



World Cancer Research Day Celebrates 10 Years of Mobilizing a Global Community for Cancer Research

[Madrid, Spain – August 2026] – **World Cancer Research Day (WCRD)** marks its **tenth anniversary this year, celebrating a decade of global advocacy for cancer research** and the collective efforts of researchers, patients, healthcare professionals, research funders, policymakers and citizens working towards a future with better outcomes for all people affected by cancer.

Established in 2016 by ten leading international organizations committed to advancing cancer research, World Cancer Research Day was created to raise awareness of the critical role that **research plays in preventing, detecting and treating cancer, as well as improving quality of life, survivorship and equity among patients worldwide**. Since then, the initiative has **grown into a global movement**, bringing together organizations and individuals across continents to champion the value of cancer research and its impact on patients and society.

Over the past decade, World Cancer Research Day has addressed a wide range of themes reflecting the evolving priorities of the global cancer community. While campaign messages have evolved year after year, the mission has remained unchanged: to **increase awareness of the importance of cancer research** and inspire greater support for the discoveries that improve and save lives.

"When World Cancer Research Day was launched ten years ago, our ambition was simple: to give cancer research the visibility and recognition it deserves. Seeing how this initiative has grown into a global movement is a testament to the commitment of the many organizations and individuals who believe that research is essential to changing the future of cancer." Marta Puyol, Scientific Director of the Scientific Foundation of the Spanish Association against Cancer and promoter of WCRD.

The 2026 campaign, under the theme **"Advancing Cancer Research Together"**, highlights the importance of **collaboration across the entire cancer research ecosystem, with patients playing a central role in the research process**. Progress is accelerated when patients, researchers, healthcare professionals, funders, policymakers and communities work together to address the challenges posed by cancer.

For this 2026 edition, World Cancer Research Day is proud to welcome new organizations to the initiative, further strengthening the campaign's global reach and collective impact. Among them is the **European Organisation for Research and Treatment of Cancer (EORTC)**, which will host this year's **World Cancer Research Day International Event, taking place in Brussels on 23 September 2026 at 15h CEST**, on the eve of World Cancer Research Day. The event will also be **streamed live**, enabling audiences around the world to join the conversation

Bringing together leading researchers, patient advocates, healthcare professionals, funders and policymakers from around the world, the event will explore current challenges and future opportunities in cancer research, with a particular focus on the power of collaboration to drive progress and improve outcomes for people affected by cancer.

On 24 September, organizations and individuals around the world are invited to celebrate World Cancer Research Day by sharing campaign materials, participating in local activities, and joining the global conversation using #WorldCancerResearchDay.

Together, we can continue building a future in which cancer research delivers hope, innovation, and better outcomes for everyone.

About World Cancer Research Day

World Cancer Research Day is an international initiative established in 2016 by ten founding organizations committed to increasing awareness of the importance of cancer research under the leadership of the Spanish Association Against Cancer. **Celebrated annually on 24 September**, the initiative seeks to engage society in supporting cancer research and recognizing its essential role in improving cancer prevention, early detection, treatment, survivorship and quality of life.

For more information:

worldcancerresearchday.org

<https://www.instagram.com/worldcancerresearchday/>

<https://www.facebook.com/WorldCancerResearchDay/>

<https://x.com/wcrd24sept>

The ten founding organizations:

- [American Association for Cancer Research \(AACR\)](#)
- [American Society of Clinical Oncology \(ASCO\)](#)
- [Fondazione AIRC per la Ricerca sul Cancro ETS \(AIRC\)](#)
- [European Association for Cancer Research \(EACR\)](#)
- [European Society for Medical Oncology \(ESMO\)](#)
- [Cancer Research UK \(CRUK\)](#)

- [International Agency for Research on Cancer \(IARC\)](#)
- [National Cancer Institute \(NCI-NIH\)](#)
- [Union for International Cancer Control \(UICC\)](#)

Joining the WCRD 2026 Edition

- [European Organisation for Research and Treatment of Cancer \(EORTC\)](#)
- [Cancer Patients Europe \(CPE\)](#)
- [Global Colon Cancer Association \(GCCA\)](#)
- [World Patients Alliance \(WPA\)](#)