



International Partnerships: Board appointment Children's Cancer International (CCI)

Wilms Cancer Foundation (WCF) Appointed Founding Member of Children's Cancer International (CCI) North America

Appointment Strengthens the Global Wilms Tumor Initiative™ (GWTI), Expands International Childhood Cancer Collaboration, and Supports the WHO Global Initiative for Childhood Cancer (GICC)

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WASHINGTON, D.C. – February 19, 2026 — The Wilms Cancer Foundation (WCF) is proud to announce its appointment as a **Founding Member of Children's Cancer International North America (CCI North America)**, a landmark development that further strengthens the foundation's role within the global childhood cancer community and supports its mission to improve outcomes for children diagnosed with Wilms tumor (nephroblastoma) around the world.

The appointment represents a significant milestone in the foundation's ongoing efforts to advance international collaboration, childhood cancer advocacy, patient and family support, healthcare professional engagement, education, awareness, and equitable access to care. It also provides an important platform to expand the reach and impact of the foundation's flagship international program, the **Global Wilms Tumor Initiative™ (GWTI)**, while strengthening alignment with the objectives of the **World Health Organization (WHO) Global Initiative for Childhood Cancer (GICC)**.

As one of the founding organizations of CCI North America, the Wilms Cancer Foundation will join leading childhood cancer advocacy organizations, patient groups, survivors, healthcare professionals, researchers, and family representatives from across the region to support collective action aimed at improving childhood cancer outcomes, reducing disparities in care, strengthening support services, and ensuring that the voices of children and families remain central to policy, research, and healthcare development.

Expanding the Reach of the Global Wilms Tumor Initiative™ (GWTI)

The appointment significantly enhances the Wilms Cancer Foundation's ability to advance the objectives of the **Global Wilms Tumor Initiative™ (GWTI)**, an international program established to improve awareness, education, advocacy, support services, healthcare engagement, and access to trusted information relating to Wilms tumor worldwide.

Although Wilms tumor is one of the most treatable forms of childhood cancer when diagnosed early and managed appropriately, significant disparities continue to exist in access to diagnosis, treatment, specialist healthcare services, survivorship care, and family support programs. These challenges remain particularly pronounced in low- and middle-income countries where healthcare systems often face additional resource pressures.

Through the Global Wilms Tumor Initiative™ (GWTI), the foundation works to address these disparities by supporting:

- Global Wilms tumor awareness campaigns
- Childhood cancer education initiatives
- Healthcare professional engagement and training
- Family and caregiver support programs
- Patient advocacy initiatives
- International healthcare collaboration
- Access to trusted educational resources
- Improved awareness of childhood kidney cancer symptoms
- Earlier diagnosis and treatment pathways



- Survivorship and long-term follow-up care

Membership within CCI North America will provide new opportunities to strengthen partnerships, expand educational initiatives, engage additional stakeholders, and support collaborative projects designed to improve outcomes for children diagnosed with Wilms tumor throughout North America and beyond.

Supporting the World Health Organization and the Global Initiative for Childhood Cancer

The Wilms Cancer Foundation is an official partner of the World Health Organization (WHO) and actively supports the objectives of the **WHO Global Initiative for Childhood Cancer (GICC)**, one of the world's most important efforts to improve childhood cancer survival rates and quality of life.

The WHO Global Initiative for Childhood Cancer was established to address global disparities in childhood cancer outcomes and seeks to ensure that every child, regardless of where they live, has access to timely diagnosis, effective treatment, quality supportive care, and survivorship services.

The initiative focuses on:

- Earlier diagnosis of childhood cancers
- Strengthening healthcare systems
- Improving access to treatment
- Supporting healthcare workforce development
- Enhancing psychosocial support services
- Improving treatment adherence
- Reducing treatment abandonment
- Expanding survivorship care
- Improving quality of life for children and families

The Wilms Cancer Foundation's role within CCI North America further strengthens its ability to contribute to these objectives through advocacy, collaboration, education, awareness, and support programs that directly align with the goals of the WHO Global Initiative for Childhood Cancer.

Strengthening Global Childhood Cancer Collaboration

Children's Cancer International (CCI) is the world's largest childhood cancer patient support network, representing childhood cancer patients, survivors, parents, caregivers, support organizations, and advocacy groups across multiple continents.

The establishment of CCI North America represents an important opportunity to strengthen regional collaboration while contributing to broader international efforts aimed at improving childhood cancer outcomes worldwide.

Through participation in CCI North America, the Wilms Cancer Foundation will have additional opportunities to:

- Support regional and international advocacy efforts
- Contribute to childhood cancer awareness initiatives
- Strengthen patient and family representation
- Collaborate with healthcare professionals and researchers
- Promote equitable access to childhood cancer care
- Share best practices and educational resources
- Support healthcare system strengthening initiatives
- Advance patient-centred childhood cancer policies



Press Release (Wilms Cancer Foundation)

The foundation believes that meaningful progress in childhood cancer outcomes can only be achieved through sustained collaboration between families, healthcare professionals, patient organizations, governments, researchers, and international institutions.

Addressing Global Challenges in Wilms Tumor Care

Despite significant advances in treatment, children diagnosed with Wilms tumor continue to face numerous challenges around the world, including:

- Delayed diagnosis
- Limited access to pediatric oncology services
- Healthcare workforce shortages
- Financial barriers to treatment
- Treatment abandonment
- Limited access to specialist treatment centres
- Restricted access to medicines
- Inadequate survivorship services
- Healthcare inequalities between countries and regions

By working alongside partners throughout the CCI network, the Wilms Cancer Foundation aims to help address these challenges while supporting efforts to improve childhood cancer survival rates and long-term outcomes globally.

The foundation believes that geography should never determine a child's chance of surviving cancer.

A Shared Vision for Children and Families Worldwide

The appointment as a Founding Member of Children's Cancer International North America reflects the Wilms Cancer Foundation's continued commitment to ensuring that children and families affected by Wilms tumor have access to the information, support, advocacy, and healthcare resources they need throughout the childhood cancer journey.

Through the Global Wilms Tumor Initiative™ (GWTI), its partnership with the World Health Organization, support for the WHO Global Initiative for Childhood Cancer (GICC), and its participation within CCI North America, the foundation will continue working to improve awareness, education, support services, healthcare collaboration, and access to care for children worldwide.

Together, through partnership, innovation, advocacy, and international cooperation, the global childhood cancer community can move closer to a future where every child diagnosed with Wilms tumor has access to timely diagnosis, effective treatment, comprehensive survivorship care, and the opportunity not only to survive cancer, but to thrive beyond it.

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