



**50** YEARS

**ECRF supporting EORTC  
clinical research & education**

# About EORTC

EORTC is Europe's leading multidisciplinary clinical cancer research organisation whose work spans **across cancers, types of treatments and national borders**. Its mission is to coordinate and conduct international translational and clinical research to **improve the standard of cancer treatment for patients**, thereby enhancing both their survival rates and quality of life.

For over 60 years, EORTC has provided a unique platform for cancer clinical researchers to meet. Today, our network brings together **over 1,100 hospitals** and **4,200 doctors** from **over 70 countries** to collaborate on critical clinical questions. EORTC's role is to continue improving the way cancer is being treated in the best interest of patients. It prioritises inclusivity in cancer research, advancing studies for all patients.



*"Next to being inclusive of all patients, EORTC has enabled a multidisciplinary agenda addressing all treatment methods as well as complex clinical situations and specific patients populations such as older adults and rare cancers."*

**Denis Lacombe**  
EORTC CEO



European  
Organisation  
for Research and  
Treatment of Cancer

# EORTC's five pillars of activity

EORTC's clinical research is patient-centric, multidisciplinary, and spans across all tumour types. Our activities fall into five fundamental areas:

## THERAPEUTIC ACADEMIC TRIALS

Shedding light on the therapeutics agenda of cancer, EORTC's academic clinical research optimises and **changes standards of practice**, offering new hope for patients.

## ACCELERATING INNOVATION

EORTC constantly responds to rapid changes in cancer healthcare with **innovation**. EORTC is a pioneer in exploring novel pathways and **mechanisms**, to constantly improve both patient survival and quality of life.

## TRANSLATIONAL RESEARCH

Unveiling the unknowns of cancer biology through translational research. EORTC collects biological material to deepen its understanding and guides personalised treatments based on patients' individual tumour analysis.

## INFRASTRUCTURE

Building efficient and comprehensive cancer research infrastructure. EORTC collaborates very actively with partner organisations, institutions, and hospitals to deliver high-quality multidimensional datasets, advancing its understanding in cancer.

## EDUCATION

Empowering **the next generation** of cancer researchers and healthcare workers. EORTC shares knowledge, best practices, and fosters global dialogue to ensure a brighter future in cancer care. It educates between 10-20 young clinical researchers every year coming from across the world.

# What is clinical cancer research?

When you partner with EORTC, you support patient-centred clinical research that improves survival and quality of life.

Cancer clinical trials are studies that investigate treatments involving cancer patients willing to participate. Scientists and doctors are constantly seeking to develop innovative, more effective, and less toxic treatments to improve the survival and quality of life of cancer patients.



Clinical trials are necessary to confirm the safety and effectiveness of new treatments and decide whether side effects are acceptable when weighed against benefits.

Some clinical trials **evaluate** new drugs, whilst others **optimise** different therapeutic approaches including surgery, radiation therapy and the combinations of drugs already on the market. There may be risks as well as benefits with any new drug or treatment. That's why clinical trials are very closely monitored and conducted in hospitals or through outpatient departments.

## Advancing cancer treatment & care through academic clinical research

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Academic clinical cancer research, refers to a clinical research that is not funded by pharmaceutical or biotechnology companies for commercialisation, but by non-profit clinical research organisations such as EORTC.

This research is crucial for our healthcare systems, benefiting patients and contributing to our understanding of the effectiveness of cancer drugs and medical devices for cancer such as radiotherapy.

In academic clinical cancer research, experts concentrate on optimising existing therapies and establishing new approaches for unmet clinical needs, such as, but not limited to, rare cancers. They investigate how combining registered drugs can enhance treatment outcomes and how approved treatments can address less common types of cancer. Encompassing various treatment disciplines like surgery, radiotherapy, and chemotherapy, the goal is to advance cancer healthcare practices.

# Delivering practice-changing results

Since 1962, EORTC has been delivering practice-changing clinical trials across tumour types, notably for brain, breast, prostate, head and neck, lung, melanoma, and soft tissue and bone sarcoma.

Bringing together a global network of doctors and researchers, EORTC drives innovation in cancer care and delivers results that change clinical practice.

## Fighting cancer with clinical research

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Clinical trials are the most important step on the journey from the laboratory to the patient's bedside. At EORTC, no tumour is too rare to tackle. EORTC's research is solution-driven for all types of cancers, regardless of their commercial value.

In the past two decades, the number of people diagnosed with cancer has increased

dramatically. The number of deaths from cancer has also increased, from 6.2 million in 2000 to 10 million in 2020<sup>i</sup>, largely driven by the increasing longevity of life, population growth, and unhealthy lifestyles. It is predicted that the number of all cancer types will double by 2070, relative to 2020 levels<sup>ii</sup>. This is the stark reality that fuels EORTC's purpose and is why EORTC works relentlessly to deliver practice changing results and ensure that cancer remains an urgent priority on the public health agenda in the countries where it is present.

<sup>i</sup> WHO: [www.who.int/news/item/03-02-2021-breast-cancer-now-most-common-form-of-cancer-who-taking-action](http://www.who.int/news/item/03-02-2021-breast-cancer-now-most-common-form-of-cancer-who-taking-action)

<sup>ii</sup> Nature Reviews Clinical Oncology: [www.nature.com/articles/s41571-021-00514-z](http://www.nature.com/articles/s41571-021-00514-z)



Scan here to discover more about EORTC's practice-changing trials



# Contact us



ECRF makes it easy for businesses and individuals to support its mission.

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Take the first step and reach out to the team to start a conversation today!



## Donate today

Scan the code or [visit our donate page](#).



### **BELGIUM - ECRF**

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### **UNITED KINGDOM - Friends of EORTC**

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### **FRANCE - Fondation Française RTC**

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### **REST OF EUROPE & USA**

for EORTC Cancer Research fund

For bank transfers, please indicate the type of cancer you would like your donation to support, or write "Unrestricted" if you prefer to leave it open.