

# **The Comprehensive Cancer Centre for quality and innovation of cancer care**

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# Cancer – an increasing societal problem

- The number of new cancer patients in Europe will increase from 3,6 to 4,3 million in the next two decades, amounting to 716 000 additional cases annually.
- The number of patients living with a cancer diagnosis is increasing even more – cancer is becoming a main chronic disease.
- Globally, 23 000 patients die every day due to cancer.
- **Health care and prevention are not balancing the increasing problem. We need innovation of cancer care and prevention**

## There are two main barriers

- **The intrinsic complexity of cancer** – large number of diseases and subgroups with variability in outcome, genomic instability and heterogeneity
- **Fragmentation** – research, clinical care, prevention, funding

# Main reasons for fragmentation of cancer research

- **Suboptimal translational cancer research** – both early and late translational research
- **Lack of critical mass**
- Outcomes of the EUROCAN+PLUS project

# The Comprehensive Cancer Centre – a key structure

## Integration of:

- Multidisciplinary/multiprofessional cancer care
- Prevention
- Research for innovation– translational cancer research
- Education

# Criteria and quality assurance of Comprehensive Cancer Centres

- The **Comprehensive Cancer Centre (CCC)** has all components for care, prevention, research and education with aim to innovate
- **Accreditation programs** by:
  - Organisation of European Cancer Institutes (OEI)
  - German Cancer Aid (Deutsche Krebshilfe)

**Cancer care is an infrastructure for research**

# High quality cancer - an increasing challenge

- A complete multidisciplinary/professional care has to cover the whole clinical pathway
- All diagnostic and treatment/care components have to be integrated in one organisation
- Quality is dependent on a continuous innovation
- The increasing knowledge of cancer biology is a prerequisite for development of predictive and personalized cancer medicine

# Translational cancer research – a coherent research continuum

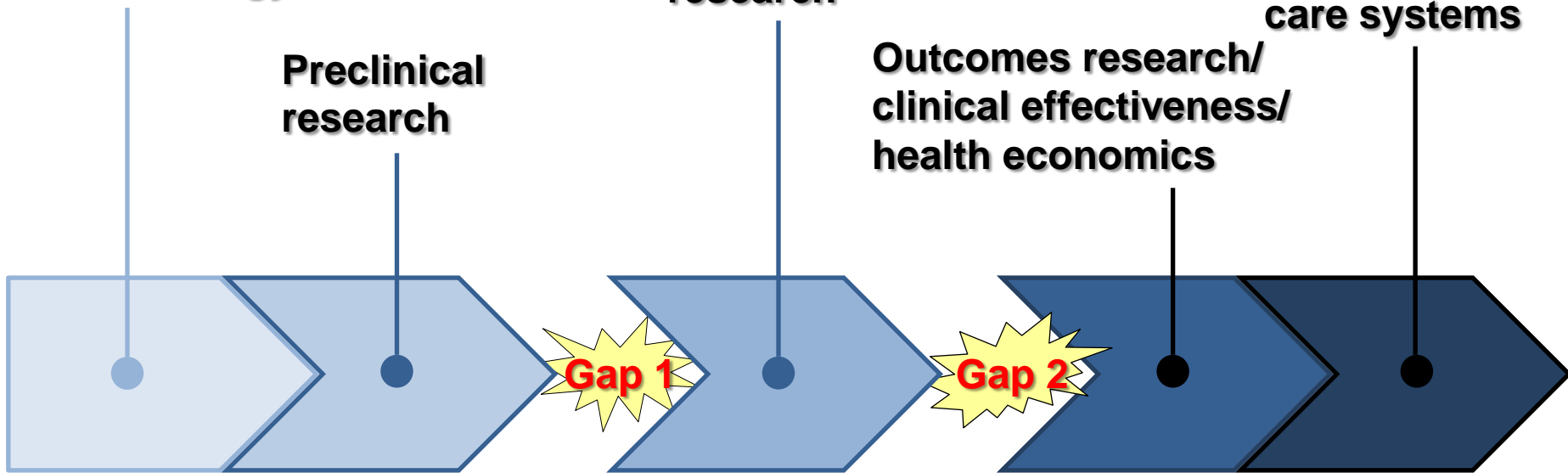
**Basic research/  
cancer biology**

**Preclinical  
research**

**Clinical  
research**

**Outcomes research/  
clinical effectiveness/  
health economics**

**Adoption in  
the health  
care systems**





# Infrastructures and resources needed for translational cancer research

- Technical omics platforms, bioinformatics and functional/molecular imaging
- Screening facilities for new anticancer agents
- Animal facilities/models
- Clinical trial structures for early clinical trials and next generation clinical trials
- Pharmacology
- Biobanks for tumours, normal tissues and liquid biopsies

## **Infrastructures and resources needed for translational cancer research, cont.**

- Quality assured patient registries containing treatment information, also for long term follow-up
- Structure for bidirectional translational research – clinical registries with treatment information and biological materials
- Biostatistics, epidemiology and outcomes research
- Structure for health related quality of life assessment

# **EurocanPlatform project**

- Focus on critical mass for personalized/precision cancer medicine research by collaboration between cancer research centres
- Deliverables:
  - Cancer Core Europe
  - Cancer Prevention Europe
  - Program for Designation of CCCs of Excellence

# Collaboration between centres necessary to reach the critical mass – a few examples

- Personalized and predictive cancer medicine – biomarker discovery & validation
- Genetic dependencies of tumours – taxonomy
- Next generation clinical trials
- Bidirectional translational cancer research
- Outcomes research – clinical validation/utility of innovations, survivorship

# Six Comprehensive Cancer Centers



# Criteria and quality assurance of Comprehensive Cancer Centres of Excellence

- A designation program has been developed by the EurocanPlatform project & the European Academy of Cancer Sciences
- Accredited Comprehensive Cancer Centres (CCCs) can be assessed by the European Academy of Cancer Sciences for designation of excellence
- Focus on assessment of **translational cancer research** in a CCC

## A parallel development in Germany

- **German Cancer Research Consortium (DKTK)** – a formal collaboration between eight German CCCs
- **National Center for Tumour diseases** – now a partnership between two DKTK centres – aim to strengthen the clinical part of translational cancer research

# Personalized/precision cancer medicine

- Critical mass regarding patients and biological materials
- Sharing technological resources
- Sharing competences
- Environment for open science – sharing clinical and research data

**Open science is a key question**



# Molecular taxonomy replacing histogenetic classification of tumours

- Genomics
  - Epigenomics
  - Transcriptomics
  - Proteomics
  - Metabolomics
- 
- Mutations driving the tumour
  - **Molecular pathways driving the tumour**

# Next generation clinical trials

- Histology based – enrichment of patients
- Histology agnostic
- Platform trials
- Basket trials
- Adaptive trials
- Single subject clinical trials – “N-of-1”
  
- **Dependent of improved stratification methods**
- **Molecular imaging**

# Bidirectional translational research

- Clinical information linked to biological materials
- Biopsies before, after and during treatment – tumour tissue, liquid biopsies, normal tissue
- Biomarker discovery – prediction of antitumour effects and side-effects
- Resistance – intrinsic, acquired
- Tumour cell heterogeneity
- Tumour infrastructure

**Bridging preclinical and clinical research**

# Outcomes research

- Outcomes of innovations from early translational research – new drugs and diagnostic technologies
- Outcomes of added value of innovations when compared to existing treatment programs
- Assessment of health related quality of life
- Outcomes of treatment in real life
- Long-term follow-up – cancer survivorship

**End points: both survival and quality of life**

# Clinical efficacy versus clinical effectiveness

- Assumptions on the effects of anti-cancer therapies are usually based on results from clinical trials i.e. the **clinical efficacy**.
- We need data on **clinical effectiveness**, i.e. effects of a new therapeutic intervention on a population based patient cohort, **equal to clinical validation**
- Data on clinical effectiveness necessary for **cost-effectiveness** assessment

# Health expenditure on cancer in EU

- €35.7 billion in 1995
- €83.2 billion in 2014

## Drugs:

- €7.6 billion in 2005
- €19.1 billion in 2014

B. Jönsson

9/10 drugs are failing registration  
Costs for one approved drug  
800 million USD



# Cancer – a model for the main chronic diseases

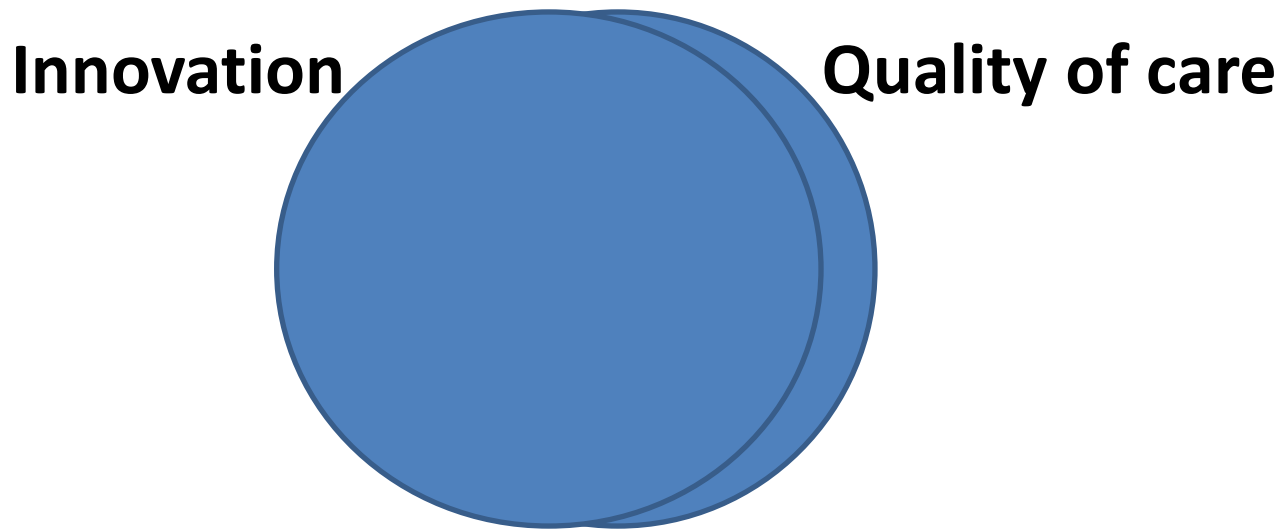
- Research strategies for translational cancer research towards personalized/precision cancer medicine and prevention
- Quality assured research environments for translational cancer research, CCCs
- Consortias of CCCs to reach the critical mass
- European Academy of Cancer Sciences for science policy support and analyses of research strategies

# Quality and innovation cannot be separated in cancer care

- Improved early translational cancer research increases the demands on the clinical research
- Improved structuring and collaboration will allow more patients to participate in research – new treatments available for more patients
- Research to assess the added clinical value of innovations is an unmet need and should be increased – new treatments available for the health care
- Addition of health economics (cost-effectiveness) makes prioritisation in the health care possible
- Efficient innovation and quality of care will not be possible without CCCs and collaborations between CCCs



# So, quality of care and innovation – two sides of the same coin



**Congratulations to Athens and Germany for important contribution to integrated European cancer research!**

**THANKS!**