commercially available drugs, or surgery and radiotherapy. Imaging, biobanking, and translational research initiatives provide the means for new approaches to clinical trial designs aimed at discovering and validating molecular determinants predictive of activity or toxicity and make the EORTC one of Europe's leading players in transforming experimental discoveries into new treatments.

All the activities of the network are coordinated and supported by the EORTC Headquarters based in Brussels with 180 staff members.

The EORTC's independence is ensured through a number of peer-review committees that safeguard the quality of the organization's work by monitoring the relevance and scientific value of its research.

Funders include the EORTC Charitable Trust (with the support of national cancer leagues), the "Fonds Cancer", private donations and corporate sponsorship, the Belgian National Lottery, and, for specific research projects, the European Commission. EORTC headquarters has received continuous support for more than 35 years from the US National Cancer Institute (NCI).

The EORTC website is: <http://www.eortc.org/>



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.



American Society of Clinical Oncology

Founded in 1964, the American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO) is the world's leading professional organization representing physicians who care for people with cancer. With more than 30,000 members, ASCO is committed to conquering cancer through research, education, prevention and delivery of high quality patient care. ASCO's mission focuses on:

- Advancing the education of the oncology community;
- Advocating public policy to ensure patients the benefits of ongoing research and high quality care;
- Assisting oncologists globally in offering cancer patients the best possible outcomes.

Because ASCO is committed to supporting the lifelong learning of oncologists – be they fellows or established practitioners – the Society offers resources to enhance the professional development of members across the continuum of their medical education. Programs such as ASCO University, the Quality Oncology Practice Initiative, and the Global Oncology Curriculum provide oncology professionals with information and skills to improve every aspect of their practice.

The ASCO Annual Meeting provides an exemplary forum for the discussion of cutting-edge scientific and educational developments in oncology. Nearly 5,000 abstracts were accepted to the 2011 Annual Meeting, with more than 2,500 being presented at the meeting and nearly 1,800 publish/online only. The Best of ASCO® International meetings deliver highlights from the Annual Meeting in local settings around the world.

In addition to the Annual Meeting, ASCO also sponsors several disease-specific thematic meetings each year, such as the Breast Cancer Symposium, the Gastrointestinal Cancers Symposium, and the Genitourinary Cancers Symposium.

ASCO publishes two journals: the *Journal of Clinical Oncology* (JCO) and the *Journal of Oncology Practice* (JOP). First released in 1983, JCO now disseminates significant clinical oncology research in both print and electronic formats. It consists primarily of original reports, complemented by editorials, commentaries, reviews, and other works that relate to the care of patients with cancer. JOP provides oncologists and other oncology professionals with information, news, and tools to enhance practice efficiency and promote a high standard for quality of patient care.

As the philanthropic affiliate of ASCO, The Conquer Cancer Foundation (formerly known as The ASCO Cancer Foundation®) channels the expertise of ASCO's more than 30,000 oncologists and partners with leading cancer advocacy organizations to achieve its goal of creating a world that is free from the fear of cancer. CCF supports a variety of patient education services – including ASCO's patient information website, Cancer.Net. CCF is committed to conquering cancer worldwide by funding breakthrough research, sharing cutting-edge knowledge, and working to end disparities in access to care in the U.S. and around the world. CCF has provided nearly \$70 million in funding to about 800 researchers in 14 countries since 1984.

Cancer.Net (<http://www.cancer.net>) is ASCO's award-winning patient information website. Cancer.Net provides timely, oncologist-approved information about more than 120 types of cancer and cancer-related syndromes to help patients and families make informed health-care decisions. Other highlights include information about clinical trials, coping, and survivorship, as well as podcasts and Spanish-language resources.

For more information about ASCO, visit <http://www.asco.org>. To learn more about The Conquer Cancer Foundation, visit <http://www.conquercancerfoundation.org>.