

Towards beating cancer



It has been a very successful year for Cancer Research UK. Working with our partners at home and abroad, our researchers made significant progress towards developing new ways to prevent, diagnose and treat cancer.

We were guided by the ten ambitious goals that continue to shape our work. Setting out our priorities, these goals explain how we intend to make a lasting impact in the fight against cancer.

Our efforts are already paying off: over the last 30 years, overall ten-year survival rates have doubled. Cancer Research UK has been at the heart of this progress – but there is so much more to do. Our vision is to change the world for future generations by beating cancer.

International reputation

Our reputation as an internationally recognised leader in cancer research goes from strength to strength. In December 2007, we announced plans to join the [Medical Research Council](#) (MRC), the [Wellcome Trust](#) and [University College London](#) to build a world-class research institute in London: the UK Centre for Medical Research and Innovation.

We also completed the [Cancer Research UK-MRC Gray Institute for Radiation Oncology & Biology](#) in Oxford. This new centre will play a vital role in improving and refining radiotherapy treatments for cancer patients.

During the year, our [Beatson Institute for Cancer Research](#) in Glasgow completed the development of a new cancer research centre. The Institute has continued to pursue research into the causes and mechanisms of cancer, in the fields of genetics and cell and molecular biology. This has led to numerous important discoveries.

Strategies for success

Sustaining our reputation for world-class research requires huge investment and careful planning. This year, our research spending reached a record £333 million. To ensure that future research funds are put to the best possible use, we will be publishing a new five-year research strategy in the coming year.

Lobbying results

Our lobbying efforts bore fruit when the Government published an ambitious new Cancer Reform Strategy to improve cancer services and ensure that all patients benefit from research advances. We are working alongside the Government and the NHS to transform the strategy into positive results.

Inspirational support

We could not have achieved so much without the dedication of our supporters, who raised a record £420 million. There are millions of people around the UK who are making their own personal contributions towards beating cancer, from helping our research by taking part in a clinical trial, to raising vital funds or volunteering at our events.

We thank the 665,000 women who took part in our flagship [Race for Life](#) event, and all the people that joined in the increasingly popular Relay for Life.

We would also like to thank the people who make regular contributions by Direct Debit. Knowing that their contributions will arrive regularly each month means that we can plan ahead and channel our resources in the best way possible.

Timely recognition

We would like to congratulate Professor Sir Alex Markham, our former Chief Executive and current Senior Medical Adviser; and Professor Sir Bruce Ponder, Director of our [Cambridge Research Institute](#), who were awarded knighthoods in the Queen's New Year Honours in recognition of their services to medicine.

Inspired by their achievements and those of everyone associated with Cancer Research UK, we look forward to making further progress towards beating cancer during the year ahead.

Two handwritten signatures in blue ink. The first signature is 'David Newbigging' and the second is 'Harpal S Kumar'. Both signatures are written in a cursive style.

David Newbigging, Chairman
Harpal S Kumar, Chief Executive
30 July 2008