NCCN Recognizes Progress on World Cancer Day While Highlighting Need for Better Global Access to High-Quality Care

February 4, 2020, marked the 20th annual World Cancer Day. On that day, NCCN commemorated its 25th anniversary year by looking back at the tremendous progress made against cancer over the past quarter-century and looking forward to further define and advance high-quality, high-value, patient-centered cancer care globally. Earlier this year, the American Cancer Society (ACS) announced that the cancer death rate has dropped 29% in the United States since 1991. However, cancer is still the second-leading cause of death worldwide, according to the Union of International Cancer Control (UICC), whose newly released report from the *International Public Opinion Survey on Cancer 2020: What People Feel, Think, and Believe About Cancer Today* indicates a clear divide between higher and lower socioeconomic groups when it comes to awareness of cancer risks and how to mitigate them.

The NCCN Clinical Practice Guidelines in Oncology (NCCN Guidelines) are free resources that help raise standards for cancer care worldwide. The evidence-based, consensus-driven recommendations are intended to ensure that all patients receive the preventive, diagnostic, treatment, and supportive services that are most likely to lead to optimal outcomes. They were downloaded >11 million times across the globe in 2019; an increase of more than a million over the previous year. NCCN Guidelines are the most thorough and frequently updated medical guidelines available, and have expanded to now cover 76 different topics, including cancer types that account for over 97% all cancer cases, plus supportive care such as distress, pain, smoking cessation, immunotherapy-related toxicity, and many others.

"Remarkable progress has been made in the fight against cancer," said Robert W. Carlson, MD, NCCN's Chief Executive Officer (who appears in the World Cancer Day "20 Leaders 1 Question" video series). "In the past year, NCCN launched 2 new pediatric cancer guidelines in response to the nearly 90% survival rates for childhood leukemias and lymphomas that seemed untreatable just a few decades ago. We also see progress reflected in the growing need for improving the survivorship experience, and in ongoing efforts to tailor cancer treatments to each specific patient. Unfortunately, there are still too many places where optimal treatment recommendations aren't being followed or can't be followed due to a lack of resources. Our goal, today and every day, is to make high-quality cancer care accessible to everybody."

One way NCCN is addressing disparities is through the publication of NCCN Guidelines for Patients, patient-friendly versions of the clinical guidelines which empower people with cancer and their caregivers with free, unbiased guidance from the world's leading cancer experts. They are supported by the NCCN Foundation. In honor of World Cancer Day, NCCN is working to publish a new book for people with cervical cancer. Cervical cancer has the 4th highest cancer incidence in women worldwide, with the highest incidence and mortality in predominantly resource-constrained regions of the world, including Sub-Saharan Africa (where NCCN recently helped launch Allied Against Cancer, with the African Cancer Coalition, ACS, the Clinton Health Access Initiative, and IBM. Ongoing work includes the creation and publication of a library of NCCN Harmonized Guidelines). Visit [NCCN.org/wcd](https://www.nccn.org/wcd) to learn more about, and share in, the ongoing efforts.

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NCCN is also addressing the treatment and prevention of HPV-related cancers (including cervical cancer) during the NCCN 2020 Annual Conference in Orlando, Florida on March 20–22. Julie Torode, PhD, Director of Special Projects for UICC, will participate in a keynote session titled “Strategies for Prevention and Control of HPV-Associated Cancers.” The panel will discuss the benefits of vaccination, and explain how to incorporate appropriate screening and treatment strategies for HPV-associated cancers. Visit [NCCN.org/conference](https://www.nccn.org/conference) for the full conference agenda, which also includes sessions on guidelines updates, biomarkers, biosimilars, hereditary cancer risks, smoking cessation, and a roundtable discussion on cancer care during an election year.

“To tackle the global cancer burden now and for the future, governments and decision-makers across the international cancer community must come together to ensure that everyone is afforded every opportunity to take control over their cancer risk—no matter their education or income level,” said UICC President HRH Princess Dina Mired of Jordan, in a statement for World Cancer Day.

NCCN Oncology Research Program to Oversee Trials of the FGFR Inhibitor Futibatinib in Tumors with Aberrant FGFR Expression, in Collaboration with Taiho Oncology

The NCCN Oncology Research Program (ORP) recently announced plans to evaluate futibatinib (TAS-120), a potent and selective inhibitor of the fibroblast growth factor receptor (FGFR). The project will include preclinical, translational, and clinical trials using futibatinib as monotherapy and in biologically relevant combination regimens for malignancies with FGFR 1–4 aberrations. This project will be the first NCCN research program to study an FGFR inhibitor. Specific research areas will be determined by a group of cancer research experts from NCCN Member Institutions who form a Request for Proposals (RFP) Development Team. The research funding is supported by a \$2 million grant from Taiho Oncology.

“We’re excited to help facilitate new research into innovative ways for managing cancer,” said Wui-Jin Koh, MD, Chief Medical Officer, NCCN. “We still have a lot to learn about FGFR signaling and how to optimally target this receptor as a component of cancer therapy. We look forward to the potential new discoveries that may come from these investigations.”

“We are proud to support NCCN ORP research to better understand the optimal role of futibatinib in treating malignancies with FGFR 1–4 aberrations,” said Martin J. Birkhofer, MD, Senior Vice President and Chief Medical Officer, Taiho Oncology, Inc. “Every day, we are learning more and more about futibatinib, and this research will expand our knowledge of how this investigational compound works, with the goal of being able to better target its use in those who may see the greatest benefit from it.”

The first phase of this project will involve the creation of an RFP, which will be distributed in the next few months. The awarded projects will be announced following review of submitted proposals.

The NCCN ORP fosters innovation and knowledge discovery that improves the lives of people with cancer and supports preclinical, translational, and clinical research and quality improvement projects in oncology at NCCN Member Institutions. In an effort to improve collaboration in cancer research, the NCCN ORP also maintains a shared resources website and an informed consent database. For more information, visit [NCCN.org/orp](https://www.nccn.org/orp).

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