Wilms Cancer Foundation Invited to NCD Alliance and WHO Gathering on the Sidelines of UNGA81

International dialogue will explore sustainable philanthropic funding, government priorities and collaboration, creating an opportunity to highlight childhood kidney cancer within the wider NCD and mental health response

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The **Wilms Cancer Foundation (WCF)** is pleased to announce that it has been invited to join the **5th Multistakeholder Gathering**, titled **"Strategies for a sustainable NCD and mental health response,"** taking place on **September 21st, 2026**, on the sidelines of the **81st United Nations General Assembly (UNGA81)**.

Organised by **NCD Alliance** and co-sponsored by the **World Health Organization (WHO)** through its **Global Coordination Mechanism on Noncommunicable Diseases (GCM/NCD)**, the gathering will explore how philanthropic funding and collaboration can support effective, equitable and sustainable health responses.

The event will take place from **18:00–19:15 EDT** at **Scandinavia House in New York**, with both onsite and virtual participation available upon registration.

For WCF, the invitation creates an opportunity to connect its specialist childhood kidney cancer mission with international discussions about health financing, patient representation and cooperation between governments, civil society and philanthropic organisations.

Connecting Childhood Kidney Cancer with Global Health Priorities

The gathering will examine how strategic philanthropic funding can better support government priorities during a period of significant systemic change. It will also explore approaches to governance and collaboration that can strengthen responses to noncommunicable diseases and mental health needs.

The organisers emphasise national leadership, sustainable domestic financing and the contribution of civil society and people with lived experience. Further details are available through the official NCD Alliance event announcement.

WCF sees these discussions as directly relevant to its work connecting childhood kidney cancer education, advocacy, research communication and international partnerships.

"Children affected by Wilms tumor and their families deserve to be visible within the wider conversation about sustainable health investment," said **TJ Hodgkinson, Founder and CEO of the Wilms Cancer Foundation**.

"This invitation provides an opportunity to engage with organisations considering how philanthropy, government leadership and community experience can work together more effectively."

"For WCF, the priorities are practical: helping families find reliable information, strengthening professional and organisational connections, and supporting approaches that can continue delivering benefits beyond a single campaign or funding cycle."

Exploring More Sustainable Philanthropic Support

The event's focus on philanthropic funding is particularly relevant to organisations working across education, research and patient support.

The gathering will consider how philanthropic investment can reduce fragmentation, support coordinated initiatives and help countries move towards more sustainable domestic financing. The discussion is intended to examine how different partners can contribute to shared priorities while strengthening national ownership. Event background

For WCF, this raises important questions about how charitable resources can support lasting improvements for childhood kidney cancer communities.

Areas of relevance include:

- Developing educational resources that can be reused and adapted locally.
- Supporting collaboration between patient organisations and healthcare institutions.
- Improving access to information across languages and geographical boundaries.
- Connecting research knowledge with practical family and professional education.
- Building programmes around identified community needs and local expertise.
- Considering how successful initiatives can remain available over time.

The Foundation's interest is in approaches that make each contribution more useful to the communities it is intended to serve.

Bringing Patient and Family Experience into the Discussion

The gathering recognises that civil society and people with lived experience contribute knowledge essential to effective and equitable health policies.

WCF's perspective is informed by its engagement with children, survivors, parents, caregivers and professionals affected by Wilms tumor. These communities can help explain how healthcare arrangements, access to information and support services work in everyday life.

The Foundation believes that listening to families should be part of programme development, alongside clinical knowledge, research evidence and health-system planning.

Relevant considerations include whether information is understandable, whether services are coordinated, whether families know where to seek help and whether support continues through the transition from treatment into survivorship.

These questions connect WCF's specialist mission with the gathering's broader emphasis on collaboration and accountability.

Recognising Mental Health and Family Wellbeing

The inclusion of mental health in the event's focus also resonates with WCF's commitment to the whole child and family.

The Foundation's educational and advocacy priorities include recognition of emotional wellbeing, caregiver support and the needs of survivors as they move through different stages of life.

For WCF, sustainable childhood cancer programmes should consider how medical care, understandable information and psychosocial support can work together. The gathering offers an opportunity to learn from organisations addressing these connections across different conditions and healthcare settings.

Building on WCF's International Initiatives

The invitation complements WCF's efforts to place greater international attention on Wilms tumor and childhood kidney cancer through the **Global Wilms Tumor Initiative™**.

The Foundation's work also includes the **Global Wilms Tumor Knowledge Index™**, **Global Educational Library**, **WCF WebApp** and **Wilms Tumor AI Support Service**, alongside multilingual literature and healthcare professional resources.

WCF's interest in the gathering includes exploring how these educational and digital initiatives can contribute to coordinated partnerships, respond to local priorities and remain useful to families and professionals over time.

The Foundation also welcomes opportunities to exchange experience with organisations working in other areas of noncommunicable disease advocacy. Shared learning can help identify more effective ways to reach communities, communicate evidence and develop sustainable programmes.

An Opportunity for Future Collaboration

The 5th Multistakeholder Gathering at the 81st United Nations General Assembly (UNGA81) provides a setting for dialogue between organisations with different responsibilities and expertise.

WCF's priorities for engagement include:

- Learning about sustainable approaches to philanthropic investment.
- Exploring partnerships relevant to childhood kidney cancer education and support.
- Highlighting the importance of including children and families in broader NCD discussions.
- Understanding how civil society can contribute to nationally led health priorities.
- Sharing perspectives on accessible information and community engagement.

Website: ncdalliance.org

About NCD Alliance

NCD Alliance is a civil society network working across sectors to advance action on noncommunicable diseases, promote health and protect the rights of affected communities.

It organises the 5th Multistakeholder Gathering to support dialogue on sustainable financing, collaboration and equitable health responses.

Website: ncdalliance.org

About the World Health Organization and GCM/NCD

The **World Health Organization** supports international cooperation to improve health. Through its **Global Coordination Mechanism on the Prevention and Control of Noncommunicable Diseases**, WHO supports collaboration across sectors and stakeholder groups.

The mechanism hosts the **Knowledge Action Portal on NCDs**, a platform for exchanging knowledge and connecting communities involved in NCD prevention and control.

Website: who.int
Knowledge Action Portal: knowledge-action-portal.com

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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