

➤ Overcoming Cancer With Research

Presentation of a project on childhood
cancer research funded by the
European Commission



OVERCOMING CANCER
WITH RESEARCH

www.overcomingcancerwithresearch.eu

DIRECT is

- a science communication project funded under the 7th Framework Programme of the European Commission (duration: March 2008 – March 2010)
- an acronym (abbreviation), meaning:

Disseminate **R**esults from **EC** funded projects improved **T**herapy options in paediatric oncology



OVERCOMING CANCER
WITH RESEARCH

Overcoming cancer with research

- To explain the programme theme of DIRECT in an instructive way, we developed the new title „Overcoming cancer with research“.



OVERCOMING CANCER
WITH RESEARCH

Idea

The concept emerged out of an event which stands as a metaphor for the breakthroughs in the fight against childhood cancers.



OVERCOMING CANCER
WITH RESEARCH

www.overcomingcancerwithresearch.eu

Trip to the peak of the
Großglockner with
survivors in Austria 2006

Rainbow Tour
in Germany



An EC-funded project provides knowledge

The mountaineering and cycling tours planned for 2009 are to illustrate

- that former child cancer patients (survivors) have the same physical and mental abilities as their peers who are in good health.



OVERCOMING CANCER
WITH RESEARCH

An EC-funded project provides knowledge

In industrialised 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
- individualised therapies to reduce side-effects
- standardised protocols for examination and treatment according to the current status of medical knowledge



OVERCOMING CANCER
WITH RESEARCH

An EC-funded project provides knowledge

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

- international and interdisciplinary networking among experts
- intensive biomedical and clinical research

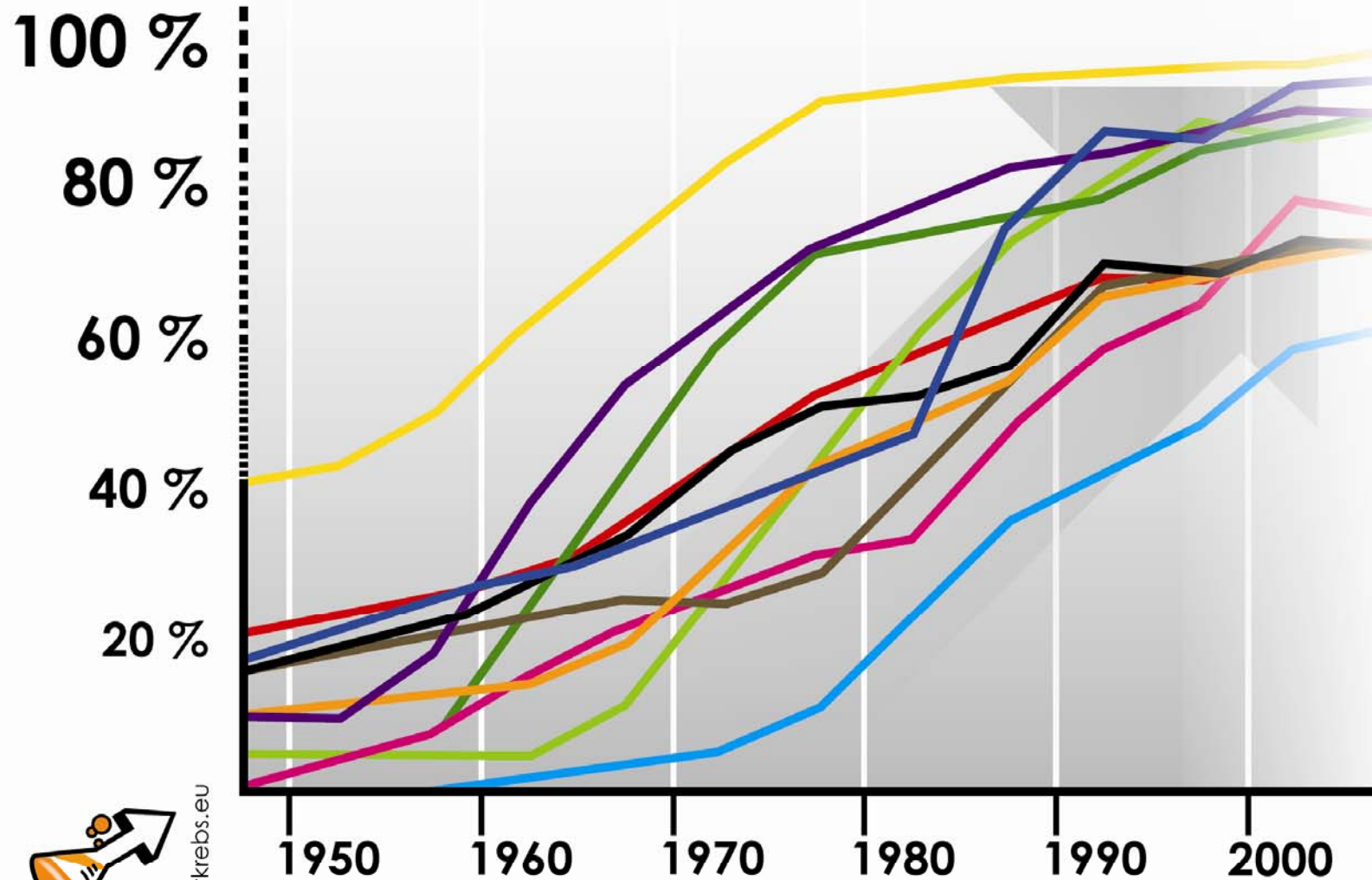


OVERCOMING CANCER
WITH RESEARCH

The importance of ongoing funding

- Cancers in children and adolescents are rare. Therefore, the major pharmaceutical companies see no economical benefits from investing into research in this field.
- Child cancer research is funded by private donations and public funds, such as the framework programmes of the European Commission.
Continuous funding is essential to enable experts in the fields of basic and clinically applied research to achieve further improvements for children and youths suffering from cancer.

Survival Rates of Children and Young Adults Suffering from Cancer



Source:
 Deutsches Kinderkrebsregister Mainz
 with friendly support from Prof. U. Creutzig,
 Kompetenznetz Pädiatrische Onkologie und Hämatologie,
 www.kinderkrebsinfo.de



www.forschenheitkrebs.eu

- acute lymphoblastic leukaemia
 Acute myeloid leukaemia
- Hodgkin lymphomas
 Non-Hodgkin lymphomas
 Nephroblastoma
- Osteosarcomas
 Ewing sarcomas
 Rhabdomyosarcomas
 Brain tumours
- Germ cell tumours
 Neuroblastoma and ganglioneuroblastoma

Project team

St. Anna Kinderkrebsforschung*, Vienna, Austria

Coordinator of the project

Prof. Helmut Gadner (*Children's Cancer Research Institute)



German Childhood Cancer Foundation,
Bonn, Germany

Partner responsible for project activities in Germany

Jens Kort



St. Anna Kinderspital, Vienna, Austria

Partner responsible for survivors' activities

Michael Dworzak, MD (*St. Anna Children's Hospital)



Otto Pammer Filmproduction, Vienna, Austria

Partner responsible for audio-visual media

Siegfried Hochgreve



OVERCOMING CANCER
WITH RESEARCH



Tools to raise public awareness

International symposium, May 2008, with international childhood cancer experts

Website

for the general public / young people / stakeholders

Sports events with former childhood patients

Production of audio-visual material (tv documentary)

Public relations (press releases, conferences, ...)

Public Events: for example

Public forum „Understanding Cancer – Saving Lives“ (Nov. 20th, 2008)



„Overcoming Cancer With Research“ aims to

- sensitise the general public to the successes and complex aspects of childhood cancer research
- explain the societal benefit of research processes and findings
- raise public interest, in particular of youngsters, in science
- highlight the importance of continual research funding (e.g. the EC's framework programmes) and private donations for ongoing improvements for childhood cancer patients



OVERCOMING CANCER
WITH RESEARCH

„Overcoming Cancer With Research“ aims to

- explain the necessary follow-up and aftercare as well as social re-integration of former childhood cancer patients.

Despite improved survival rates, a quarter of children and adolescents with cancer can still not be helped today. Childhood cancer is a life-threatening disease, treated with toxic therapies. Survivors may suffer from physical late effects and/or psychosocial strains and social barriers regarding education, jobs and insurance.

Thank you very
much for your attention.



www.overcomingcancerwithresearch.eu