



## IMPORTANCE OF COLLABORATION IN CANCER RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTED AHEAD OF WORLD CANCER DAY 2018

**1 February 2018**

The Association of European Cancer Leagues (ECL), Cancer Research UK (CRUK) and the European Society for Paediatric Oncology (SIOPE Europe, or SIOPE) are coming together to mark World Cancer Day on 4 February 2018. Cancer is an accelerating global disease, and we must join forces to advance research and improve patient outcomes across the European Union (EU) and beyond. In 2014, cancer accounted for 26.4% of all deaths in the EU-28.

This World Cancer Day, ECL, Cancer Research UK and SIOPE are highlighting the importance of collaboration in cancer research. Cancer knows no borders, and research is taking place across the EU, improving survival and giving people more time. We need to continue to ensure that EU policies and the regulatory environment support international medical collaboration.

Sarah Woolnough, Executive Director of Policy and Information at Cancer Research UK said: *"International collaboration is the backbone of research. Cancer Research UK directly funds nearly 200 clinical trials, and 28% of these involve at least one other EU country. On World Cancer Day, we want to raise awareness and celebrate the importance of collaboration to beat cancer sooner for patients across Europe and beyond."*

Rui Medeiros, an ECL Executive Board member says: *"We must consider research as the key source for new solutions on cancer prevention and treatment. Furthermore, comprehensive engagement of the community on the need of collaboration in cancer research and strengthening the role of its representative organizations such as ECL is a must."*

Collaboration is particularly important for research into rare cancers, where populations are small in individual member states, including all childhood cancers. Prof. Martin Schrappe, SIOPE President said: *"Childhood cancers remain the leading cause of children's death by disease in Europe over the age of one and contributes to morbidity in survivors. Urgently needed progress can only be achieved through continued multi-stakeholder cooperation. SIOPE counts on all actors to join us in further efforts towards boosting therapeutic innovation for children and adolescents with cancer."*

There is still a lot to be done to beat cancer and we are determined to ensure patient access to innovation by continuous engagement in research and collaboration with decision-makers, patients, healthcare professionals, researchers and others to fight the increasing cancer burden.