

CANCER DRUGS

CREATING MORE TOMORROWS WITH BETTER TREATMENTS



CANCER
RESEARCH
UK

We have a rich history in discovering and developing cancer drugs. Thanks to your support we're turning today's science into tomorrow's medicines to help beat cancer sooner.

ABOUT CANCER DRUGS

Our scientists across the UK are searching for more effective, kinder cancer drugs. And we want to get these better treatments to patients as quickly as possible.

HOW ARE THEY DISCOVERED?

Our researchers use cutting edge technologies to find molecules involved in cancer and design new drugs that will 'home in' on them to stop cancer growing and spreading. We support more than 100 drug discovery projects across the UK.

HOW ARE THEY DEVELOPED?

Discovering a potential new drug in the lab is only the beginning. More work is needed to turn a bright idea into a new medicine. We have two research units, in Glasgow and Hertfordshire, which turn discoveries into treatments for patients.

Developing new drugs is a lengthy and costly process. Because of this, partnering with pharmaceutical companies to share the cost is essential to ensure discoveries benefit patients as quickly as possible.

HOW DO THEY GET TO PATIENTS?

Before a new drug is approved for use it must be tested thoroughly in clinical trials. This is to check the drug's safety, find the best dose to use and see whether it works better than current treatments.

We want to make sure that new treatments reach all patients who will benefit from them. To do this, we campaign for fair pricing of cancer drugs. We're also working with governments across the UK to make sure that the approval of new drugs is as quick and fair as possible.

We're
working on
more effective,
kinder
treatments

DID YOU KNOW?



Developing a new drug takes around 10 years and can cost more than £1 billion.



We're committed to developing new drugs for rare and hard-to-treat cancers.



We help our doctors and scientists access pioneering drugs by forming partnerships with pharmaceutical companies.



We own a company called Cancer Research Technology, who make sure we receive a share of any profits from our breakthroughs.



Income made through our discoveries is ploughed back into our life-saving research.

Have you got questions about cancer?

Visit cruk.org/about-cancer or call our specialist cancer nurses on 0808 800 4040



OUR SCIENCE CHANGES LIVES

In the 1980s our scientists discovered and developed carboplatin, the most widely used drug to treat ovarian cancer.

BEVERLEY FROM WORCESTER KNOWS THE IMPORTANCE OF RESEARCH

// I survived ovarian cancer after having surgery and chemotherapy, which included carboplatin. I am now fit and healthy – I've finished seven London marathons to raise money for research and climbed Scafell Pike to help light the Beacon of Hope. But I realise I would not be around today without vital research into cures for cancer. //

Cancer Research UK t: +44 (0)20 7242 0200  

Registered charity in England and Wales (1089464), Scotland (SC041666) and the Isle of Man (1103).

For information on cancer drugs, go to cruk.org



We receive no government funding for our research

MAKING A DIFFERENCE

Our research has contributed towards many of the world's top cancer drugs, used to treat millions of people worldwide.

PROFESSOR PAUL WORKMAN AT THE INSTITUTE OF CANCER RESEARCH TELLS US HIS STORY

My motivation is to transform the lives of cancer patients through cutting edge science. Over the 40 years I've been researching cancer drugs things have changed dramatically, moving from one-size-fits-all treatments to those designed for different types of disease. My Cancer Research UK Unit has discovered 16 cancer drugs, many of which are showing benefit for patients. The biggest challenge we face is drug resistance, which we are working to overcome with smart drug combinations.

IMPROVING TREATMENTS

Our scientists discovered carboplatin, which is helping people with ovarian, lung and testicular cancers to live longer.

PIONEERING SCIENCE

Our early lab work led to the development of several of today's drugs, such as Herceptin.

CREATING MORE TOMORROWS

Our scientists helped develop temozolomide, which is used worldwide to treat people with the most common type of brain tumour.

KEEPING FAMILIES TOGETHER

We helped discover and develop abiraterone, giving men with advanced prostate cancer more time with their loved ones.

OUR PROGRESS IS YOUR PROGRESS

Here's a glimpse at what our scientists across the UK are doing to discover and develop new cancer drugs.

Sussex: Professor Laurence Pearl is looking in detail at the structure of molecules in our cells that repair damage to our DNA. Understanding their precise shape and how they go wrong could lead to new cancer treatments in the future.



Glasgow: Dr Martin Drysdale leads the Drug Discovery Programme. They use state of the art technology to seek out molecules that could be made into pioneering new cancer treatments.



Edinburgh: Dr Steven Pollard is investigating a new drug to tackle glioblastoma, the most common type of brain tumour. His research could lead to urgently needed new treatments for people with brain tumours.

Manchester: Dr Donald Ogilvie heads the Drug Discovery Unit. They combine chemical, medical and computing expertise to find new molecules to target cancer cells. This work could unearth one of tomorrow's cures.

Oxford: Dr Denis Talbot is leading a clinical trial to find out whether combining a promising new drug with a current treatment is safe and effective for lung cancer patients.



Belfast: Dr Helen McCarthy is developing nanoparticle technology to treat patients with advanced prostate and breast cancer that has spread to the bone, in the hope of giving patients more treatment options and improving survival.



Find out more: download other research leaflets in this series at cruk.org/researchleaflets