



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Wilms Cancer Foundation to Attend the 13th International Paediatric Renal Tumours Biology Conference in London

WCF will join leading clinicians and researchers exploring Wilms tumor biology, molecular research, risk stratification and the next generation of childhood kidney cancer care

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The **Wilms Cancer Foundation (WCF)** is pleased to announce that it will attend the **13th International Paediatric Renal Tumours Biology Conference**, taking place from **October 11th–13th, 2026**, at the **Francis Crick Institute in London, United Kingdom**.

The specialist international conference is the only scientific meeting dedicated specifically to the biology of pediatric renal tumors. It will bring together leading scientists, translational researchers, pediatric oncologists and other specialists working to improve the understanding and treatment of Wilms tumor and rarer childhood kidney cancers.

WCF's attendance will provide an important opportunity to engage directly with the international research and clinical community, strengthen relationships with experts working across the Wilms tumor field and identify emerging research that can be translated into accessible information for children, families, survivors and healthcare professionals.

A Specialist Global Meeting for Childhood Kidney Cancer

The 13th International Paediatric Renal Tumours Biology Conference will be hosted by the **UK Renal Tumour UMBRELLA PLUS team** in collaboration with the **International Society of Paediatric Oncology Renal Tumour Study Group (SIOP-RTSG)**, the North American **Children's Oncology Group Renal Tumour Committee (COG-RTC)** and the **Cancer Research UK City of London Centre**.

The meeting follows previous conferences in New York in 2024 and Marseille in 2022 and continues more than two decades of international cooperation in pediatric renal tumor research.

Its central objective is to connect specialists working across the full research pathway—from fundamental tumor biology and laboratory discovery through translational research, clinical trials and the development of future treatment protocols.

"This is one of the most important and scientifically focused international meetings for the Wilms tumor community," said **TJ Hodgkinson, Founder and CEO of the Wilms Cancer Foundation**.

"The conference brings together many of the scientists and clinicians whose work is helping define the future of childhood kidney cancer diagnosis, risk assessment and treatment. WCF's attendance gives the Foundation an opportunity to engage directly with that expertise and strengthen the connection between research, education and the lived experiences of children and families."

"Our role is not only to follow scientific progress, but also to help translate that progress into information that parents, caregivers, survivors and healthcare professionals can understand and use. The knowledge and relationships developed in London will support that work."

Exploring the Biology of Wilms Tumor

Wilms tumor, also known as nephroblastoma, is the most common kidney cancer diagnosed in children. It develops from immature kidney cells and is most frequently diagnosed in children younger than five years.

Although survival is high for many children who can access timely diagnosis and appropriate treatment, significant challenges remain.

Some children are diagnosed with advanced or metastatic disease. Others develop unfavorable tumor characteristics, experience relapse or do not respond adequately to established treatment.

Children who survive may also experience long-term health effects caused by surgery, chemotherapy, radiation therapy or stem-cell transplantation.

Understanding the biology of pediatric renal tumors is essential to developing more precise approaches that can:

- Identify which children require more intensive treatment
- Prevent unnecessary treatment for children with lower-risk disease
- Improve treatment for relapsed and high-risk Wilms tumor
- Reduce short- and long-term treatment toxicity
- Develop molecularly targeted therapies
- Improve tumor classification and risk stratification
- Identify biomarkers of treatment response and relapse
- Protect long-term health and quality of life
- Create better treatments for rare non-Wilms renal tumors

The London conference will examine scientific developments capable of advancing these objectives.

A Programme Spanning Research and Clinical Care

The conference programme will encompass the breadth of pediatric renal tumor research, including basic science, translational investigation and clinical application.

Scientific themes are expected to include:

- Renal embryology and kidney development
- Wilms tumor initiation and progression
- Molecular evolution of pediatric renal tumors
- Single-cell biology
- Tumor genetics and epigenetics
- Risk stratification
- Liquid biopsy
- Biomarkers
- Artificial intelligence and machine learning
- Preclinical tumor models
- Developmental therapeutics
- Early-phase clinical trials
- Dedicated research concerning Wilms and non-Wilms tumors

The programme will begin with a half-day educational session covering renal embryology, tumor biology and next-generation molecular technologies.

Expert keynote presentations will be accompanied by interactive workshops and focused discussions intended to encourage detailed debate and international collaboration.

Connecting the SIOP and COG Research Communities

The conference has particular international importance because it brings together specialists associated with the two principal cooperative research traditions that have shaped modern Wilms tumor care.

The **International Society of Paediatric Oncology Renal Tumour Study Group** and the **Children's Oncology Group Renal Tumour Committee** have each made major contributions to the treatment and study of pediatric kidney cancers.

Their clinical approaches differ in some important respects. SIOP protocols have traditionally used preoperative chemotherapy for most children, while COG protocols have generally begun with surgery when clinically appropriate.

Despite these differences, both research communities share the objective of improving survival while reducing unnecessary treatment and long-term harm.

The conference provides a focused environment in which researchers and clinicians from both groups can exchange findings, discuss areas of agreement and uncertainty, and develop international studies capable of advancing pediatric renal tumor care.

WCF's Objectives in London

WCF's attendance forms part of the Foundation's commitment to remaining connected with the latest developments in Wilms tumor research and clinical practice.

Its objectives will include:

- Learning about emerging discoveries in Wilms tumor biology
- Following developments in molecular classification and risk stratification
- Understanding research into relapsed and high-risk disease
- Identifying developments relevant to treatment and survivorship
- Engaging with leading pediatric renal tumor researchers
- Building relationships with clinicians and research institutions
- Exploring future educational and research collaborations
- Strengthening connections with the SIOP and COG communities
- Identifying experts for future webinars and educational programmes
- Translating complex research into accessible information
- Ensuring patient and family priorities remain visible
- Expanding the Foundation's international research network

The Foundation will use relevant knowledge gained through the conference to strengthen its educational platforms, research communications and international programmes.

Translating Research for Families

Advances in pediatric renal tumor biology can be complex. Research may involve molecular subtypes, genetic changes, cell populations, circulating tumor DNA, biomarkers or advanced laboratory models.

For families, the practical questions are often more direct:

- What does this discovery mean for my child?
- Could it improve diagnosis or staging?
- Could it identify the risk of relapse?
- Could it lead to a more effective treatment?
- Could it reduce chemotherapy or radiation exposure?
- Could it help children with relapsed disease?
- When might the research become available in clinical care?

WCF plays an important knowledge-translation role by converting complex medical and scientific information into accessible educational resources without overstating the stage or certainty of the research.

Attendance at the conference will help the Foundation understand emerging developments directly from the specialists leading the work.

Supporting Research-Informed Educational Resources

Knowledge gained from the conference may inform the continued development of WCF resources covering:

- Wilms tumor biology
- Genetics and predisposition syndromes
- Diagnosis and staging
- Tumor histology
- Molecular testing
- Standard- and high-risk disease
- Surgery and nephron-sparing approaches
- Chemotherapy
- Radiation therapy
- Metastatic Wilms tumor
- Relapsed Wilms tumor
- Clinical trials
- Treatment side effects
- Surveillance and follow-up
- Survivorship and long-term effects

These subjects are represented across WCF's principal programmes and platforms:

- **Global Wilms Tumor Initiative™**
- **Wilms Tumor Knowledge Index™**
- **Complete Guide to Wilms Tumor**
- **Wilms Tumor WebApp**
- **Wilms Tumor AI Support Service**
- **Global Educational Library**
- Multilingual educational literature
- Healthcare professional briefings

- International webinars
- Research and clinical trial updates

Advancing Collaboration

The conference will create opportunities for conversations with researchers, clinicians, study-group representatives and institutions working at the forefront of childhood kidney cancer.

Potential areas for future collaboration include:

- Research communication
- Healthcare professional education
- Parent and caregiver resources
- International webinar development
- Specialist contributions to WCF educational literature
- Clinical trial awareness
- Survivorship education
- Global research-priority discussions
- Patient and family engagement
- International knowledge sharing

WCF's growing international partnerships allow the Foundation to connect specialist research with broader programmes addressing awareness, diagnosis, treatment, support and survivorship.

Representing the Patient and Family Perspective

Scientific conferences are essential to advancing knowledge, but the ultimate purpose of pediatric cancer research is to improve the lives of children and families.

WCF will attend the London meeting with particular attention to research addressing:

- Children with relapsed or treatment-resistant Wilms tumor
- Children requiring intensive multimodal treatment
- Survivors experiencing long-term treatment effects
- Families navigating complex medical decisions
- Patients in countries with limited research participation
- Unequal access to molecular diagnostics and emerging treatments
- The communication of research findings to non-specialist audiences

The Foundation believes that scientific progress is most valuable when it can be translated into safer treatment, improved survival, better long-term health and meaningful support for families.

About the 13th International Paediatric Renal Tumours Biology Conference

The **13th International Paediatric Renal Tumours Biology Conference** will be held from October 11th–13th, 2026, at the Francis Crick Institute in London.

Hosted by the UK Renal Tumour UMBRELLA PLUS team, the conference is organised in collaboration with the SIOP Renal Tumour Study Group, the Children's Oncology Group Renal Tumour Committee and the Cancer Research UK City of London Centre.



It is the only international meeting dedicated specifically to the biology of pediatric renal tumors and brings together basic scientists, translational researchers and clinicians from across the global childhood kidney cancer community.

Website: siop-online.org

About the Francis Crick Institute

The **Francis Crick Institute** is a biomedical research institute in London dedicated to understanding the fundamental biology underlying health and disease.

Its research brings together scientists from different disciplines to investigate biological processes and support discoveries with the potential to improve human health.

Website: crick.ac.uk

About the International Society of Paediatric Oncology

The **International Society of Paediatric Oncology** is a global professional organisation dedicated to improving outcomes for children and adolescents with cancer.

Its Renal Tumour Study Group supports international research and clinical cooperation concerning Wilms tumor and other pediatric renal tumors.

Website: siop-online.org

About the Children's Oncology Group

The **Children's Oncology Group** is an international pediatric cancer research organisation bringing together hospitals, researchers and healthcare professionals to develop and conduct clinical research for children and adolescents with cancer.

Its Renal Tumour Committee focuses on Wilms tumor and other childhood kidney cancers.

Website: childrensoncologygroup.org

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.

Website: www.WilmsFoundation.org

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