Collaboration between the Wilms Cancer Foundation & Cancer Research UK

Wilms Cancer Foundation Announces Collaboration with Cancer Research UK to Advance Wilms Tumor Education and Global Knowledge Sharing

International collaboration will strengthen access to evidence-based cancer information for families, healthcare professionals, researchers and childhood cancer advocates worldwide

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

LONDON, UNITED KINGDOM & WASHINGTON, D.C., USA - July 8th, 2023 - The **Wilms Cancer Foundation (WCF)** has announced a new collaboration with **Cancer Research UK (CRUK)** to strengthen access to trusted, evidence-based information about **Wilms tumor, pediatric renal cancer and childhood kidney cancer**.

The collaboration will support the sharing and communication of reliable cancer knowledge, helping children, parents, caregivers, survivors, healthcare professionals, researchers and advocates access information relevant to the complete Wilms tumor journey.

By connecting WCF's specialist focus on Wilms tumor with Cancer Research UK's internationally recognized cancer research and information resources, the collaboration will help improve understanding of childhood kidney cancer while supporting education, research communication and international knowledge sharing.

The collaboration reflects the shared belief that scientific research achieves its greatest impact when complex evidence is translated into accessible information that can be understood and used by patients, families, healthcare professionals and the wider public.

A Collaboration Supporting Wilms Tumor Education

Wilms tumor, also known as nephroblastoma, is the most common form of kidney cancer diagnosed in children. It is considered a rare childhood cancer, and families can find it difficult to locate clear, reliable and easily understandable information specifically addressing the disease.

Although survival rates are high in many well-resourced healthcare systems, outcomes remain unequal worldwide. Differences in early diagnosis, access to pediatric oncology services, specialist surgery, pathology, chemotherapy, radiation therapy, supportive care and long-term follow-up can significantly affect children and families.

Access to trustworthy information is an important part of addressing these inequalities.

The collaboration between WCF and Cancer Research UK will contribute to greater awareness and understanding across important areas of childhood kidney cancer, including:

- Wilms tumor symptoms and early recognition
- Childhood kidney cancer diagnosis and staging
- Tumor biology, pathology and genetics
- Surgery for Wilms tumor
- Chemotherapy and radiation therapy

- Treatment side effects and supportive care
- Relapsed and refractory Wilms tumor
- Survivorship and long-term follow-up
- Late effects of childhood cancer treatment
- Fertility, quality of life and psychosocial care
- Pediatric cancer research and clinical trials
- Evidence-based information for families and professionals

The collaboration is intended to complement—not replace—the medical advice provided by qualified healthcare professionals and each child's treating medical team.

Why Cancer Research UK Matters for Wilms Tumor

Cancer Research UK is one of the world's leading independent cancer charities. Its work has contributed to advances in cancer prevention, early diagnosis, biology, treatment and survivorship, while helping patients and families access clear and dependable information about cancer.

Although Cancer Research UK's research and information activities cover many different cancer types, advances in the broader understanding of cancer can also contribute to progress in rare childhood cancers such as Wilms tumor.

Modern Wilms tumor care has been shaped by developments across numerous areas of cancer science and medicine, including:

- Molecular biology and tumor genetics
- Diagnostic imaging and pathology
- Risk classification and precision medicine
- Pediatric cancer surgery
- Chemotherapy development
- Radiation therapy
- Supportive care during treatment
- Cancer survivorship medicine
- Fertility preservation
- Long-term health monitoring
- Quality-of-life research
- International clinical collaboration

Research across these interconnected areas helps build the scientific foundations needed to improve diagnosis, refine treatment, reduce harmful side effects and strengthen long-term outcomes for children affected by pediatric renal cancer.

Cancer Research UK is also widely recognized for communicating complex scientific and medical information in an accessible way. Its patient information and healthcare professional resources help translate research evidence into practical knowledge that supports informed conversations and decision-making.

These capabilities closely align with WCF's commitment to making reliable Wilms tumor information accessible to families, survivors, healthcare professionals, researchers and communities worldwide.

Turning Cancer Research into Accessible Knowledge

Scientific research alone cannot improve outcomes unless its findings are successfully communicated and translated into clinical practice, public understanding and family support.

Knowledge translation helps bridge the gap between research and real-world care. It enables healthcare professionals to remain informed, helps families understand the treatment journey and allows advocates and policymakers to recognize emerging childhood cancer priorities.

The collaboration between WCF and Cancer Research UK will support this wider process by helping connect trusted cancer evidence with WCF's specialist Wilms tumor educational resources.

This approach can strengthen understanding across the entire patient pathway, from the first possible signs of Wilms tumor through diagnosis, treatment, recovery, surveillance and survivorship.

Effective research communication can help:

- Parents understand their child's diagnosis and treatment
- Families identify reliable sources of cancer information
- Healthcare professionals access educational resources
- Survivors understand follow-up care and possible late effects
- Researchers communicate findings to non-specialist audiences
- Advocates raise awareness of childhood kidney cancer
- Policymakers recognize gaps in care and information
- International organizations share knowledge across borders

By supporting the responsible communication of evidence, the collaboration will help ensure that complex cancer research becomes meaningful and accessible to the people who need it.

Supporting the Global Wilms Tumor Initiative™

The collaboration represents another important step in the international development of the **Global Wilms Tumor Initiative™ (GWTI)**—WCF's flagship program dedicated to improving outcomes for children diagnosed with Wilms tumor through awareness, education, advocacy, digital innovation, healthcare professional engagement and global collaboration.

The Global Wilms Tumor Initiative™ recognizes that meaningful progress in childhood kidney cancer requires the combined involvement of researchers, clinicians, families, survivors, advocates, nonprofit organizations and international health institutions.

Its principal priorities include:

- Increasing global awareness of Wilms tumor
- Supporting earlier recognition and diagnosis
- Expanding access to trusted educational information
- Strengthening international childhood kidney cancer advocacy
- Improving survivorship knowledge and long-term outcomes
- Encouraging research communication and global collaboration

Cancer Research UK's expertise in cancer research, public information and evidence communication complements these priorities and supports WCF's objective of building a more connected international Wilms tumor knowledge environment.

The collaboration will also contribute to WCF's expanding portfolio of international resources and programs, including:

- **Global Wilms Tumor Initiative™**
- **Wilms Tumor Knowledge Index™**
- **Wilms Tumor WebApp**

- **Wilms Tumor AI Support Service**
- **Global Educational Library**
- **International educational literature**
- **Multilingual patient and caregiver resources**
- **Healthcare professional learning materials**
- **International webinar programs**
- **Research translation and evidence communication**
- **Global awareness and advocacy initiatives**

Rather than representing a single educational project, the collaboration forms part of WCF's long-term strategy to connect specialist Wilms tumor knowledge with respected sources of cancer research and public information.

Supporting Children, Parents and Caregivers

A diagnosis of Wilms tumor can leave families searching for immediate answers about symptoms, staging, surgery, chemotherapy, radiation therapy, prognosis and long-term care.

Reliable information can help parents and caregivers better understand:

- What Wilms tumor is
- How childhood kidney cancer is diagnosed
- What the different Wilms tumor stages mean
- Which treatments may be used
- How treatment could affect their child
- Which questions to ask the medical team
- What happens after treatment ends
- Why surveillance and follow-up care are important
- Which long-term effects may require monitoring
- Where to find additional support and information

Through this collaboration, WCF will be better positioned to direct families toward trusted cancer information while continuing to develop specialist Wilms tumor resources that address the distinct needs of children, parents, caregivers and survivors.

Supporting Healthcare Professionals

Doctors, nurses, surgeons, pediatric oncologists, radiologists, pathologists, allied health professionals and students all contribute to the diagnosis, treatment and long-term care of children with Wilms tumor.

The collaboration will support healthcare professional education by encouraging access to reliable information about cancer biology, diagnosis, treatment, research and survivorship.

Improved access to evidence-based educational resources can support:

- Multidisciplinary Wilms tumor care
- Communication between professionals and families
- Awareness of developing cancer research
- Professional education and knowledge sharing
- Treatment and supportive-care discussions
- Survivorship and late-effects education
- Collaboration across institutions and countries

This is particularly important for healthcare professionals working in settings where specialist pediatric renal cancer resources may be limited.

Supporting Researchers and Students

Wilms tumor research requires expertise across pediatric oncology, genetics, molecular biology, pathology, surgery, radiation oncology, pharmacology, survivorship and psychosocial care.

The collaboration will help strengthen connections between general cancer research knowledge and the specialist Wilms tumor information developed and organized by WCF.

Researchers and students will benefit from improved access to:

- Cancer research information
- Wilms tumor educational resources
- Research communication materials
- Evidence-based patient information
- Childhood cancer research priorities
- Information about survivorship and late effects
- International knowledge-sharing opportunities

This supports WCF's broader objective of encouraging new researchers, students and healthcare professionals to engage with childhood kidney cancer.

Addressing Global Inequalities in Childhood Cancer Information

Children diagnosed with Wilms tumor do not have equal access to diagnosis, treatment or reliable educational information.

In many lower-resource settings, families may encounter delayed diagnosis, limited specialist services, shortages of essential medicines, treatment abandonment and inadequate access to information in an understandable format or language.

The collaboration can contribute to wider efforts to address these inequalities by supporting:

- Access to trustworthy childhood cancer information
- Earlier awareness of Wilms tumor symptoms
- Better understanding of diagnosis and treatment
- Education for parents and caregivers
- Knowledge sharing between healthcare professionals
- Research communication across different audiences
- International awareness of unequal cancer outcomes
- Evidence-informed childhood cancer advocacy

This work supports the wider international objective of improving childhood cancer survival and reducing avoidable inequalities between countries and healthcare systems.

Statement from the Wilms Cancer Foundation

"Cancer Research UK is one of the most respected names in cancer research and public information, and we are extremely pleased to establish this collaboration," said **TJ Hodgkinson, Founder and Chief Executive Officer of the Wilms Cancer Foundation**.

“Families affected by Wilms tumor frequently have to navigate large amounts of complex medical and scientific information at one of the most difficult moments of their lives. They need information that is accurate, understandable and supported by credible evidence.

“This collaboration will help connect Cancer Research UK’s extensive cancer knowledge and information resources with the Wilms Cancer Foundation’s specialist focus on Wilms tumor and childhood kidney cancer. It will strengthen our ability to support families, survivors, healthcare professionals, researchers and advocates across the complete patient journey.

“It also reinforces an important principle behind the Global Wilms Tumor Initiative™: meaningful progress depends upon collaboration. Scientific discovery, clinical expertise, public education, family experience and international advocacy must be brought together if we are to improve outcomes for every child, regardless of where that child lives.

“We look forward to developing this collaboration and using trusted cancer knowledge to strengthen education, research communication and global awareness of Wilms tumor.”

Building an International Wilms Tumor Knowledge Network

The collaboration forms part of WCF’s wider strategy to build an internationally connected network of cancer organizations, healthcare professionals, researchers, patient advocates and educational institutions.

By connecting specialist Wilms tumor education with high-quality cancer information and internationally recognized research resources, WCF aims to strengthen the global knowledge infrastructure surrounding childhood kidney cancer.

This network-based approach can help:

- Reduce duplication of educational work
- Connect families with credible information
- Improve the visibility of Wilms tumor
- Encourage multidisciplinary knowledge sharing
- Support healthcare professional education
- Strengthen research communication
- Expand international childhood cancer advocacy
- Improve access to information across different regions

The collaboration will help advance WCF’s vision of creating one of the world’s most comprehensive and authoritative knowledge resources dedicated to Wilms tumor and pediatric renal cancer.

Looking Ahead

WCF and Cancer Research UK will explore opportunities to support education, public information, evidence communication and greater awareness of the research that contributes to improvements in cancer care.

Future areas of activity may include:

- Sharing trusted cancer information and educational resources
- Improving access to evidence-based Wilms tumor information
- Supporting research translation and public understanding
- Developing educational content for families and survivors
- Strengthening healthcare professional learning

- Highlighting research relevant to childhood kidney cancer
- Supporting global awareness and advocacy activities
- Connecting audiences with reliable cancer resources
- Improving understanding of survivorship and long-term care
- Encouraging international knowledge sharing

The collaboration will develop in accordance with the priorities and agreed activities of both organizations. Its long-term purpose is to help ensure that scientific knowledge is translated into accessible information, healthcare professionals are supported by trusted resources and families affected by Wilms tumor can better understand the disease and its treatment.

About Cancer Research UK

Cancer Research UK is a leading independent cancer charity dedicated to saving lives through research, influence and information. The organization supports research into the prevention, diagnosis and treatment of cancer and helps make complex cancer information accessible to patients, families, healthcare professionals and the public. Cancer Research UK works with scientists, clinicians, universities, hospitals, supporters and research networks to advance understanding of cancer and improve outcomes for people affected by the disease. Its research and information resources contribute to the wider scientific and educational environment that supports continued progress across adult and childhood cancers.

Learn more at www.cancerresearchuk.org.

About the Wilms Cancer Foundation

The **Wilms Cancer Foundation** is an international childhood cancer organization dedicated to improving awareness, education, advocacy, early diagnosis, family support, survivorship, research collaboration and access to information for Wilms tumor and other childhood kidney cancers. WCF supports children, parents, caregivers, survivors, healthcare professionals, researchers, students, advocates and organizations through international programs, educational resources, digital platforms and global collaborations. The Foundation is the only international patient organization dedicated exclusively to pediatric renal cancer within the International Kidney Cancer Coalition.

Learn More

To explore Wilms tumor information, childhood kidney cancer resources and the work of the Wilms Cancer Foundation, visit:

www.WilmsFoundation.org

For trusted information about cancer research, prevention, diagnosis and treatment, visit:

www.cancerresearchuk.org

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