

THE EUROPEAN ORGANISATION FOR RESEARCH AND TREATMENT OF CANCER (EORTC) was founded in 1962 with the objective of promoting and stimulating cancer research in Europe. During the twenty-five years of its existence research has developed along multidisciplinary lines and has resulted in a worldwide improvement in the basic understanding and treatment of cancer. The EORTC has become a focal point in Europe and holds a supra-national, independent professional position. It provides guide-lines and gives a lead in the many areas of basic and clinical cancer research.

The EORTC is now one of the largest international organisations for research on cancer, with 285 collaborating institutions and a data bank of clinical data with more than 42 000 records of cancer patients.

The Organisation comprises four main branches:

- Prevention and Epidemiology,
- Basic Research (Advisory),
- Treatment, and
- Education

The EORTC is governed by a General Assembly which elects a Board and which is composed of the Chairman of the Committees, of the Co-operative Groups, the Study Groups and the Project Groups. There are 17 Co-operative Groups related to specific tumours, 8 Study Groups and 3 Project Groups. The Data Centre is the central body providing data processing and statistical support to these groups. It was set up in 1974 and, as of today, comprises 25 scientists and technicians.

A New Drug Development Office was set up in 1984. Thanks to a gift from the Belgian Government, a Central Office for the Organisation will be set up in 1989.

The EORTC Foundation was created in 1976 with the specific aim of raising funds for the Organisation.

The EORTC will actively contribute to the European Community Project —Europe against Cancer— and thereby continue its work of development and education with the objective of strengthening and uniting Europe in the fields of basic and clinical cancer research.