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Wilms Cancer Foundation Advances International Kidney Cancer Advocacy Following 2026 IKCC Global Kidney Cancer Summit in Prague

WCF joins international patient advocacy leaders and WHO cancer leadership to advance global collaboration, research, healthcare equity and the needs of children affected by kidney cancer

PRAGUE, CZECH REPUBLIC & WASHINGTON, D.C., USA - October 18, 2026

The Wilms Cancer Foundation (WCF) is pleased to report on its participation in the 2026 International Kidney Cancer Coalition (IKCC) Global Kidney Cancer Summit, held October 10–11 in Prague, Czech Republic.

Represented by its CEO, TJ Hodgkinson, the Foundation joined an international gathering of kidney cancer patient advocacy organizations, healthcare professionals, researchers and industry representatives to examine developments in cancer treatment, patient advocacy, emerging technologies, organizational development and equitable access to healthcare.

As a member organization of the IKCC, the Wilms Cancer Foundation brings an important and distinctive perspective to the Coalition's international activities, representing the needs of children diagnosed with Wilms tumor and other pediatric kidney cancers.

World Health Organization Cancer Lead Delivers Keynote Address

A significant highlight of the Summit was a keynote presentation delivered by **Dr. André Ilbawi, Team Lead for Cancer Control at the World Health Organization (WHO)**.

Dr. Ilbawi's keynote address, *"Global Ambition, Local Impact: Kidney Cancer and the Cancer Control Agenda,"* examined the role of kidney cancer within the wider international cancer control agenda and emphasized the importance of translating global health priorities into meaningful improvements in patient care at national and local levels.

His presentation highlighted persistent inequalities in cancer diagnosis, treatment availability and access to essential medicines, reinforcing the importance of international cooperation and stronger healthcare systems.

Dr. Ilbawi also contributed to discussions addressing access to essential cancer medicines and treatments, an issue of particular importance to patient organizations working to improve healthcare equity worldwide.

For the Wilms Cancer Foundation, these discussions closely reflect the priorities of its Global Wilms Tumor Initiative™, particularly the need to improve access to reliable information, specialist care, timely diagnosis and appropriate treatment for children affected by kidney cancer, regardless of their geographical location or economic circumstances.

Ensuring Childhood Kidney Cancer Has a Voice

Although much of the international kidney cancer community's work focuses on adult renal cancers, particularly renal cell carcinoma, WCF's participation helps raise awareness of the distinct clinical, emotional, developmental and long-term healthcare needs associated with childhood kidney cancer.

For children diagnosed with Wilms tumor, timely diagnosis, access to appropriate treatment, long-term follow-up care and family support remain essential priorities.

The Foundation's involvement in the IKCC provides opportunities to connect these pediatric priorities with broader international discussions surrounding cancer care, patient experience, survivorship and healthcare inequalities.

Artificial Intelligence, Innovation and International Advocacy

The 2026 Summit featured discussions and educational sessions covering rapidly evolving cancer treatments, technological innovation, artificial intelligence, strategic planning and the strengthening of patient advocacy organizations.

These themes closely align with WCF's expanding international programmes, particularly its development of multilingual digital health education, the WCF WebApp™, the International Wilms Tumor Knowledge Index™, and the Global Wilms Tumor Initiative™.

The growing application of artificial intelligence in healthcare education and patient support is of particular relevance to the Foundation as it continues exploring technologies that can make reliable Wilms tumor information more accessible internationally.

Strengthening the Global Network

Participation in the Summit provided a valuable opportunity to connect with fellow IKCC member organizations and explore shared interests in educational outreach, international advocacy, patient engagement, survivorship and collaborative initiatives.

As the Coalition's specialist pediatric kidney cancer representative, WCF occupies a distinctive position within this international network, providing opportunities to introduce the needs of children and families to organizations whose work has traditionally concentrated on adult kidney cancers.

The Foundation continues to place particular emphasis on developing relationships with kidney cancer organizations across different countries, helping introduce families and healthcare professionals to specialist pediatric kidney cancer information and support resources.

Building on International Collaboration

The Wilms Cancer Foundation views its participation in the IKCC as an important component of its wider international strategy.

Through continued engagement with established kidney cancer organizations, international healthcare institutions and global health initiatives, the Foundation aims to extend the reach of its educational programmes, promote greater recognition of childhood kidney cancer and encourage collaborations that support patients and families worldwide.

The presence of senior WHO cancer leadership at the Summit further emphasized the importance of connecting international advocacy efforts with broader global health priorities, particularly those addressing healthcare inequalities and equitable access to cancer services.

The Foundation looks forward to building on the relationships and shared priorities highlighted during the Prague Summit and to contributing to continued international progress in cancer education, research collaboration and patient advocacy.

About the Wilms Cancer Foundation

The **Wilms Cancer Foundation** is an international childhood kidney cancer organisation dedicated to improving awareness, education, support, research communication and global collaboration for children and families affected by Wilms tumor.

Through the **Global Wilms Tumor Initiative™** and its international programmes, WCF works to expand access to trusted information, strengthen patient and caregiver education, support healthcare professional engagement and address inequalities in childhood kidney cancer outcomes worldwide.

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