



## Croatian Association for Cancer Research

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The Croatian Association for Cancer Research (Hrvatsko društvo za istraživanje raka, HDIR) has been formed in 2009 at the Ruđer Bošković Institute, and become a member of the 'European Association for Cancer Research' (EACR), largest European Society for Cancer Research.



Hrvatsko društvo za istraživanje raka  
(Croatian Association for Cancer Research)

The goal of HDIR is to promote cancer research in Croatia by improving connection of basic and clinical research of cancer, better scientific communication with scientists, and to establish stronger connection with the EACR.

Croatian scientists who are involved in cancer research are spread in a few universities, clinical hospitals and research institutes, although highest concentration is in capitol of Croatia, in Zagreb. Highest concentration of cancer research is in the Ruđer Bošković Institute, who in last decade is covering most of the cancer projects together with Medical Faculty and Faculty of Natural Sciences, Clinical hospitals and University hospital for tumors, Clinical hospital Center Rebro, Sisters of Charity and Šalata – all located in Zagreb.

But, beside Zagreb there are several University Centers in the country namely Rijeka, Osijek, Split and lately Dubrovnik who are developing research groups in cancer genetics, pathology and epidemiology.

In Croatia clinical cancer researchers in clinical hospitals are professionally affiliated more to European Society for Medical Oncology (ESMO) or to European Society for Therapeutic Radiology and Oncology (ESTRO) who are, as is EACR, members of European Cancer Organisation (ECCO). ECCO is the umbrella organisation in the European Cancer world which upholds the right of all European cancer patients to the best possible treatment and care. ECCO now has some 24 member organisations, representing 50 000 professionals and other stakeholders in the European oncologic world.

Most members of the cancer research community who are members of cancer organisations under ECCO, as is EACR, are automatically members of ECCO.

Today is more visible that EACR has a central role in ECCO as main link between clinical and cancer research providing translational research toward main object, to society and to individual. Best description of an overview of the activities of this association was done by Anne-Lise Børresen-Dale 'cancer is disease of DNA, a disease of mole-

cule, of a cell, of an organ of an individual, of a family, of population'. Therefore, to look at all these aspects you need to integrate all kinds of social, basic and clinical efforts. Main intention of EACR improving its role and is growing rapidly last few years, involving not only individual members, as was mostly first few decades of its establishment, but nowadays involvement of national societies in Europe, and not only in Europe. EACR established a good partnership connections with Societies abroad, most important with USA, last few years with Australian Lorne Cancer Conference, and recently with Brazilian, whose representatives gave an overview on cancer developments and potential for collaboration. It is obvious that cancer requires global collaboration, relationships and partnerships among health and research institutions.

Till last year Croatia counted 40 members of EACR and by forming national society intention is for having bigger organisation. It is a honour challenge to be a one even small particle in cancer world. We as a young national Society are proud to be a part of this global network, we almost doubled in members and hope with

more activities we shall be recognisable. Because intention in general medicine is individualisation of disease, it is individualisation of cancer medicine which is based on the understanding of the biological mechanisms underlying the disease and patient: the right treatment to the right patient at the right doses and at the right time, but need to put all heads together.

In 2010 our Society will have first scientific Meeting addressing the topics »From bench to clinic» with invited lectures by respectable persons in the field of cancer research.

The goal of this meeting is to promote our society and cancer research in Croatia, improve connection of basic and clinical research of cancer, better communication between basic and clinical research, better scientific communication with scientists, and to establish a better connection with the EACR.

We hope that all members of HDIR will contribute to the main aim of the Society and will contribute with new strenght toward new ways of cancer treatments.