



Press Release (Wilms Cancer Foundation)

International Wilms Tumor Partnership, MAHAK, Iran

MAHAK Charity Institute and Wilms Cancer Foundation Announce International Partnership to Improve Outcomes for Children with Wilms Tumor

New collaboration aims to strengthen awareness, early diagnosis, education, support services, and survivorship care for children affected by childhood kidney cancer

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

TEHRAN, IRAN / WASHINGTON, DC – July 12, 2025 – The **MAHAK Charity Institute**, Iran's leading childhood cancer organization, and the **Wilms Cancer Foundation (WCF)** today announced the signing of a formal partnership agreement aimed at improving outcomes for children diagnosed with **Wilms tumor (nephroblastoma)**, the most common form of childhood kidney cancer and the fourth most common childhood cancer overall.

The partnership establishes a framework for international collaboration focused on improving awareness, education, early diagnosis, treatment access, family support, survivorship care, and long-term outcomes for children affected by Wilms tumor.

The collaboration reflects a shared commitment by both organizations to support children with cancer and their families through coordinated programs, educational initiatives, advocacy activities, and international knowledge sharing.

Wilms tumor has been identified by the **World Health Organization (WHO)** as one of the six index childhood cancers targeted under the WHO's flagship **Global Initiative for Childhood Cancer (GICC)**. Launched in 2018, the initiative seeks to increase global childhood cancer survival rates to at least 60 percent by 2030 while reducing suffering and improving quality of life for children affected by cancer worldwide.

Although childhood kidney cancer is often highly curable when diagnosed and treated early, significant disparities in awareness, access to healthcare, specialist treatment, and survivorship support continue to affect outcomes in many parts of the world.

Through this new partnership, MAHAK and the Wilms Cancer Foundation have already begun exploring and developing programs designed to reduce the burden faced by children, families, healthcare professionals, and healthcare systems managing Wilms tumor on a daily basis. Particular emphasis will be placed on raising awareness of the disease, supporting earlier diagnosis, improving access to trusted educational resources, and strengthening survivorship support services.

Supporting the Global Wilms Tumor Initiative (GWTI)

The partnership between MAHAK Charity Institute and the Wilms Cancer Foundation directly supports the objectives of the Foundation's flagship **Global Wilms Tumor Initiative (GWTI)**, a comprehensive international program dedicated to improving awareness, education, early diagnosis, treatment access, survivorship support, and long-term outcomes for children affected by Wilms tumor worldwide.

Through the **Global Wilms Tumor Initiative (GWTI)**, the Wilms Cancer Foundation works collaboratively with healthcare institutions, advocacy organizations, healthcare professionals, and global health partners to address disparities in childhood kidney cancer outcomes, particularly in underserved and resource-constrained settings. The collaboration with MAHAK will help advance several key priorities of the Global Wilms Tumor Initiative (GWTI), including:



Press Release (Wilms Cancer Foundation)

- Improving public and healthcare professional awareness of Wilms tumor
- Supporting earlier diagnosis through education and capacity building
- Expanding access to trusted educational resources and family support services
- Strengthening survivorship care and long-term follow-up support
- Encouraging international collaboration and knowledge sharing
- Supporting global advocacy efforts aimed at improving childhood cancer outcomes

By combining MAHAK's extensive clinical expertise and national leadership in pediatric oncology with the Wilms Cancer Foundation's international advocacy, educational resources, and global partnership network, both organizations hope to accelerate progress toward a future where every child diagnosed with Wilms tumor has access to timely diagnosis, effective treatment, high-quality survivorship care, and the best possible chance of long-term survival.

"As part of our commitment to the World Health Organization's Global Initiative for Childhood Cancer, we have been asked to represent and support the needs of children, families, and healthcare professionals affected by pediatric renal cancer worldwide," said **TJ Hodgkinson, Chief Executive Officer of the Wilms Cancer Foundation.**

"Our partnership with MAHAK represents an important step forward in delivering the objectives of the Global Wilms Tumor Initiative (GWTI). By aligning our expertise, resources, and shared commitment to the Global Initiative for Childhood Cancer, we have a genuine opportunity to deliver meaningful and lasting change. Together, we can improve quality of life, strengthen survivorship support, and help reduce mortality rates among children diagnosed with childhood kidney cancer worldwide."

Dr. Hadieh Eslampanah, Director of International Development and Communications at MAHAK Charity Institute, commented:

"MAHAK Charity Institute and the Wilms Cancer Foundation are pleased to announce the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding that establishes a formal framework for cooperation in the field of pediatric cancer. This agreement reflects our shared commitment to collaboration in areas aligned with the missions of both organizations, with the overarching goal of supporting children with cancer and their families through joint initiatives."

"Considering MAHAK's significant institutional capabilities, international standing, and the strength of its global partnerships, this agreement represents an important opportunity to expand collaborative efforts in partnership with the Wilms Cancer Foundation and further strengthen support for children affected by cancer."

Future collaborative activities may include:

- Healthcare professional education and training initiatives
- Development of educational materials and resources
- Family and caregiver support programs
- Public awareness campaigns
- Survivorship support initiatives
- International conference participation
- Research collaboration and knowledge exchange
- Global advocacy initiatives

Both organizations believe that international cooperation, education, and knowledge sharing are essential to improving outcomes for children diagnosed with childhood kidney cancer worldwide.

About MAHAK Charity Institute

MAHAK – Society to Support Children Suffering from Cancer – is a non-governmental, non-profit organization based in Iran dedicated to supporting children with cancer and their families. Founded in 1991, MAHAK provides



Press Release (Wilms Cancer Foundation)

comprehensive, free-of-charge medical, psychosocial, and supportive care services, including accommodation, transportation, medication, nutritional support, and educational assistance. MAHAK operates a highly specialized pediatric cancer treatment and research center that serves as a national referral hub, providing leadership, expertise, and support to more than 40 pediatric oncology centers throughout Iran.

Guided by the principle that no child should be denied treatment because of financial hardship, MAHAK receives no government funding and relies entirely on charitable donations and voluntary support.

About the Wilms Cancer Foundation

The Wilms Cancer Foundation (WCF) is an international charitable organization dedicated exclusively to improving outcomes for children affected by Wilms tumor through education, awareness, advocacy, support, and global collaboration.

Through its flagship **Global Wilms Tumor Initiative (GWTI)**, the Foundation works to improve early diagnosis, strengthen healthcare education, reduce treatment disparities, and support children, families, and healthcare professionals affected by childhood kidney cancer worldwide.

Media Contacts:

MAHAK Charity Institute

Telephone: +98-21-23501995

email: international@mahak-charity.org

Website: www.mahak-charity.org

Wilms Cancer Foundation

Telephone: +1 (778) 514 5000

email: info@WilmsFoundation.org

Website: www.WilmsFoundation.org

