



Damage limitation

"WE SAW MANY WOMEN WITH NO TEARS TO CRY "

Luisa Morgantini on the conflict in Gaza, who she's backing for parliament president and how the EU can conquer the hearts and minds of voters ahead of June's elections

World Cancer Day

Liz Lynne, the ECPC's,
Hildrun Sundseth and the
UICC's Isabel Mortara

Food Labelling

Renate Sommer, Adamos
Adamou, UEAPME, BEUC, CIAA

Pesticides Directive

Neil Parish



Sustainable Energy Week

Mechtild Rothe, Claude Turmes,
Fiona Hall, CoR president Luc
Van den Brande, ELC president
Jan Denneman

Tête à Tête

Judith Kumin and Jeanine
Hennis-Plasschaert debate
Europe's common asylum policy



7th Framework research project

MINIMIZING ACTIVITIES AND DOSES BY ENHANCING IMAGE QUALITY IN RADIOPHARMACEUTICAL ADMINISTRATION 'MADEIRA'

One of the biggest success stories in combating cancer is the earlier diagnosis for some cancers. Medical imaging has contributed largely to this success. This diagnosis can be further improved using molecular imaging methods like the emerging 3-dimensional nuclear medicine technologies SPECT and PET. The idea is to differentiate with a high sensitivity between cancerous and normal tissue. A differentiation between active and non-active cancerous tissue could also be possible allowing more efficient therapies. However, today's PET and SPECT application are not optimized in terms of time schemes, detection and reconstruction processes to gain optimal image quality with quantitative results using lowest possible exposures to ionizing radiation. Additionally, the image resolution is still limiting the information about the distribution of active and non-active cells. This could also be improved by new reconstruction techniques in combination with new detectors. The 7-partner research project MADEIRA therefore aims to improve time schemes of radiopharmaceutical application including biokinetic models, reconstruction techniques (fig.1) and to investigate a newly developed detector design (fig. 2) for better nuclear medicine diagnosis with less exposure to improve early diagnostics of cancer and thus help to combat this disease while reducing the risk of initiating new diseases.

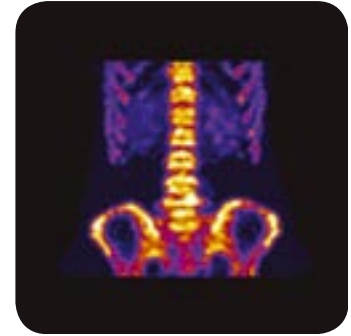
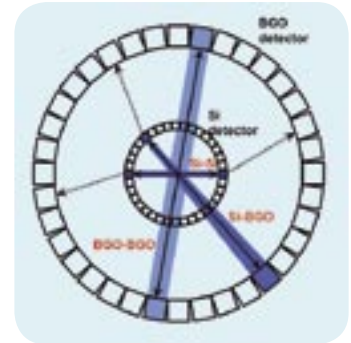


fig.1: Improved image quality by optimized reconstruction technique in 3D nuclear medical imaging

fig. 2: New concept for an improved detector design to enhance resolution in 3D nuclear imaging



Contact:

www.madeira-project.eu



OVERCOMING CANCER WITH RESEARCH

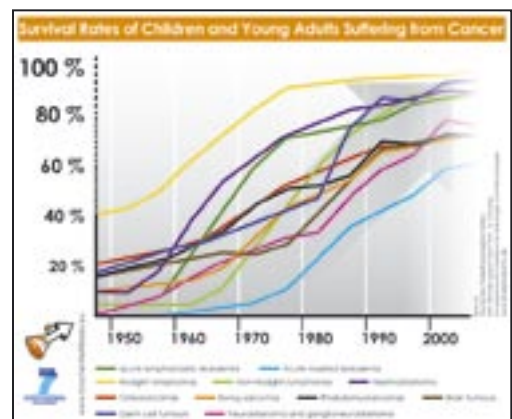
EC-funded project to promote improved cure rates after childhood cancer to the general public

"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."

Media contact

Sandra Brezina-Krivda
Communication Unit,
CHILDREN'S CANCER
RESEARCH INSTITUTE
St. Anna
Kinderkrebsforschung
E: sandra.brezina@ccri.at

www.overcomingcancerwithresearch.eu