

The logo for Cris cancer foundation features the word "Cris" in a large, white, sans-serif font. The letters are set against a background of overlapping, semi-transparent colored squares in shades of cyan, magenta, red, and green. Below "Cris", the words "cancer foundation" are written in a smaller, white, sans-serif font.

Cris
cancer foundation

**ANNUAL REPORT
2022**

A photograph of a male scientist in a white lab coat and blue gloves, focused on his work in a laboratory. He is using a pipette to transfer liquid into a multi-well plate. The background shows shelves with various lab equipment, including pipettes, racks, and boxes. The lighting is bright, and the overall atmosphere is professional and scientific.

**TOGETHER WE CAN CHANGE
THE FUTURE OF CANCER**



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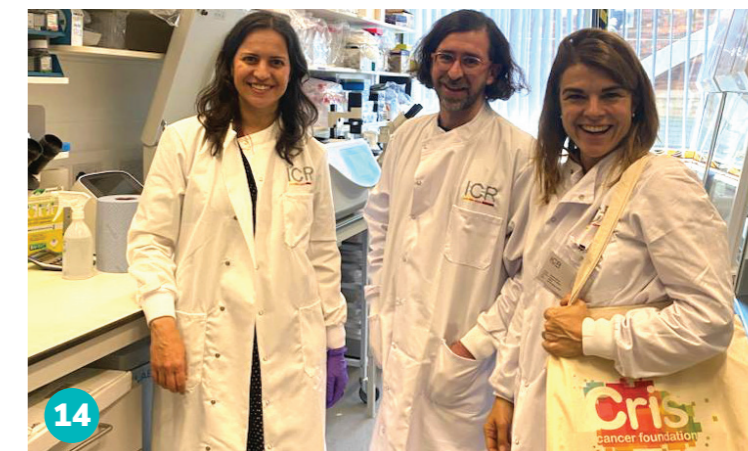
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Princess Margaret Cancer Centre
Toronto (Canada)

Dr. Fabrice André
Gustave Roussy
Paris (France)

TEAMS | RESEARCHERS | AMBASSADORS | VOLUNTEERS



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The CRIS Cancer Foundation is an independent British non-profit organisation, fully dedicated to facilitating and developing research to combat cancer.

We are an **international charity** that funds research into pioneering new cancer treatments to give the best chance of survival to patients who do not respond to conventional treatments.

By stepping in where there are gaps in **funding, and collaborating and building alliances worldwide with top research institutions**, we support research scientists to speed up innovative therapies – bringing hope to thousands of cancer patients.

In addition, since its creation in 2010, the CRIS Cancer Foundation has been **identifying talent amongst researchers** worldwide. Through our **grants and fellowships**, we give scientists the funding and **support** they need throughout their research **careers** to make significant discoveries in cancer treatments.

Our cancer **facilities in public hospitals (Units)** and research centres in Europe are giving more patients the chance to access new treatments. Teams of doctors, researchers, bioinformatics, nurses, clinical trial technicians and immunologists work together in CRIS units to treat every type of cancer.



Lola Manterola,
Chair and Co-Founder, CRIS Cancer Foundation

WE ARE COMMITTED TO FUNDING RESEARCH; THE ONLY VIABLE WAY TO COMBAT CANCER.

Research continues to give us hope

Dear Friends,
I am delighted to present the CRIS Cancer Foundation Annual Report. The report reflects the work which CRIS Cancer has carried out both in the UK and globally in 2022. I hope that it also shows the immense dedication of the CRIS team and volunteers, of whom I am extremely proud.

CRIS continues to grow, thanks to your help, and we now have three headquarters - in three different countries: the UK, Spain and France. Having three bases allows us to be more dynamic; connecting the best researchers and scientists from all over the world who share their knowledge and combine their expertise to make faster and greater advances in treatments.

Research is the only way to beat cancer. We believe that by sharing scientific advances we will develop the fastest path to discovering innovative treatments. This is why, at CRIS Cancer, we are focused on growing our funding for research both in the UK and internationally year on year.

In the long term, our goal is to discover effective treatments to defeat this disease. To do this, we promote and finance research so that patients who do not respond to conventional treatments have access to other life saving therapies through clinical trials, studies, projects and specialised units.

Cancer patients deserve a second chance at life.

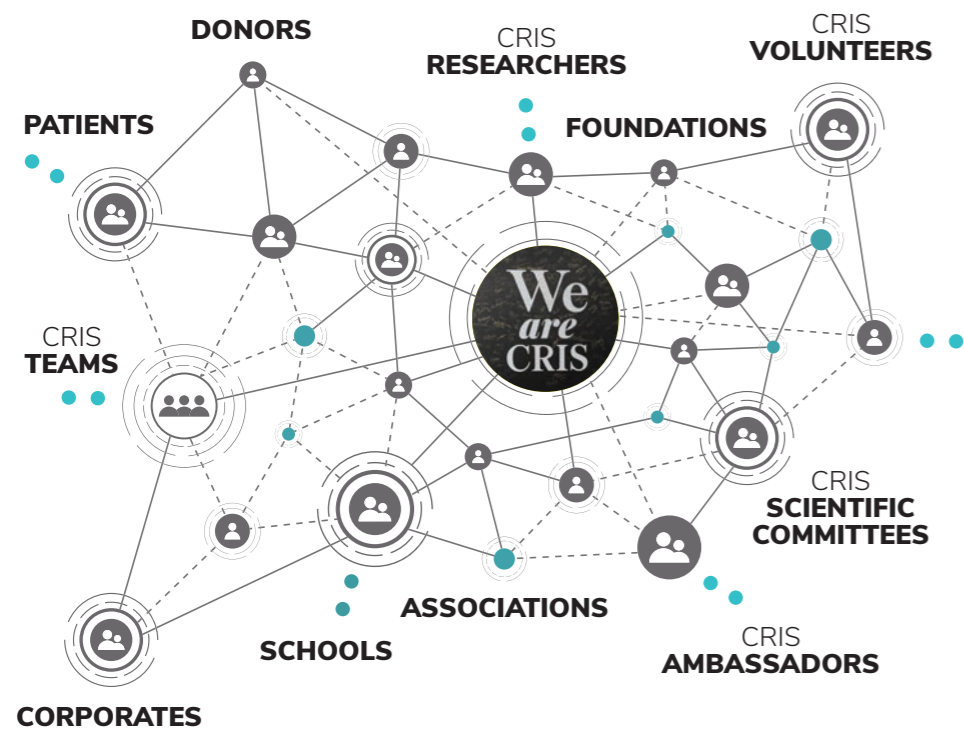
The support from our donors, your support, is fundamental to carrying out our work, which is to finance the most talented researchers and partner with centres of excellence both nationally and internationally as well as financing new ones so that patients can receive the most advanced treatments.

Cancer patients are in a race against time. Science needs to advance as quickly as possible.

Thanks to your support and commitment, to that of our regular donors, thanks to thousands of companies and the donations of major donors, we are succeeding in forging a path to faster, better treatments and to an end to cancer.

Lola Manterola
Chair and Co-Founder, CRIS Cancer Foundation

WE ARE CRIS



The CRIS community is made up of a network of people following the same dream: to fight cancer through research. Together we are beating cancer. Together we are Stronger.



CRIS uses its international partnerships to boost scientific breakthroughs.

Cancer knows no boundaries, which is why the CRIS Cancer Foundation is global. Since its creation in 2010, CRIS has been developing its international strategy through partnerships, grants and projects with leading entities and research centres that share the same scientific goals in the fight against cancer. What is the goal? To build a broad network of collaborators to speed up the pace of scientific breakthroughs that will allow new treatments to be developed.



2022 was a year of intense international expansion for the CRIS Cancer Foundation. Not only did we initiate and strengthen partnerships in the UK with ICR, GOSH Charity and Oxford Cancer to name but a few, but also further afield, we established new programmes, projects, grants and partnerships which have enriched our network of connections abroad.

Annual overview

In France, together with Institut Gustave Roussy in Paris, probably the most important cancer research centre in France, we launched a call for proposals to fund collaborative clinical trials led by French and Spanish researchers.

The aim of this project is to understand how we can reduce the toxicity of cancer treatments and improve the quality of life of patients in the long term. This new collaboration, along with the Brain Cancer Project (DIPG) led by Prof. Jacques Grille, that has been funded since 2019, attests the close relationship between CRIS and Institut Gustave Roussy.

In Spain, thanks to the ever growing CRIS presence and over 70,000 monthly donors as of end of June 2023, we have been able to expand our Experimental Treatment Unit Madrid (the fourth CRIS specialised Unit in Spain) where solid tumour patients can access the most advanced clinical trials. We have been able to fund a new clinical trial for triple negative breast cancer and invested

more funds in CAR-T cell treatment for childhood cancer; specifically for young patients in relapse. Adding to the 5 breast cancer projects which we already fund, we have launched a project into metastasised breast cancer which studies the tumour in all of its phases.

In 2022 we also added to our programmes. In collaboration with the Spanish Society of Oncology Radiologists, we have launched a Masters programme in which radiation oncologists receive exclusive training in research and are encouraged to develop their own projects.

Another major international milestone for CRIS in 2022 was our collaboration with the Fight Kids Cancer consortium, which brings together associations from different European countries to fund highly ambitious projects and clinical trials with the potential to be a game changer for childhood cancer. All of these initiatives align with CRIS Cancer Foundation's overarching strategy of supporting and training brilliant researchers at different points in their careers and promoting research projects that can lead to breakthroughs in cancer treatment for children and adults.

In the US, we renewed partnerships with the Prostate Cancer Foundation and the Damon Runyon Cancer Research Foundation. We also joined a new training programme for drug development geared towards European researchers in collaboration with the Princess Margaret Cancer Center in Canada.



1) The 2023 Science Day brought together representatives of CRIS cancer (in the centre, Lola Manterola and Marta Cardona, President and Director of CRIS Spain respectively), researchers and representatives of the international entities with which CRIS against cancer collaborates. 2) Dr. Dimitrios Doultosinos, recipient of the CRIS-PCF Young Investigator Award. 3) Dr. Alexander Wurzer, recipient of the CRIS-PCF Young Investigator Award.

CRIS PROJECTS

- **London:** Institute of Cancer Research (ICR), Great Ormond Street Hospital (GOSH)
- **Paris:** Institute Gustave Roussy
- **Nize:** Centre Méditerranéen de Médecine Moléculaire
- **Massachusetts:** General Hospital Cancer Center, US
- **Madrid:** Hospital 12 de Octubre, CNIO, Hospital de la Princesa, Hospital Clínico San Carlos, MD Anderson, Hospital Universitario de la Paz, Hospital Universitario Niño Jesús, Centro Nacional de Biología Molecular Severo Ochoa, Centro Integral Oncológico Clara Campal.
- **Barcelona:** IRB, Hospital Sant Joan de Deu, VHIO, Hospital Clínic, MIM
- **Pamplona:** Clínica Universidad de Navarra
- **Bilbao:** CIC bioGUNE
- **Vitoria:** Universidad del País Vasco
- **Málaga:** IBIMA
- **Sevilla:** IBIS Sevilla
- **Valencia:** INCLIVA Valencia
- **Salamanca:** CIC
- **Albacete:** CHUA
- **Murcia:** Instituto de Neurociencias CSIC-UMH

CRIS RESEARCH FELLOWSHIPS

- **London:** ICR, Royal Marsden NHS Foundation Trust
- **Oxford:** Oxford University
- **Southampton:** University Hospital
- **Glasgow:** The Beatson Cancer Center
- **Barcelona:** VHIR, VHIO
- **Madrid:** Universidad Complutense de Madrid, Universidad Francisco de Vitoria
- **Murcia:** Hospital Virgen de la Arrixaca
- **Paris:** Institute Gustave Roussy
- **Lyon:** Centre Hospitalier
- **Aarhus:** Aarhus University Hospital
- **Utrecht:** Princess Maxima Center
- **Boston:** Dana-Farber Cancer Institute
- **Nashville:** Vanderbilt Ingram Cancer Center
- **New York:** Mount Sinai School of Medicine, Weill Cornell Medicine, Columbia University
- **Dallas:** UT Southwestern Medical Center
- **Toronto:** Princess Margaret

Lola Manterola, President of CRIS Cancer Foundation, together with Prof. Paul Workman, President of the International Scientific Committee.



CO-FUNDING WITH INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTIONS

- **London:** University College (PCF)
- **Newcastle:** Newcastle University (PCF)
- **Oxford:** Oxford University (PCF)
- **Munich:** Technical University (PCF)
- **Barcelona:** VHIR, Spain (FKC)
- **Utrecht:** Princess Maxima Center (FKC)
- **Paris:** Institute Gustave Roussy (FKC)
- **Amsterdam:** University of Amsterdam (FKC)
- **Israel:** Schneider Children's Medical Center (FKC)
- **Dublin:** University College Dublin (FKC)
- **Cambridge:** University of Cambridge, The Gurdon Institute (Damon Runyon)
- **Tübingen:** Eberhard Karl University (Damon Runyon)
- **Israel:** Weizmann Institute of Science (Damon Runyon)
- **Geneva:** University of Geneva (Damon Runyon)

PCF: Prostate Cancer Foundation (USA)
FKC: Fight Kids Cancer (Europe)

Over the last **12 years** we have invested **over £34 million to date** in research worldwide supporting scientists to develop pioneering new treatments for people living with cancer.

CRIS MULTIPLYING EFFECT ON CANCER RESEARCH INVESTMENT

On top of the £34 million directly invested, CRIS's research initiatives, chosen by our scientific committee, manage to attract funds from third-party sources to multiply its investment in cancer research.

X2

CRIS ENCOURAGES CO-FUNDING WITH OTHER CHARITIES THAT MATCH INITIAL INVESTMENT

X3

CRIS INVESTS IN CRIS CANCER RESEARCH UNITS; ATTRACTING INVESTMENT FROM OTHER ENTITIES.

X10

CRIS FUNDS PROJECTS ACHIEVING SUCCESSFUL OUTCOMES WHICH ATTRACTS LARGE GRANTS FROM OTHER FUNDING ENTITIES (E.G. THE EU)

Our Impact on Research (2011-2022)



LEADING CLINICAL TRIAL IN AGGRESSIVE PAEDIATRIC BRAIN TUMOURS

Great Ormond Street Hospital, London(GOSH Charity)

1 NEW
Clinical trial
4 Projects in total

CRIS is funding a clinical trial led by Prof. Karin Straathof and Prof Darren Hargrave in which 12 children with diffuse midline glioma (DMG), an aggressive type of brain tumour, undergo treatment using new CAR-T therapy. This harnesses the patient's own immune system to attack the cancer cells. At CRIS we are committed to helping scientists give these children new hope. To this end, we also continue to support Prof. C Jones at ICR (London) , Dr Jacques Grill at the Gustave Roussy Institute (Paris) and Dr. Lassaletta at Niño Jesús Hospital (Madrid) in the fight against this aggressive tumour.

OXFORD - CRIS PROGRAMME for medical research

Along with our previous commitment to Oxford Cancer, we will be donating a further 400K over 3 years. This is to support a fellow to join the Oxford Cancer Clinical Academic Training Programme. This agreement will be renewed every 3 years.



REAL LIFE ONCOLOGY TRIALS IN THE GUSTAVE ROUSSY INSTITUTE

Breast, kidney and lung cancer

These trials aim to establish new protocols to improve the quality of life of patients through more personalised and less toxic treatments. In 2022 we financed 3 trials coordinated by investigators in Spain and France. The Gustave Roussy Oncological Institute in Paris is one of the most prestigious centres of investigation in the world.

3 Clinical trials
Breast, lung and kidney
1.5M

INSTITUTE OF CANCER RESEARCH

ICR

As well as the launch of new projects, CRIS cancer has renewed funding for the following cancer research projects at the Institute of Cancer Research: Thoracic Immunotherapy research Group, Centre of Translational Immunotherapy, Head and Neck project , Paediatric Brain Tumour project, Multiple Myeloma project and Chordoma project.



FIGHT KIDS CANCER

Paediatric trials throughout Europe

CRIS has joined FKC, a Pan-European consortium of foundations, fighting against paediatric cancer. Together, we are delighted to have supported a total of seven projects in 2022 which have had a huge impact on understanding blood and neuroblastoma cancers. The combined resources of this consortium accelerates the implementation of new therapies for children living with these cancers.

7 NEW High impact projects
or child blood cancers and neuroblastoma tumours

OPENING OF AN ADVANCED THERAPY UNIT FOR SOLID TUMOURS

San Carlos Hospital, Madrid, Spain

We have set up and expanded an Experimental Therapy Unit in the San Carlos Hospital in Madrid, Spain. This pioneering unit treats patients with solid tumours and allows them access to the very latest treatments and clinical studies. This is one of four CRIS Units in public hospitals.



INCREASED INVESTMENT IN PAEDIATRIC CELL THERAPY

CRIS Children's Unit for Advanced Treatments, Hospital de la Paz, Madrid, Spain

This unit allows CRIS researchers to develop therapies for children who do not respond to conventional therapies. In 2022 two new cellular therapies were approved, both of which had been developed in this unit: CAR-T dual for children with relapsing leukaemia and activated NK cells used for clinical trials for childhood sarcomas.

2 NEW Paediatric cell therapies approved

NEW CRIS RESEARCH PROGRAMMES

4th edition of The CRIS Research Programme

The programme identifies talent and finances scientists over 5 years, helping them to reach their full potential. Through the programme we have been able to create a community of truly remarkable CRIS researchers.



US PROSTATE CANCER FOUNDATION

Co-financing of placements in leading international entities

Together with the most prestigious prostate cancer research foundation in the world, CRIS has co-financed 2 researchers through the Young Investigator Awards. This makes 4 researchers in total financed through this collaboration. As well as this, through our investigation into solutions to combat resistance to conventional treatments, there are now 7 investigative projects financed by CRIS for prostate tumours.

2 NEW Young Investigator Awards
560k
4 AWARDS in total

CRIS OUT-BACK PROGRAMME

To increase the potential and reap the rewards of investigative talent



This programme consists of 3 years abroad with the guarantee of a year's continuity on the return of the researcher to their home country. The programme also includes training for the awardee and includes the participation of medical companies and prestigious national/international scientists.

RENEWING INVESTMENT IN BREAST CANCER RESEARCH

CRIS Research project

We have begun a new project via CRIS Research Projects centred on metastasised breast cancer. With this project we now finance a total of 5 breast cancer projects which study this tumour in all of its phases.

1 NEW Breast cancer project
6 in total

MASTERS IN COLLABORATION WITH THE SPANISH SOCIETY OF ONCOLOGICAL RADIOTHERAPY (SEOR)

Oncological Radiotherapy

In collaboration with the SEOR, we have launched a Masters programme in which radiation oncologists receive exclusive training in research and are encouraged to develop their own projects. In this way we can give a helping hand to the careers of the leading investigators of the future.



Máster de Investigación en Oncología Radioterápica



Dr Karin Straathof

Supporting leading projects

Blood, breast, ovarian, prostate, lung, colon, melanoma... Thanks to the support of partners, CRIS Cancer Foundation can support projects and units focused on all types of cancer in adults and children.



CRIS ADULT PROJECTS

GENERAL ADULT CANCERS

Head and Neck Cancer

Principal researcher: Professor Kevin Harrington, Dr. Pablo Nenclares

Centre: The Institute of Cancer Research, London

Translational Immunotherapy

Principal researcher: Professor Kevin Harrington, Dr. Alan Melcher,

Centre: The Institute of Cancer Research, London

Immunotherapy on Thoracic Tumours

Principal researcher: Dr Astero Klampatsa

Centre: The Institute of Cancer Research, London

CRIS Unit for New Experimental Therapies

Principal researcher: Dr. Alberto Ocaña, Dr. Pedro Pérez Segura.

Centre: Hospital Clínico San Carlos, Madrid.

CRIS Unit in Immuno-oncology

Principal researcher: Dr. Luis Paz Ares, Dr. Luis Álvarez Vallina.

Centre: Hospital 12 de Octubre, Madrid.

Metastasis and cachexia

Principal researcher: Dr. Blanca Majem.

Centre: Institut de Recerca Biomèdica (IRB), Barcelona.

Programme: CRIS Post-Doc Programme 2021.

Mesothelioma

Principal researcher: Dr. Mercedes Herrera.

Centre: Princess Margaret Cancer Centre / Hospital 12 de Octubre.

Programme: CRIS Out-Back 2022.

Pancreatic Cancer

Principal researcher: Dr. Mariano Barbacid.

Centre: CNIO Madrid.

EORTC-RECIST for evaluation of the response to immunotherapy

Principal researcher: Dr. Emiliano Calvo,

Centre: Centro Integral Oncológico Clara Campal and others

REAL LIFE TRIALS IN ONCOLOGY

ETNA-Cohort2:

Principal researcher: Dr. Barbara Pistilli (FR), Dr. Mafalda Oliveira (SP).

Centre: Institute Gustave Roussy, Paris / Vall d'Hebron Institute of Oncology, Barcelona.

PULSE:

Principal researcher: Dr. Benjamin Besse (FR), Dr. Luis Paz-Ares (SP).

Centre: Institute Gustave Roussy, Paris / Hospital 12 de Octubre, Madrid.

BLOOD CANCERS:

Resistance to Treatments for Multiple Myeloma

Principal researcher: Dr Charlotte Pawlyn

Centre: The Institute of Cancer Research, London

CRIS Unit for Translational Research and Clinical Trials in Haematology

Principal researcher: Dr. Joaquín Martínez.

Centre: Hospital 12 de Octubre, Madrid.

Acute Myeloid Leukaemia (AML)

Principal researcher: Dr. Alejo Rodríguez-Fraticelli.

Centre: IRB, Barcelona.

Programme: CRIS Excellence Programme 2020.

Multiple Myeloma

Principal researcher: Dr. Bruno Paiva.

Centre: Clínica Universidad de Navarra.

Programme: CRIS Excellence Programme 2020.

Follicular Lymphoma

Principal researcher: Dr. Ana Jiménez Ubieta.

Centre: Hospital 12 de Octubre, Madrid.

Programme: CRIS Clinical Talent Programme 2021.

Relapsed Acute Myeloid Leukaemia

Principal researcher: Dr. María Velasco.

Centre: CNIO, Madrid.

Programme: CRIS Post-Doc Programme 2022.

BREAST CANCER:

Breast Cancer

Principal researchers: Dr. Atanasio Pandiella, Dr. Alberto Ocaña.

Centre: CIC Salamanca, CHUA Albacete.



Dr. Arkaitz Carracedo, winner of the 2021 CRIS Program of Excellence and the 2022 Margarita Salas National Research Award for Young Researchers



Dr. Atanasio Pandiella.

Hormone-Positive Breast Cancer

Principal researcher: Dr. Aleix Prat.
Centre: Hospital Clínic, Barcelona.
Programme: CRIS Excellence Programme 2021.

Breast Cancer Metastasis

Principal researcher: Dra. María Casanova.
Centre: CNIO, Madrid.
Programme: CRIS Post-Doc Programme 2020.

CRIS Unit for New Experimental Therapies

Principal researcher: Dr. Alberto Ocaña, Dr. Pedro Pérez Segura.
Centre: Hospital Clínico San Carlos, Madrid.

Breast Cancer Clinical Unit

Principal researcher: Dr. Miguel Quintela.
Centre: CNIO, Madrid.

OVARIAN CANCER:

Ovarian Cancer
Principal researcher: Dr. Alberto Ocaña y Dr. Atanasio Pandiella.
Centres: Unidad CRIS de Nuevas Terapias Experimentales (Hospital Clínico San Carlos) y Centro de Investigación del Cáncer, CIC, Salamanca.

CAR-T on Ovarian Cancer

Principal researcher: Dr. Diego Salas.
Centre: Massachusetts General Hospital Cancer Center / CUN Navarra.
Programme: CRIS Out-Back 2021.

PROSTATE CANCER:

Prostate Cancer CRIS Unit
Principal researcher: Dr. Elena Castro.
Centre: Hospital 12 de Octubre, Madrid.

Prostate Cancer

Principal researcher: Dr. David Olmos.
Centre: Hospital 12 de Octubre, Madrid.
Programme: CRIS Excellence Programme 2019.

Prostate Cancer Resistance

Principal researcher: Dr. Arkaitz Carracedo.
Centre: CIC bioGUNE, Bilbao.
Programme: CRIS Excellence Programme 2021.

Prostate Cancer Progression

Principal researcher: Dr. Joaquín Mateo.
Centre: Instituto de Oncología de Vall d'Hebrón, Barcelona.
Programme: CRIS Clinical Talent Programme 2020.

Prostate Cancer Immunotherapy

Principal researcher: Dr. Núria Romero.
Centre: Hospital de la Princesa, Madrid.
Programme: CRIS Clinical Talent Programme 2021.

Prostate Cancer Metastasis

Principal researcher: Dr. Isabel Mendizábal.
Centre: CIC bioGUNE, Bilbao.
Programme: CRIS Post-Doc Programme 2020.

Microenvironment in Prostate Cancer

Principal researcher: Dr. Lorea Valcárcel.
Centre: Universidad del País Vasco, Bilbao.
Programme: CRIS Post-Doc Programme 2022.

LUNG CANCER:

Imaging in Immunotherapy
Principal researcher: Dr. Raquel Pérez.
Centre: VHIO, Barcelona.
Programme: CRIS Clinical Talent Programme 2019.

Radioimmunotherapy in Lung Cancer

Principal researcher: Dr. María Esperanza Rodríguez.
Centre: Clínica Universidad de Navarra.
Programme: CRIS Clinical Talent Programme 2020.

BOWEL CANCER:

Treatments aimed at Metastatic Bowel Cancer
Principal researcher: Dr. Elena Élez.
Centre: VHIO, Barcelona.

Bowel Cancer

Principal researcher: Dr. Clara Montagut.
Centre: IMIM, Barcelona.
Programme: Programme CRIS de Excelencia 2019.

Predisposition towards Bowel Cancer

Principal researcher: Dr. Ceres Fernández.
Centre: IDIS Santiago de Compostela.
Programme: CRIS Post-Doc Programme 2021.

MELANOMA CANCER:

Immunotherapy on Melanoma
Principal researcher: Dr. Rebeca González.
Centre: Centre Méditerranéen de médecine moléculaire, France/Instituto de Neurociencias CSIC-UMH, Murcia.
Programme: CRIS Out-Back 2021.

Immunotherapy in Kidney Cancer

Principal researcher: Dr. Miguel Fernández de Sanmamed.
Centre: Clínica Universitaria de Navarra.
Programme: CRIS Excellence Programme 2022.

Metastasis in Melanoma

Principal researcher: Dr. Eduardo Balsa.
Centre: Centro de Biología Molecular Severo Ochoa.
Programme: CRIS Excelencia 2022.

Biomaterials in Immunotherapy

Principal researcher: Dr. Núria Lafuente.
Centre: WYSS Institute, Massachusetts / Hospital U. La Princesa.
Programme: CRIS Out-Back 2022.

Dr. Mariano Barbacid.



FIGHT KIDS CANCER

Fight Kids Cancer is a joint initiative by KickCancer, Imagine for Margo (France) and the Fondatioun Kriibskrank Kanner (Luxembourg), CRIS Cancer Foundation and KiKA (the Netherlands) to finance extraordinary projects and clinical trials in pediatric cancer of international scope with great potential to change the landscape of childhood cancer. These projects are chosen through a selection process with extremely demanding requirements and by an international committee. The projects financed in the 2022 call focused mainly on two strategic areas: neuroblastoma, a type of tumour that occurs in cells of the nervous system and which, when spreads, has a very poor prognosis, and tumours in blood cells (lymphomas, leukaemias, etc.), which are the most common tumours in children. These projects are led from multiple countries, including France, Spain, the United Kingdom, Israel, the Netherlands, Italy, Germany and many more.

All of these initiatives are aligned with the overall CRIS Cancer Foundation strategy of supporting and training brilliant researchers at different points in their careers, and promoting projects capable of making breakthroughs in cancer treatment.

FIGHT KIDS CANCER PROJECTS 2022

▶ BEACON2

(Dr Lucas Moreno, VHIR, Barcelona).

Clinical trials to test the effectiveness of various new therapies aimed at combating neuroblastoma: This involves combining chemotherapy with other treatments which prevent the synthesis of blood vessels and by combining chemotherapy with antibodies which work against the typical proteins found in neuroblastoma cells (GD2).

Participating Countries:

UK, Spain and other European Countries

▶ Hem-iSMART

(Dr. Michel Zwaan, Prinses Maxima Center, Utrecht)

Clinical trial for gene sequencing and genomic studies in young leukaemia and lymphoma patients. According to the results of these studies, the specific treatment is chosen.

▶ SACHA INTERNATIONAL

(Dr. Pablo Berlanga, Gustave Roussy)

Clinical trial, with the goal of creating a register for all advanced therapies used for compassionate treatment in child and young adult cancer patients. This is essential in understanding the progression of new therapies at a European level.

Participating Countries:

France, Spain, UK, other European countries, Australia and Nueva Zealand.

▶ Cure2MLL

(Dr. Ronald Stam, Princess Maxima, Utrecht)

This ambitious collaboration between experts in leukemia MLL intends to consolidate new therapeutic targets, give a deeper understanding of the mechanics of MLL and to create a solid base on which to develop clinical trials on cases of relapsed leukaemia MLL.

Participating Countries:

The Netherlands, Spain, UK and Italy.

▶ Prevention of Neuroblastoma relapses

(Dr. Rogier Versteeg, University of Amsterdam)

This project studies specific cells which could be present in the vast majority of neuroblastoma metastasis and develops the best way to attack them.

Participating Countries:

The Netherlands and Germany

▶ PG-AML

(Dr. Shai Izraeli, Schneider Children's Medical Center of Israel)

This project has, as its objective, the development of a genetic method of better understanding the progress of the disease, to minimise waste and create and identify the specifics of tumour cells for each patient with Acute Myeloid Leukaemia.

Participating Countries:

Israel

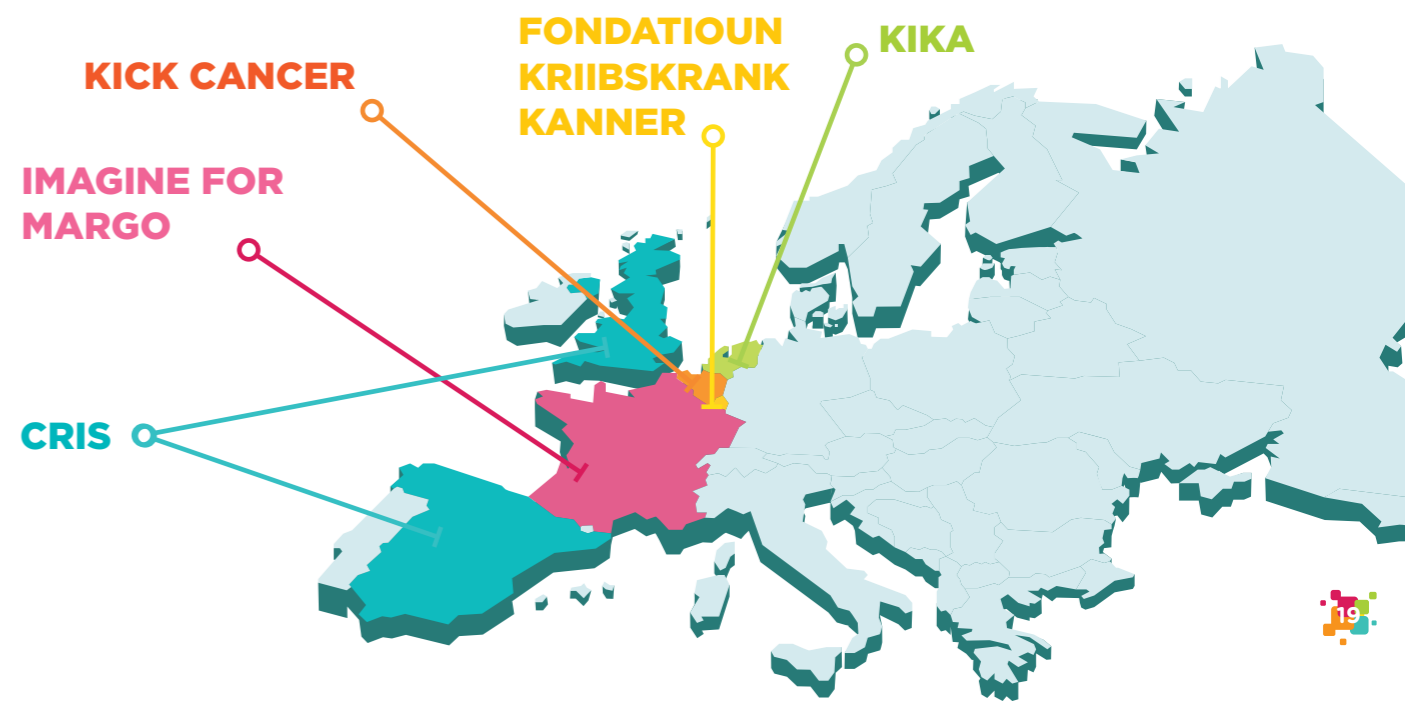
▶ DIGITWINS

(Walter Kolch, University College Dublin)

This project will develop a strategy which, from looking at the biological characteristics and results of tumours in children with neuroblastoma, can use a digital simulation (digitwins) to predict how each treatment would work on each individual patient.

Participating Countries:

Ireland, UK



CRIS CHILDHOOD AND YOUTH PROJECTS

In the United Kingdom, approximately 3,700 children and young people under the age of 24, are diagnosed with cancer every year. In Spain the number is between 1,500 and 1,600 for children and adolescents while in France, 2,200 cases are diagnosed every year in under 18s. Despite the fact that there are numerous and profound differences between childhood and adult cancers (not only in its causes, but also in cell type, development and risk factors), research to develop new treatments is scarce. Since its conception, CRIS has strongly supported research into childhood cancer, funding projects that address three major fields:

- Treatments for tumours that currently cannot be cured.
- Follow up procedures that make it easier for doctors to act earlier if the initial treatment does not work.
- Safer and less invasive treatments that have less impact on the future lives of children with cancer.

We are committed to fighting paediatric cancer. With this in mind, CRIS has created the pioneering CRIS Unit for Advanced Treatments in Childhood Cancer in Madrid, as well as financing further projects in Spain, the United Kingdom and France. CRIS has also joined the European Fight Kids Cancer consortium in order to fund larger projects through international collaboration.



Dr. Chris Jones

BLOOD CANCER: CRIS Advanced Treatments for Childhood Cancer Unit (Several Brain Tumour Projects)

Principal researcher: Dr. Antonio Pérez Martínez.
Centre: Hospital Universitario La Paz, Madrid.

Mixed-Lineage Leukaemia (MLL)

Principal researcher: Dr. Mireia Camós.
Centre: Hospital Sant Joan de Deu, Barcelona.

BRAIN CANCER: Brain Tumours, Diffuse Intrinsic Pontine Glioma (DIPG)

Principal researcher: Professor Chris Jones
Centre: The Institute of Cancer Research, London

Diffuse Midline Glioma (DMG)
Principal researcher: Prof. Karin Straathof,
Centre: Great Ormond Street Hospital (London)

Brain Tumours, Diffuse Intrinsic Pontine Glioma (DIPG)
Principal researcher: Dr. Jacques Grill
Centre: Institute Gustave Roussy, Paris

Brain Tumours, Medulloblastoma
Principal researcher: Dr. Álvaro Lassaletta.
Centre: Hospital Universitario Niño Jesús, Madrid.

SARCOMAS AND GENERAL CANCER:
Ewing Sarcoma
Principal researcher: Dr. Enrique de Álava, Dr. Rosa Noguera.
Centre: IBIS Sevilla/ INCLIVA Valencia.

RESEARCH



CRIS Units: driving the development of new treatments

CRIS currently funds 4 Research Units, an effective way of accelerating the step from laboratory results to new treatments for cancer patients.

750
children have been treated at the Unidad CRIS de La Paz

The survival rate of cancer patients is now close to 60% (55.3% among men and 61.7% among women, according to SEOM data), which means that many patients are still not responding to current therapies. That's why it is fundamental to develop new treatments, bearing in mind the specific needs of each patient.

The CRIS Cancer Foundation advocates integrating research into leading public hospitals so that they can lead the generation of new treatments. This is the philosophy behind

CRIS Units, which encompass the best research teams within hospitals. They create and develop new treatments which are then put into practice through clinical trials. During this stage, which brings patients on board, new treatments are tested before they are approved for general use. This strategy has become an effective way of accelerating the step from laboratory results to new treatments for cancer patients.



Dr. Antonio Pérez



CRIS NEW EXPERIMENTAL THERAPIES UNIT (HOSPITAL CLÍNICO SAN CARLOS).

Cancer is a complex challenge, and to tackle it, we need to expand our vision. For example, in some people, tumours even in different organs can present similar alterations and weaknesses. This means that it is more effective to tackle these tumours not so much in terms of the organ where they have developed but the specific molecular characteristics of the tumour itself. To take a more cross-cutting approach to cancer, the CRIS New Experimental Therapies Unit was set up with a view to developing innovative treatments for all kinds of solid tumours. It encompasses a Translational Oncology Laboratory, a New Compounds Screening Laboratory, and the Phase I Clinical Trials Unit. There is also an exclusive space within the hospital to treat and follow up with patients taking part in clinical trials. Globally, this places the unit at the forefront of new therapy design.

DID YOU KNOW...?

Following its launch in 2022, the Unit has treated patients in 12 clinical trials through an individualised approach. This phase includes very advanced immunotherapy treatments for lung cancer as well as other immunotherapy treatments that reactivate certain cells in the immune system to attack tumour cells.

CRIS HAEMATOLOGICAL TUMOURS UNIT (HOSPITAL UNIVERSITARIO 12 DE OCTUBRE).

The CRIS Haematological Tumours Unit is a service that integrates research and the treatment of blood cell cancers. These tumours, which include all kinds of lymphoma, leukaemia and myeloma, pose a huge challenge owing to their low survival rate (around 50%) and the risk of recurrence. With 30,000 cases a year in Spain, research in this field is crucial. The CRIS Unit combines cutting-edge research (including the latest treatments in immunotherapy, cell and targeted therapies) with the development of a large number of clinical trials whereby patients can access these treatments. This Unit has pioneered the use of cell therapies such as CAR-T and Natural Killer Cells in Spain. So far, it has treated more than 1,000 patients in over 300 clinical trials, achieving good results with few side effects.

DID YOU KNOW...?

In 2002, this CRIS Unit took part in an international clinical trial in which, using a bispecific antibody - a type of antibody that acts as a double magnet, attracting tumour cells and T-lymphocytes - spectacular results were achieved against multiple myeloma. Thanks to these advances, this treatments is expected to be approved for regular use in the short term.



CRIS IMMUNO-ONCOLOGY UNIT (HOSPITAL UNIVERSITARIO 12 DE OCTUBRE).

In recent years, it has been discovered that tumours can manipulate the immune system and that, if we reverse this effect, we can reactivate and target immune responses against the tumour. This is what is known as immunotherapy and it has revolutionised the approach and treatment of these diseases. However, further research is needed to develop methods capable of predicting patient response in order to expand the scope of existing immunological therapies. That is the goal of the CRIS Immuno-Oncology Unit, which is leading the field in Spain. The CRIS Immuno-Oncology Unit, headed up by Dr Luis Paz-Ares and Dr Luis Álvarez Vallina, combines research into immunotherapy in lung cancer and solid tumours with the development of new molecules and treatments for immunotherapy. Thanks to their close collaboration, the development of innovative therapies is combined with their implementation in clinical trials.

DID YOU KNOW...?

In 2022, this Unit generated outstanding results thanks to the development of genetically engineered cells - STAb cells - to fight various types of lymphoma and leukaemia. A clinical trial is currently in the stages of preparation, and this method is also being used to create STAb cells against multiple myeloma.



1



2



3

CRIS UNIT FOR ADVANCED TREATMENTS IN CHILDHOOD CANCER (HOSPITAL UNIVERSITARIO DE LA PAZ, MADRID; SPAIN)

Childhood cancer represents a huge challenge both for affected families and for the public health service.

However, current treatments have not seen significant improvements in the last few decades.

The CRIS Unit for Advanced Treatments in Childhood Cancer was established in response to this issue with the goal of creating a unit in which the most advanced research is combined with the development of clinical trials where patients have access to new treatments.

The unit is made up of a multi disciplinary team whose objective is to advance and administer treatments to those young patients who do not respond to, or who relapse following, conventional treatments. This team is pioneering the development and use of next generation cell treatments in Spain, including revolutionary CAR-T cells. As such, the CRIS unit is one of only a handful of hospitals in Madrid authorized in the use of CAR-T in pediatric patients.

Since its inauguration in 2018, this unit has treated over 750 children suffering from diverse diseases and tumours such as acute lymphoblastic leukaemia, mixed phenotype leukaemias, aplasia, primary immune deficiencies and Hodgkin lymphoma. As well as these illnesses, patients with solid tumours such as Ewing Sarcoma, osteosarcoma, medulloblastoma, neuroblastoma and Gliomas are also treated. The unit also houses a large number of research projects, of which the following are of particular interest:



4

1) Dr. Antonio Pérez, director of the CRIS Advanced Therapies Research Unit and head of Pediatric Hemato-oncology at the La Paz University Hospital in Madrid. 2) A patient with her mother. 3) Clean Room of the CRIS Unit at La Paz Hospital. 4) The researcher Isabel Mirones, together with her team, in the White Room of the CRIS Unit for Advanced Therapies.

► **Project Gabi.** Development of cellular treatments which combine the efficiency of lymphocytes T with the versatility of the immune system's 'natural killers.'

► **Project Fast-Track.** Search for the genetic weak points in tumours and the drugs which could be used in relapsed pediatric patients.

► **Project Hercanin.** Study into the predisposition towards childhood cancer and counselling for families at risk.

► **Project Neuroblastoma.** Development of treatments to combat neuroblastoma and metastasis.

► **Project Childhood Sarcomas.** Improve and develop new therapies to combat childhood sarcomas.

► **Project Brain Cancer.** Develop new treatments to combat diverse types of brain cancer.

► **Project Mateo-CRIS Cancer Foundation for JMML (Juvenile myelomonocytic leukaemia)** to fight tumorous cells.

Amongst the greatest accomplishments of 2022, the 'White Lab' of the Unit was authorized to produce two types of cellular treatments which are already being used on young patients in clinical trials. These consist of NK cells to treat childhood sarcoma and treatments using the most advanced CAR-T cells, known as 'dual' because they attack two targets as opposed to just the one in relapsed leukaemia patients.

Among other professionals, CRIS funds:

- Pediatricians
- Geneticists
- Bio Information Technologists
- Experts in Molecular Genetics
- Experts in Cell Therapy
- Clinical Trial Managers
- Experts in Advanced Treatments
- Other pre and post doctorate researchers

As well as this, CRIS has financed an area located on the eight floor of the Maternity/Children's University Hospital, La Paz, in Madrid.

The instalations consist of:

- 10 patient rooms
- 4 next generation isolation rooms for Haematopoietic Transplants
- Clinical Trial Area
- Treatment Preparation Zone
- Dedicated laboratory
- Work area for researchers and supervision of clinical trials

We promote the most innovative clinical studies

The CRIS Cancer Foundation promotes and funds researchers and the most innovative clinical studies; a commitment that we have progressively expanded so that today, we fund 16 of these studies.

The CRIS Foundation promotes clinical studies designed by eminent researchers in the areas of breast cancer, prostate cancer, colon cancer, bladder cancer, myeloid leukaemia, lymphoma, melanoma and immune thrombocytopenia. The lab results obtained in these clinical studies offer new advances in therapies and strategies for new treatments. It's our way of supporting outstanding research and researchers.

Promotion, funding and management

In our promotion of clinical studies, the CRIS Cancer Foundation assumes all the legal responsibilities established in Spanish law (1), managing studies and funding, which may be awarded by public or private funding bodies, as well as the pharmaceutical industry. The CRIS Cancer Foundation is currently supporting the following clinical studies:

CLINICAL STUDIES:

► Breast cancer:

BR-007: This study evaluates the safety of a treatment that targets a possible weakness in tumour cells that are resistant to hormone treatments in patients with hormone-positive breast cancer.

Principal researcher Dr. Miguel Ángel Quintela.

BR-008: The purpose of this study is to ascertain the safety of immunotherapy that re-activates the cells of the immune system responsible for rejecting breast tumours.

Principal researcher: Dr. Miguel Ángel Quintela.

BR-009. This clinical study ascertains the safety of a therapy that targets the metabolism of tumour cells that have become resistant.

Principal researcher: Dr. Miguel Ángel Quintela.



Dr. Miguel Ángel Quintela, head of the CNIO Breast Cancer Unit, Principal researcher of the Rogabreast clinical study, among others.

Rogabreast: Study aimed at patients with hormone positive breast cancer, which evaluates the safety of a triple treatment against potential weaknesses in tumour cells.

Principal researcher Dr. Miguel Ángel Quintela.

► Bowel cancer:

Dermia: This study controls the side effects in the skin caused by an effective treatment for colon tumours.

Principal investigator: Dr. Patricia Ramírez.

► Bladder cancer:

Dutreno: This study evaluates the possibility of improving the outlook for patients with aggressive bladder cancer, applying immunotherapy prior to operating on them.

Principal researcher Dr. Enrique Grande.

Nicaragua: The aim is to evaluate the safety and efficacy of a new combination of drugs in patients with bladder cancer that is not responding to other therapies.

Principal researcher Dr. Albert Font/Dr. Daniel Castellano.

CCTG BL.13: This study verifies the effectiveness of using the immunotherapy drug durvalumab after initial treatment (chemotherapy, surgery or radiotherapy) in invasive bladder cancer.

Principal researcher: Ignacio Durán.

► Myeloid Leukaemia:

ResToP: This study explores the therapeutic value of a new treatment regime for patients with chronic myeloid leukaemia

Principal researcher Dr. Joaquín Martínez/Dr. Valentín García Gutiérrez/Dr. Juan Carlos Hernández Boluda.

► Lymphoma:

MDA-BTG-2020-01:

This study evaluates a method to reduce the toxicity produced by prophylactic methotrexate treatment in patients with diffuse large B cell lymphoma.

Principal researcher Dr. Adolfo de la Fuente.



OBSERVATIONAL STUDIES:

► Prostate cancer:

PROREPAIR SEQ: This study examines the relationship between some aggressive forms of prostate cancer and certain family mutations that occur in genes related with DNA repair.

Principal researcher: Dr. David Olmos/ Dr. Elena Castro.

► Immune thrombocytopenia:

REVOGEN: This study seeks to determine certain biomarkers that facilitate the early detection of which patients will not respond to certain treatment for a blood disease called immune thrombocytopenia.

Principal researcher Dr. Tomás González.

FCR-PTI-2017-01: This study sets out to understand the relationship between certain genetic variations and resistance to a treatment indicated for immune thrombocytopenia.

FOSTAMES: This study seeks to establish the safety and efficacy of the drug Fostamatinib to treat immune thrombocytopenia.

Principal researcher Dr. Tomás González.

► Myeloid leukaemia:

MIDOSTAURIN: This study analyses the efficacy of the drug midostaurin in patients with Acute Myeloid Leukaemia (AML) who have a mutation of a specific gene, FLT3

Principal researcher Dr. Tomás González.

Global reference in supporting cutting-edge research

As well as the CRIS Excellence, CRIS Clinical Talent and Post-Doc research programmes, all major points of reference in Spain and Europe, we are now running Real Life Trials in Oncology, a programme launched in 2022.



The CRIS Cancer Foundation understands the importance of job stability for researchers in the development of their scientific careers and innovative projects, so that their advances in research have greater scope and an impact on the treatments that patients receive as soon as possible. The CRIS Foundation launched its CRIS Research Programmes in 2019, and they soon became a leading point of reference in the UK and Europe, with categories that respond to the different needs

of researchers' scientific and medical careers. We currently have the CRIS Excellence, CRIS Clinical Talent and Post-Doc, CRIS Out-Back and Real Life Trials in Oncology programmes in place. The latter was launched in 2022. Among its main benefits is the funding available (up to €1,250,000) and its duration (five years), allowing researchers to develop their projects under the best possible conditions. These are very demanding programmes, with several rounds of external assessment, involving national evaluation agencies and an international committee made up of world leaders in cancer research.



Award-winning researchers in the CRIS programmes in its 2022 edition.

2022 EDITION

Financial Provision

£1,050,000 allocated over **5 years**

5 annuities of £210,000

We provide extraordinary means to outstanding researchers

The CRIS Excellence Programme

One of the major issues for researchers is the lack of funding for their work. We are home to a huge number of talented scientists who unfortunately cannot always complete their valuable research. CRIS programmes and collaborations offer the opportunity for some of these scientists to go on to make life changing discoveries in cancer research which translate into viable treatments.

Financial Provision

£335,000 allocated over **5 years**

5 annuities of £67,000

We consolidate the career of medical researchers in Spain.

The CRIS Clinical Talent Programme

The figure of the research physician is essential to design effective cancer treatments and carry them over into clinical practice. Despite the tremendous importance of these doctors, in Spain we do not have enough of these roles. For this reason, the CRIS Cancer Foundation launched its CRIS Clinical Talent Programme.

Financial Provision

£335,000 allocated over **5 years**

5 annuities of £67,000

We facilitate the return and professional stability of young researchers.

The CRIS Post-Doc Programme

The postdoctoral period, after a doctoral thesis has been completed, is usually a period of extensive scientific production where researchers begin the transition towards leading research groups. The CRIS Post-Doc Talent programme allows them to develop their projects and their professional career in Spain.

Financial Provision

£60,000 annually

Duration: 3 years of training + 1 year contract upon return

We encourage research training abroad with guarantees of return to Spain.

The CRIS Out-Back Programme

For any researcher, a stay abroad is an incentive for their training. With the CRIS Out-Back Programme, researchers can access training abroad and return to Spain with certain key guarantees. In addition, the programme has a training and mentoring plan, which completes this different, innovative programme that will define the future of other international calls.

Financial Provision

£1,280,000 allocated over **3 years**

The budget can be used for a single trial or for several smaller trials (up to a maximum of £1,28M).

We fund "real life" clinical trials.

Real Life Trials in Oncology Programme

The CRIS Cancer Foundation together with the Gustave Roussy Foundation (Paris) have created the Real-Life Trials in Oncology programme, in which "real life" clinical trials can be presented. The purpose is to fund trials that answer key questions in the regular treatment of patients, the results of which could benefit millions.

Researchers in the CRIS programmes 2022-2026

CRIS EXCELLENCE PROGRAMME

Project: Metastasis in melanoma.

Researcher: Eduardo Balsa (1).

Institution: Centro de Biología Molecular Severo Ochoa, Madrid.

Project description: The team led by Dr Eduardo Balsa has launched an ambitious and original project to study the metabolism of melanoma cells at different moments from the appearance of metastasis: when they are still in the tumour and when they are travelling through the blood. The potential impact of this project is huge; on the one hand, it addresses some of the most complex questions in cancer biology, but it will also identify weak points in metastasis that could be targeted by drugs to prevent or fight it.

Project: Immunotherapy in melanoma and kidney cancer.

Researcher: Miguel Fernández de Sanmamed (2).

Institution: Clínica Universitaria de Navarra, Pamplona.

Project: With the help of the CRIS Cancer Foundation, Dr Fernández de Sanmamed and his team will focus on studying the combination of immunotherapy typically applied today, for melanoma and kidney cancer, with treatments that either help further activate immune system cells or, on the contrary, neutralise the cells that prevent the proper immune response against the tumour. The results will allow researchers to design better clinical trials for immunotherapy.

CRIS POST-DOC TALENT PROGRAMME

Project: Recurrence of acute myeloid leukaemia.

Researcher: Dr. María Velasco (3).

Institution: National Cancer Research Centre, Madrid

Type of cancer: Acute myeloid leukaemia.

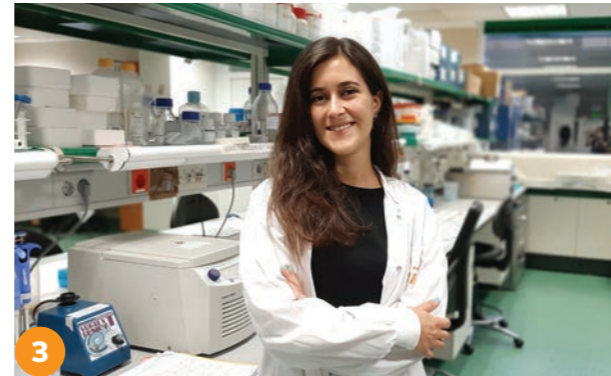
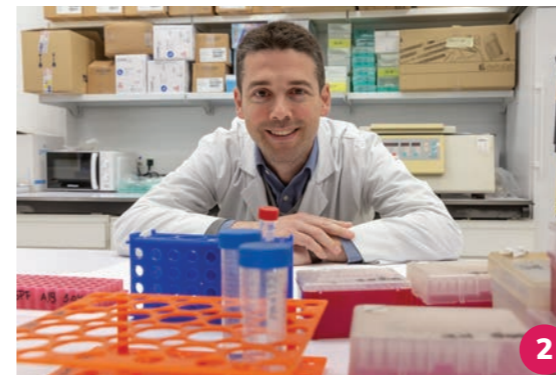
Project: Dr Velasco will study the role of mechanoreceptors both in the normal development of bone marrow cells and the immune system, and in the appearance of tumours such as acute myeloid leukaemia. An in-depth understanding of these processes will allow researchers to develop strategies to block both the onset and recurrence of these tumours, a pressing need in a tumour as dangerous as acute myeloid leukaemia.

Project: Microenvironment of prostate cancer

Researcher: Dr. Lorea Valcárcel (4).

Institution: Universidad del País Vasco, Bilbao.

El Project: Dr Lorea Valcárcel will analyse in detail the role of certain components of the extracellular matrix during the progression of prostate cancer and how they can influence the development of metastases. The main aim is to identify not only key mechanisms in the occurrence of metastasis,



but also how to block this process effectively. In addition, the team will work with patient samples to develop strategies to differentiate patients at higher risk of metastasis based on the components of their extracellular matrix.

CRIS OUT-BACK PROGRAMME

Project: Biomaterials in immunotherapy.

Researcher: Dr. Núria Lafuente (5).

Institution: Harvard University - Wyss Institute, Massachusetts/ Hospital Universitario La Princesa, Madrid.

Project: Dr Núria Lafuente is an expert in biomaterials. In this project, Dr Lafuente will design and synthesise biodegradable nanoparticles that will be used to package immunological treatments, transport them through the body and deposit them in the right places. Once developed, the team will test them in laboratory models based on human tumours, such as lymphomas or melanoma. Approaches such as the one taken by Dr Núria Lafuente can give the boost needed by CRIS PROGRAMMES 1 3 immunotherapy to fully consolidate itself as one of the biggest pillars in the fight against tumours.

Project: Mesothelioma.

Researcher: Dr. Mercedes Herrera (6).

Institution: Princess Margaret Cancer Centre/ Hospital 12 de Octubre.

Project description: Dr Mercedes Herrera will develop a study in 30 patients with mesothelioma, a very aggressive type of tumour that occurs in the thoracic cavity. Her team will extensively study the characteristics of T lymphocytes when mesothelioma occurs and the tumour molecules against which they can effectively target lymphocytes for a good immune response against mesothelioma. This will lay the foundations to develop effective therapies with T lymphocytes that help fight this aggressive tumour.

REAL-LIFE TRIALS IN ONCOLOGY (2021)

ETNA-Cohort2:

Researcher in France: Barbara Pistilli, Institute Gustave Roussy, París.

Researcher in Spain: Mafalda Oliveira, Vall d'Hebron Institute of Oncology, Barcelona. (7)

Project: Triple negative is one of the most aggressive forms of breast cancer. Doctors Barbara Pistilli and Mafalda Oliveira will explore whether patients with localised tumours and high levels of lymphocytes can avoid chemotherapy treatment after the removal of their tumours. Personalised medicine is not only about finding effective treatments for tumours; it is also essential to develop strategies to cure patients with the least possible impact on their quality of life.

PULSE:

Researcher in France: Benjamin Besse, Institute Gustave Roussy, París.

Researcher in Spain: Luis Paz-Ares, Hospital 12 de Octubre. (8)

Project: Non-small cell lung cancer is the most common form of these tumours. The trial led by doctors Benjamin Besse and Luis Paz-Ares seeks to demonstrate that it is not necessary for patients to receive immunotherapy as frequently.

CARE1:

Researcher in France: Laurence Albiges, Institute Gustave Roussy, París.

Researcher in Spain: Cristina Suárez, Vall d'Hebron Institute of Oncology, Barcelona. (9)

Project: Renal cell cancer is the most common type of kidney tumour. In this trial, doctors Laurence Albiges and Cristina Suárez seek to demonstrate that the presence of a PD-L1 molecule in tumours can predict which patients will benefit more from one combination over another.

Interview with Dr Karin Straathof

Associate Professor in Tumour Immunology at the UCL Cancer Institute and
Consultant Paediatric Oncologist at Great Ormond Street Hospital

Why are DIPG tumours in children so difficult to treat?

DIPGs are tumours that grow in a very delicate part of the brain called the brain stem – an essential control centre of the brain. It does not grow in a defined area but instead interspersed with normal brain tissue. This makes it impossible to surgically remove the tumour. Chemotherapy drugs have not worked for DIPG as they do not reach this part of the brain well. The only available treatment is radiotherapy. For most patients this stops the tumour growing for a period of time, but it inevitably regrows again. We do not have a treatment that can cure DIPG. There is an urgent need for new and different types of treatment for this devastating cancer.

How does cancer immunotherapy work?

Our immune cells are constantly on patrol in our body to seek out infected cells and clear these up. Cancer cells – in particular those of cancers that occur in children – are however very difficult to spot by immune cells. Using genetic reprogramming we can introduce genes into immune cells that give them the ability to see cancer cells. We isolate immune cells from the patient's blood and in a specialised laboratory introduce a new gene coding for a chimeric antigen receptor or CAR for short. The modified immune cells - referred to as CAR T cells - are given back to the patient via a drip. The CAR T cells will then roam around the body to find and clear up cancer cells. The CAR T cells can divide within the patient and stay in their body long term. They can spring back into action if the cancer would try to regrow. You can think of CAR T cells as a 'living drug'. In blood cancers such as leukaemia and lymphoma this type of immunotherapy has been revolutionary. Patients with blood cancers that had grown back after chemotherapy or bone marrow transplantation for whom previously no treatment

was available have been cured with CAR T cell treatment.

What are the biggest barriers to clinical trials?

Clinical trials are essential for the development of new treatments such as CAR T cells. In blood cancers, the first design of CAR T cell treatment did not work straight away. Through clinical trials we learned what worked well and what did not. This informed refinement of the CAR design until the desired result was achieved: complete and durable cancer remissions. The biggest barrier to clinical trials for childhood cancers is funding. Children's cancers are relatively rare and hence do not attract the attention of pharmaceutical industry who tend to focus on common health problems. Instead, early phase clinical trials to develop CAR T cells for childhood cancers such as DIPG rely on government or charity funding.

What is CRIS's role in your work?

CRIS recognised the need for clinical trials to develop treatments such as CAR T cells for childhood cancers in urgent need of new treatments. They partnered with other cancer charities and rapidly responded to the proposal by our research group to launch a clinical trial of CAR T cells for patients with DIPG. It is only when funding is secured that research teams can apply to the regulatory bodies for their approval to open a clinical study. And for them to bring a team of oncology and neurosurgery doctors and nurses together to prepare for and start such a clinical trial. It is through the support from CRIS we are about to open a clinical trial of CAR T cell for patients with DIPG at Great Ormond Street Hospital in London.



What is the future for cancer immunotherapy in non-haematological clinical trials?

At the moment we are with CAR T cell therapy for non-blood cancers such as brain tumours and neuroblastoma where we were for blood cancers about 10 years ago. The first clinical trial results in childhood solid cancer show its potential: the CAR T cells become activated and clear up tumour cells. But in most cases tumours are not fully eradicated up and grow back. We have found that solid tumours put up barriers for CAR T cells to work well. We are rapidly gaining a detailed understanding of this interplay between cancer cells and immune cells. With this knowledge we can step up our genetic reprogramming of immune cells and make CAR T cells that are well equipped to withstand the counterattack by cancers. Reprogrammed immune cells are both powerful and sophisticated and I fully anticipate that we can make CAR T cells into an effective treatment for solid cancers.

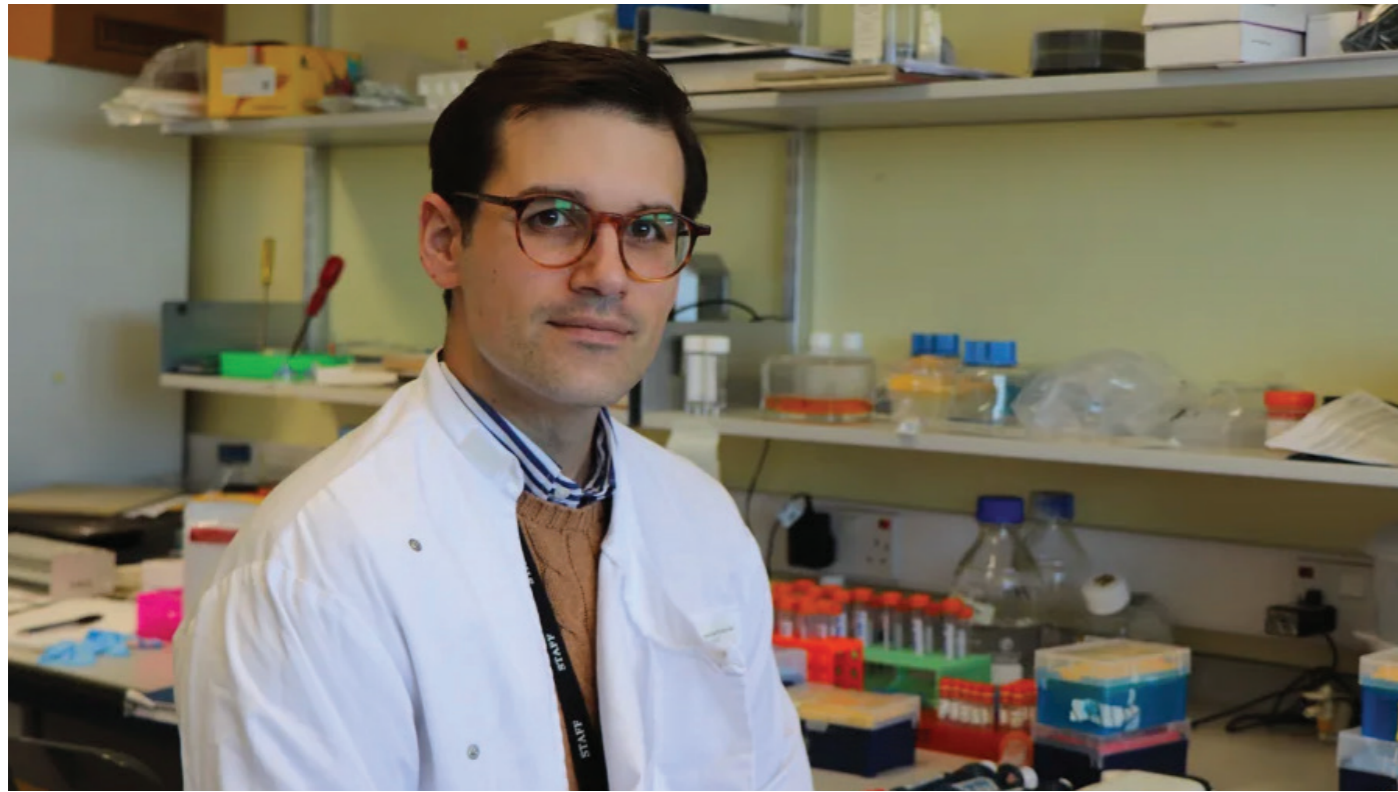
Why should CRIS supporters get behind work like yours?

The field of cancer immunotherapy is moving rapidly forward. We now have the technology and the understanding of how the immune system works to develop effective cancer treatments. While with our current cancer treatment 8 out of 10 children diagnosed

with cancer can be cured big challenges remain: for certain cancers like DIPG our current treatments do not work at all. For other cancers, these treatments work for some patients but for others the cancer regrows. Moreover, the treatments used are often very intensive and have severe side effects causing health problems in those that are cured from cancer. Treatments that work in a different way and are kinder are what is needed. CAR T cell immunotherapy may provide such a treatment. Your support of CRIS allows research teams like ours taking on this challenge and make cancer immunotherapy for children's cancers a reality.

Why should CRIS supporters get behind work like yours?

Thoracic tumours, like lung cancer and mesothelioma, are fatal diseases with poor prognosis and limited treatment options. Immunotherapy has opened up game-changing avenues in cancer treatment. New CAR-T cell therapies are needed to treat resistant solid tumours. I am hopeful that continued funding will allow us to successfully treat millions of thoracic cancer patients.



Interview with Dimitrios Doultosinos

MRes, PhD, was awarded the PCF Young Investigator Fellowship, Class of 2022, co funded by CRIS Cancer 2022, Eustace Wolfington and Larry Leeds - PCF Young Investigator Award.

His current research centres around treatment resistant prostate cancer and identifying biomarkers which can help determine specialised treatment for each patient.

We caught up with him in one of his rare moments of free time.

What does the CRIS – PCF Cancer Foundation Young Investigator Fellowship mean to you?

I am so grateful to be the recipient of this fellowship. For me it means peace of mind and access to expertise.

The peace of mind, we imagine, comes from not having to worry about funding for the duration of the Fellowship. Could you elaborate a little more on the ‘expertise’ element?

By this I mean to encompass mentoring, access to consumables (lab, equipment etc) and it also means that I have immediate access to a vast knowledge network of professionals and studies which can help my research. For example, I can access say preclinical trials in Cambridge,

then connect to colleagues in UCLA where they may have results from clinical trials which would aid my investigation - all instantly.

Can you also elaborate on the mentoring you have received?’

This is another hugely important factor, especially to young researchers at the beginning of their careers. The PCF Young Investigator Fellowship has a very personal approach to the researcher. I have an excellent line manager but I also have peer to peer and senior to junior mentoring, in other words, multiple streams of mentoring which allow me to get the maximum benefit from my research.

It’s concerning that so many young researchers are held back by access to funding.’

Absolutely. Many of my contemporaries have been applying for funding for over 10 years. If you imagine that it takes about 6 months to gather the information for each application (an application consists of around 85 pages) and each applicant applies 3 or 4 times per year to a small number of programmes, you can imagine how many hugely talented researchers there are out there who desperately need funding. Competition is fierce which is crazy when you think that each one of these researchers could make life changing discoveries for cancer patients and save money for the public health service.’

What other benefits would you say programmes like you fellowship have for researchers?’

They allow the researcher the freedom to look at a problem from multiple angles and to have control over their line of research, whereas when you depend on a senior researcher, you don’t have this freedom. By this, I mean that the programme allows for a certain amount of ‘blue sky thinking’ which often leads to more discoveries which would not have been made if the research had been more traditional.

Thank you Dimitrios. We wish you every success in your research.’

HOW DOES CRIS CHOOSE PROJECTS TO FUND?

We are indebted to our International Scientific Committee whose job it is to moderate and select each CRIS funded project.

Our International Scientific Committee is made up of eminent cancer specialists. These experts decide which research projects we fund. In this way, we make sure that we fund only the most innovative, creative and promising research.

The committee members give up their time voluntarily to assess, review and judge the fellowship applications we receive each year. Evaluation by our committee guarantees that we are funding scientific researchers who excel in their field.

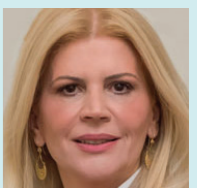
The international committee is made up of:



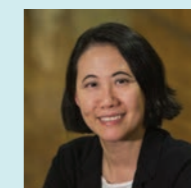
**Committee Chair
Prof Paul Workman**
The Institute of Cancer Research (UK)



Prof Kevin Harrington
The Institute of Cancer Research (UK)



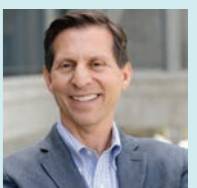
Prof. Amanda Psyrris
Professor of Medical Oncology (GR)



Prof Lillian Siu
Princess Margaret Cancer Centre (CA)



Prof Rajesh Chopra
Apple Tree Partners VC (UK)



Prof Paul S Mischel
Stanford University (US)



Prof Fabrice André
Gustave Roussy (FR)



Prof Joaquín Martínez
Hospital 12 Octubre (SP)

OUR CRIS COMMUNITY



THE ROYAL PARKS HALF MARATHON 2022

The Royal Parks Half Marathon took place on

Sunday 9th October 2022 and as usual CRIS had a fantastic team of runners raising funds for our cancer research projects.

A team of around 20 of CRIS's finest braved the Autumnal weather and ran the 13.1 mile route around some of London's most beautiful parks. It was not all flat terrain – with a slight gradient over the second part of the run making it not for the faint hearted!

The CRIS team managed to raise around £25,000 for CRIS, with one of our runners, CRIS Ambassador Vassilis Karatzenis, raising over £15,000 in memory of his brother, Christos Karatzenis, who passed away in 2020 from Pancreatic Cancer.

Vassilis was the proud winner of the Royal Bank of Canada award of £5,000 for most funds raised and was delighted to add this to our total.

Vienna City Marathon 2022
Gonzalo Garcia Villanueva



RUNNING FOR CRIS

Thank you to our runners for their amazing fundraising efforts.



Geneva Dec 2022:
Vassilis Karatzenis
Philipp Sikias
George Sarkis
Konstantinos Kamperis

Valencia Marathon Dec 2022
Juan Reig and Juan Blasco



Thank you
Your support will save lives

A NIGHT FOR THE FUTURE

On the 5th November 2022, we celebrated our 11th Annual Ball, A Night for the Future, in London, Paris and Madrid. In London we welcomed CRIS supporters, new and old, to the majestic surroundings of the Grosvenor House Hotel, for a celebration of life and hope for the future of cancer treatment.

Guests watched an emotive video showing testaments from prestigious CRIS funded scientists and researchers highlighting the importance of funding for research.

In London, we had some outstanding speakers such as Professor Karin Straathof from UCL who spoke about the CRIS funded Immunotherapy project at GOSH Charity which she leads. This innovative treatment harnesses immune cells, or CAR-T cells, and modifies them to attack cancer cells. Dr Straathof and her team are currently performing clinical trials using this treatment for DIPG, a rare but deadly childhood brain cancer.



We also heard from cancer survivor, Mafeu Kurach, a young man who's life was turned upside down by the devastating diagnosis of Hodgins Lymphoma at just 22 years of age. Mafeu talked with great passion about how research saved his life.

The event raised an amazing £1.6m in London alone. As always, the ball took place simultaneously in London, Paris and Madrid, and jointly raised over £2.1m. Thanks to our generous sponsors in London, R.J.O'Brien and with support from Tradeweb, we were able to use these funds integrally to support our projects.



CRIS supporters donated the most incredible prizes – with 140 lots in total ranging from gastronomy and artwork to beauty and luxury travel – which were included in our silent auction.

A CRIS Annual Ball is our 'flag ship' event where we present our accomplishments in the field of cancer treatment and research and where the CRIS community have the opportunity to hear first hand, from doctors and patients, how their donations have changed lives. The CRIS Annual Ball is a celebration, but also a reminder of how much more needs to be accomplished in the fight against cancer.



WORLD CANCER DAY RESTAURANT CAMPAIGN

To mark World Cancer Day in February, CRIS ask local restaurants to ask their customers to add an additional £1 to their final bill to donate to CRIS Cancer for the whole month.

The following restaurants took part:

- Hispania
- Jose Pizarro
- Cambio de Tercio
- Arros



Malika Gulabani

GEM Donnor

How did you find out about the CRIS Cancer Foundation?

I began to hear about CRIS in 2014, and what Lola and Diego were trying to achieve, through work. I then attended the Gala in London in 2015, and was able to see firsthand the fundraising efforts that the charity was implementing.

What is it about CRIS as a cancer foundation which most interests you?

What I find most interesting is the history of CRIS and its origination. It's through the bravery and vision of Lola and Diego that CRIS exists.

Could you tell us what it is that you think makes CRIS so adept at fundraising?

CRIS has the ability to galvanise supporters. The commitment I have seen from volunteers who have spent their time and efforts helping to deliver fundraising events has been very inspiring to me.

Mafeu Maciej Kurach

Cancer survivor, currently completing BA in International Business

How has cancer affected your life?

From the moment of my diagnosis, I knew my life would never be the same. Cancer made me re-evaluate the decisions I made, relationships I had with other people and with myself. I started paying more attention to what I was eating, how I take care of my body and mind and who I spent my priceless time with. It also helped me to realize how small and trivial my daily problems were. After finishing my treatment, my perspective on life completely changed and shifted my focus towards things that really matter such as family, friends and self-realization. Probably most of all, cancer has changed how grateful I am for things that I had previously taken for granted.

You mentioned in a speech at the CRIS annual ball 2022 that your doctor was relieved at your diagnosis. Could you explain why this was and what role research played in his/her reaction?

Yes, as strange as it sounds my doctor was relieved that I was diagnosed with Hodgkin's Lymphoma. In recent decades, treatment of Hodgkin's has advanced in an unbelievable way, increasing the 5-year relative survival rate from 50 percent in 1970's to almost 90 percent today. Research and clinical trials have enabled doctors to diagnose patients much earlier and therefore, increase their chances of surviving.

What would you say to our donors who have helped fund CRIS projects in the past and are thinking of doing so again?

First, I would like to thank anyone that supports CRIS's projects and mission. Research for cancer treatment is an extremely long and complex process but I am proof that it brings results. Twenty years ago, the outcome of my diagnosis could have been very different. I am eternally grateful to organizations like CRIS and their donors for the help that they bring to patients all over the world. It really does make a difference, especially in the long run.



What would you say to cancer patients going through treatment right now?

I would like to tell them that no matter how tough and hopeless the situation might seem, they can never give up. Positive thinking and energy helped me to go through endless rounds of chemo- and radiotherapy. Moreover, when it comes to mental health during the treatment, I can't stress enough how important it is not to be afraid and ask for support. There were numerous days when I felt incredibly alone in my pain, but the presence of loved ones helped me to regain the hope and strength to keep fighting. I wish I could tell every patient out there that they have to keep believing and see themselves as survivors because one day that moment will come.

Our five-year plan

CRIS would like to continue its strategy of investing in innovative and collaborative research over the next 5 years.

We are immensely grateful for the support we have received over the years from our individual and regular donors, their families, corporate partners, community fundraisers and our diligent volunteers, without whom we would not be able to continue funding pioneering research.

CRIS makes long-term commitments with hospitals and research centres to give stability to scientists so they can develop their work. In the next 5 years, CRIS will provide funding of at least 54 million pounds.

£34M

TOTAL 2011-2022

£7.16M

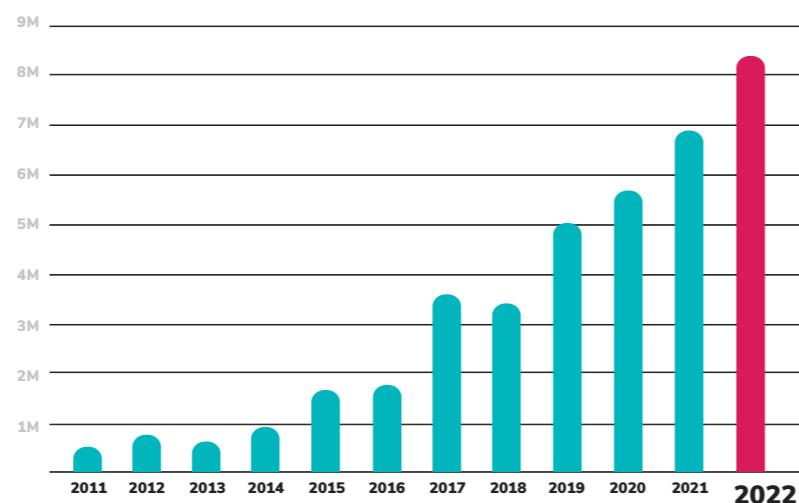
2022



22%

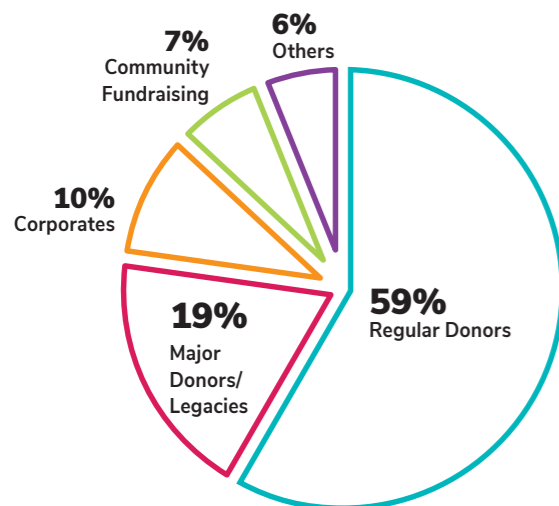
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INVESTMENT IN RESEARCH

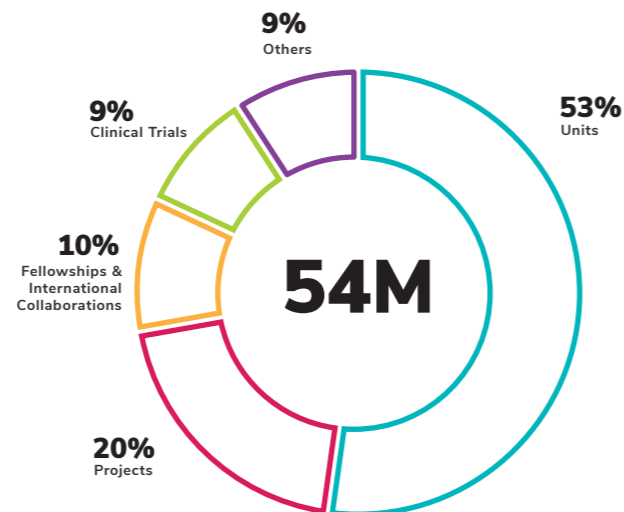


FUNDS RAISED

TOTAL: £10,818,618



5 YEAR COMMITMENT



UK

	2022	2021
	Total	Total
Incoming resources from:		
Donations and legacies	210,978	164,287
Other fundraising activities	1,573,401	1,683,198
Investments	6,212	1,448
Total income resources*	1,790,591	1,848,933
Expenditure on:		
Fundraising events	239,827	207,365
Overheads	70,470	50,339
Donations made to research	1,468,154	688,321
Total expenditure*	1,778,452	946,027

Ratios	2022
Overheads/total income	5%
Total expenses/income	18%
Every £1 spent in fundraising raises	£8

WE USE FUNDS EFFICIENTLY, SO THAT EVERY POUND INVESTED IN CANCER HAS THE MAXIMUM IMPACT.

*CRIS CANCER FOUNDATION, A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE (CHARITY NO. 1140193) Annual Report and Financial Statements for the period ended 31 December 2022

The financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the Companies Act 2006, the Memorandum and Articles of Association, and Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard in the UK and Republic of Ireland.

Research holds the key to treating cancer and increasing survival rates. The dedication and hard work of scientific researchers means that more adults and children are surviving cancer and living a better quality of life.

CRIS International Overview 2022

	UK	SP	FR	TOTAL
Total income resources	1,790,591	11,127,750	126,480	13,044,821
Total expenditure	1,778,452	1,559,635	21,348	3,359,435



Elena Muyo

Director of The CRIS Cancer Foundation, London office.

Where did you first hear about CRIS?

I met the charity when CRIS did ; a promotional event in Hispania (London)... I think it was November 2013

Why did you want to become involved?

My husband and I have been and are supporters of CRIS since that first encounter back in 2013. At that event, I really liked the focus CRIS has on research and the sense of urgency to get clinical trials to cancer patients who have been told there are no other alternatives. I also liked their professionalism and wanting to fund the best researchers. As a mother of a cancer survivor child, the focus CRIS has on research and excellence made it the charity my husband and I wanted to support. We had been involved in other big charities, but we felt with CRIS that we had the certainty that our contribution would go only to research.

What is your role at CRIS?

I have been the director of CRIS UK since September 2022.

How are the projects that CRIS finances/supports chosen?

All the research ideas are assessed by a group of independent scientists who evaluate all the documentation and give their assessment. In addition to this, once a project receives the funding from CRIS, our science team together with an external evaluator monitor the performance of that project on, at the very least, an annual basis.

What is the best part of your role?

I am always very grateful (and impressed) by the generosity of the people and companies that make up the CRIS community. Thanks to them, millions of pounds have been dedicated to life saving research. I also love working with our dedicated team and amazing volunteers, that is certainly another wonderful aspect of my role.

...and the worst?

Hearing the news of a cancer patient for whom there is currently no cure. It is devastating, but it is a sad confirmation that we need to continue with our mission with an even stronger sense of urgency.

What role do you think CRIS will play in overcoming hurdles in cancer treatment?

The current statistics estimate that one in two males and one in three females will develop cancer in the UK in the future. I think it is crucial that we continue to raise awareness of the importance of investing in research. We are now benefiting from research carried out some years ago and that continuity will allow us to make the progress necessary to save more lives from this terrible disease that affects adults and children.

Catherine Brookes

Communications Officer, The CRIS Cancer Foundation, London office

Where did you first hear about CRIS?

I heard about CRIS through friends who were involved in fundraising for the foundation. I knew that they were involved in funding research projects internationally but I did not have a full idea of their work.

Why did you want to become involved?

Like all people, I have lost many people I care about to cancer. Lately, This has included friends of my own age and younger. People born from 1960's onwards have a much higher probability of developing cancer at an earlier age yet not enough money is being put into research to find out what is causing this rise and into developing treatments which can help people living with cancer to live longer and have a better quality of life.

What is your role at CRIS?

I manage the communication for CRIS from emails and letters to our community to social media, reports and corporate communication. At CRIS we tend to muck in so I also help the events team and where ever else is necessary. I try to communicate our work to our audience in the most meaningful way for them so that more people will engage with our work and ultimately help us to beat cancer.

How are the projects that CRIS finances/supports chosen?

Cancer is a general word to describe a huge variety of illnesses. Each cancer case is different and each patient will react to that treatment in a different way. Identifying tumours and how patients will react to treatment can only be made possible through research and in this way we can find the unique combination of treatments for each patient. The most important thing to remember when we talk about cancer is hope. Our research brings hope to thousands of cancer patients. We can combat cancer but it will take time, resources and a great deal of research.



What is the best part of your role?

Working with such an enthusiastic team who are so dedicated to eradicating cancer and watching how CRIS funded projects produce real clinical trials which can successfully treat patients.

...and the worst?

The heart breaking stories I see every day about amazing people battling cancer.

What role do you think CRIS will play in overcoming hurdles in cancer treatment?

Where shall I start?! Certainly in terms of funding, CRIS is able to move swiftly, and finance projects quickly, which is key to the continuity of research. CRIS is also fundamental in plugging gaps in funding which other organisations cannot fill. CRIS prepares the researchers of the future – making sure that their talent is potentialized and does not go to waste due to lack of funding or direction. For me, CRIS is unstoppable.

2022 CRIS UK corporate collaborations

Foundations and companies participate in our Giving Program united by the common goal of investing in life through research.

CORPORATE DONATIONS AND GRANTS



MATCHING DONATIONS FROM THEIR EMPLOYEES TO CRIS



ANNUAL BALL SPONSORSHIP

Main sponsor



PARTICIPATING RESTAURANTS WCD CAMPAIGN



The general director of Andbank, Ignacio Iglesias, and the director of CRIS, Marta Cardona, with Dr. Luis Alvarez-Vallina and Dr. Belén Blanco, in the Immunology Unit.

CRIS PARTNERS





JOIN THE CRIS COMMUNITY

From volunteering to fundraising, there are lots of ways to get involved in our work. Together, we will make sure pioneering cancer research gives every adult and child the best chance of survival.

If you'd like to donate, you can be sure your gift will give hope to people with cancer.



Visit: www.criscancer.org.uk

Email: info@criscancer.org.uk

Address: Second floor office, 3a Harrington Road, London, SW7 3ES

CRIS Cancer Foundation is a registered charity (charity no. 1140193)