



ANNUAL REPORT

2023



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OUR MISSION

WE ARE AN INTERNATIONAL CHARITY WHOSE PRINCIPAL OBJECTIVE IS **TO FUND CUTTING EDGE RESEARCH PROJECTS** FOR THE TREATMENT AND PREVENTION OF CANCER.





CRIS AT A GLANCE



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.



International Charity



Funding, collaborating and building alliances



Recognising scientific talent and supporting careers



Long term commitment strategy allows closer relationship with researchers



Facilities in public hospitals



Giving patients the chance to access new treatments.



MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

We are all working together to build a better world, a world in which cancer can be cured.

Dear Partners and donors,

I am delighted to present the CRIS Cancer Foundation's Annual Report for 2023, which details our activities, results, and impact in the UK, as well as in Spain and France.

We believe that the CRIS Cancer Foundation's success lies in its extensive community of thousands of people who, together, are committed to the fight against cancer. As a community we

understand that it is only through investment in research that we will be able to cure this devastating disease, which continues to pose a serious and growing global health problem.

Thirteen years ago, it was our firm conviction that cancer can be cured that inspired to set up the Foundation. Since then, we have invested over 50 million euros into cancer research, 37 million of which in the past 5 years alone. This has allowed for significant advances in treatments and has given many patients who did not respond to conventional therapies another chance at life. This has only been possible thanks to the collective effort and unwavering support of our donors and partners. Together we have achieved extraordinary results which will benefit 11 million potential patients.

To achieve these results, we provide sustained, financial support to the most promising researchers throughout their scientific careers, we finance specialised units in public hospitals for the treatment of different types of cancer, and we promote collaboration between scientists from different countries. We want everyone, regardless of socio-economic status, to have access to the best treatments through the public healthcare system.

In addition, the CRIS Cancer Foundation's investments often have a multiplier effect, by promoting co-financing agreements with other organizations, attracting investments to our specialised cancer units and, thanks to the promising results of our research, obtaining grants from other financing entities.

We are all working together to build a better world, a world in which cancer can be cured.

Without you, none of this would be possible, so, on behalf of the researchers, patients and the team that makes up the CRIS Cancer Foundation, I offer you my sincere gratitude for your constant support.

Yours sincerely,

Lola Manterola

CO-FOUNDER, CRIS CANCER FOUNDATION

THE HIGHLIGHTS OF 2023

VACCINES AGAINST LUNG CANCER METASTASES

Oxford University, United Kingdom



The CRIS Cancer Foundation, as co-funder with Cancer Research UK (CRUK), is participating in a revolutionary project led by Prof. Sarah Blagden to develop a vaccine that prevents lung cancer metastases and relapses in high-risk patients.

CAR-T THERAPIES AGAINST RELAPSES OF CHILDHOOD LEUKAEMIA

Great Ormond St Hospital, London (GOSH)

We are funding a new clinical trial led by Prof. Persis Amrolia, with a new class of dual CAR-T cells specially designed to prevent relapses in childhood leukaemia (ALL). The results could potentially be applied to lymphoma and certain types of adult leukaemia such as AML.

NEW
DUAL
**CAR-T
Clinical
Trial**

ONE OF THE LARGEST BANKS OF KNOWLEDGE ON CHILDREN'S BRAIN TUMOURS.

Institute of Cancer Research (ICR) London

Prof. Chris Jones and his team, with funding provided by CRIS in the last 11 years, are compiling an extensive set of brain tumour samples, that includes tissues from patients as well as more than 100 very sophisticated lab models derived from these samples. This is a remarkable number given the complexity behind this challenging task. Thanks to CRIS, they are now able to study these in great depth and collaborate with centres around the world.



Prof. Chris Jones

PAEDIATRIC BRAIN TUMOUR (DMG) CAR T-CELL THERAPY CLINICAL TRIAL

Great Ormond St Hospital, London (GOSH)

Further to the obtention of all the required regulatory approvals in 2023 and the highly specialised training of all personnel involved, this clinical trial, co-funded by CRIS, is now open for the recruitment of patients.



Dr Karin Straathof

TWO NEW INTERNATIONAL CLINICAL TRIALS ON GASTROINTESTINAL SYSTEM AND ON HAEMATOLOGICAL CANCERS.

Institut Gustave Roussy, Paris

Through the Real-Life Clinical Trials Programme for Oncology, CRIS is supporting two new international clinical trials. Dr. Christophe Willekens (Gustave Roussy, Paris) and Dr. Pau Montesinos (La Fe, Valencia) are leading a trial focused on the digestive system. They are searching for an alternative treatment for patients who cannot receive chemotherapy. Dr. Eric Baudin (Gustave Roussy) and Dr. Rocío García Carbonero (Hospital 12 de Octubre) are looking at a radiotherapy dose reduction for haematological cancers that would maintain effectiveness but reduce side effects.

2
NEW
Clinical
trials
Digestive System
and Haematological
Cancers

NEW THERAPY AGAINST MYELOMA USING PATIENTS' OWN CELLS

CRIS Immunotherapy Unit, 12 de Octubre University Hospital, Madrid

The CRIS Immunotherapy Unit at the 12 de Octubre Hospital (Madrid) has created a new type of cell therapy called STAb for the treatment of myeloma, which they will soon launch in clinical trials with patients.



Dr. Luis Álvarez Vallina

INTERNATIONAL LEADERS IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF NEW CAR-T THERAPIES

CRIS Haematological Tumours Unit, 12 de Octubre University Hospital, Madrid

This CRIS Unit has played a key role in many of the multi-country clinical trials that have led to the international approval of several next-generation therapies, both in CAR-T and other types of therapy.

5
Car-T
Therapies
developed

CREATION OF A NEW THERAPY AGAINST CHILDHOOD SARCOMAS

CRIS Unit for Advanced Therapies in Childhood Cancer, La Paz University Hospital, Madrid

Development of a new highly advanced cell therapy to treat advanced sarcomas in children and adolescents, including the approval to begin a clinical trial with paediatric patients, the first clinical trial in the world with an academic allogeneic CAR-T.



A NEW METHOD TO IMPROVE EARLY DETECTION OF COLON CANCER

Hospital del Mar Research Institute, Barcelona

Dr. Clara Montagut's team from the CRIS Colon Cancer Project has designed a method to improve colon cancer screening campaigns, which is based on cutting-edge genetic analysis techniques.

NEW
Early
Detection
Method
for Colon
Cancer

ANTICIPATING RESISTANCE TO TREATMENT IN HER2+ BREAST CANCER

Cancer Research Center, Salamanca

Dr. Atanasio Pandiella of the CRIS Breast Cancer Project has uncovered a mechanism by which the tumour cells of these extremely aggressive cancers are able to escape even the most advanced therapies currently available.



Dr. Atanasio Pandiella

RESEARCH SAVES LIVES: THE NUMBERS CONFIRM IT

CRIS Haematological Tumours Unit, 12 de Octubre University Hospital, Madrid

A study developed by the CRIS Haematological Tumours Unit shows that survival rates for multiple myeloma have doubled in recent years. This figure demonstrates beyond doubt that research saves lives, and that we must continue, with support and determination, to find effective treatments for cancer.

x2
Survival rates
Multiple myeloma

FIGHT KIDS CANCER: LARGE PAEDIATRIC PROJECTS AND CLINICAL TRIALS AT THE EUROPEAN LEVEL

Consortium against childhood cancer

CRIS has joined the European consortium of the Fight Kids Cancer (FKC), which combines its resources to promote research against paediatric cancer. It supports large clinical trials and international projects, in which teams from all over Europe participate.

9 Paediatric
Projects
FIGHT
KIDS
CANCER

ABOUT CRIS CANCER

CRIS Cancer Foundation is an independent non-profit organisation, fully dedicated to facilitating and developing research to beat cancer as a serious health issue.

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 2011, 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 all types of cancer.

CRIS MULTIPLIER EFFECT ON CANCER RESEARCH INVESTMENT

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)

HOW DO WE DEFEAT CANCER?

- Fund research into adult cancer
- Fund research into childhood cancer
- Establish multidisciplinary units in hospitals
- Provide fellowships, scholarships and grants to support researchers

CRIS SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH COMMITTEE

We would like to take this opportunity to thank Professor Paul Workman, Committee Chair from 2018– 2023, for his outstanding work in guiding the committee for more than 5 years. He will be replaced as Chair by Prof Lillian Siu, who has served on the committee for several years, and she will be supported by Prof Rajesh Chopra in the role of Vice Chair.

Additionally, we would like to welcome four new committee members: Dr Josep Taberner, VHIO, Spain, Prof Karin de Visser, Netherlands Cancer Centre, NL, Prof Claude Chelala, Queen Mary University, London, UK, and Prof. Caroline Robert, Gustav Roussay, France.



CHAIR
Prof. Lillian Siu
Princess Margaret Cancer Centre (CA)



VICE CHAIR
Prof. Rajesh Chopra
Apple Tree Partners VC (UK)



Prof. Sumitra J. Mandrekar
Mayo Clinic (US)



Prof. Paul S. Mischel
Stanford University – Stanford (US)



Prof. Karin de Visser
Netherlands Cancer Center (NL)



Prof. Kevin Harrington
ICR / Royal Marsden Hospital (UK)



Prof. Amanda Psyrri
Attikon University Hospital (GR)



Prof. Caroline Robert
Gustave Roussy (FR)



Prof. Joaquín Martínez
Hospital 12 Octubre (SP)



Prof. Claude Chelala
Queen Mary, University of London



Dr. Josep Taberner
VHIO (SP)

HOW DOES CRIS CHOOSE PROJECTS TO FUND?

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



Since its inception in 2011, CRIS UK (London) has been working closely with the **Institute of Cancer Research**, to co-fund research projects which show immense potential for patients in the future. More recently, CRIS has begun working with **Great Ormond Street Hospital (GOSH)** where we are co-funding two large clinical trials in childhood cancer. We are also collaborating with **OXFORD Cancer** (the entity which combines all cancer research projects at the University of Oxford) where we are sponsoring training programs as well as large projects focused on the creation of preventative vaccines against cancer, a field that has exploded following the development of innovative technologies during the COVID-19 pandemic.

CRIS UK PROJECTS

ICR

CENTRE OF TRANSLATIONAL IMMUNOTHERAPY

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

CRIS is committed to providing ongoing funding to the Centre for Translational Immunotherapy at the Institute of Cancer Research (ICR). **This organisation combines the expertise of all the immunotherapy experts at the ICR under one roof.** It serves as a collaborative platform between the different groups, helping to generate more ambitious and multidisciplinary projects. It is closely linked to the Royal Marsden Hospital, so that findings and new treatments can benefit patients as soon as possible.

CRIS is providing funding to support the following two projects at the ICR's Centre for Translational Immunotherapy:

RESISTANCE TO TREATMENTS FOR MULTIPLE MYELOMA

Principal researcher: Dr Charlotte Pawlyn

The aim of this study is to understand the resistance mechanism in some myeloma cells, which makes them unresponsive to treatment by immunomodulatory drugs (ImiDs), either from the outset of the disease, or over a period of time. It is hoped that new strategies to try to restore

sensitivity in these cells, as well as effective treatments for resistant myeloma cells, will be discovered, and that doctors will be better able to predict which patients are likely to become resistant to treatment.

IMMUNOTHERAPY ON THORACIC TUMOURS

Principal researcher: Dr Astero Klampatsa

Dr Klampatsa's group is focused on researching two areas of unmet need. Firstly, unravelling the cellular mechanisms responsible for a lack of T cell immune response in this tumour, with the aim to identify markers of response to immunotherapy. And secondly, developing new CAR T cell therapies for this disease by engineering patients' T cells to attack specific antigens on the tumour's surface.

BRAIN TUMOURS, DIFFUSE MIDLINE GLIOMA (DMG)

Principal researcher: Professor Chris Jones

Professor Jones and his team have analysed a vast number of patient samples and created an extensive catalogue of genetic alterations, which forms the basis of their research projects.

This catalogue has been made public and can be consulted at PedcBioPortal (<https://pedcbiportal.org/>). This biobank has crucial importance in research.

CANCER IN THE UK



- **1 in 2 people** in the UK born after 1960 will be diagnosed with some form of cancer during their lifetime
- Cancer is a leading cause of death in the UK with around **1,000 new cases** diagnosed every day
- There were around **1,800 new cases** of cancer in children each year in the UK, with **12 new cases of children and teenagers** diagnosed every day.
- Every **4 minutes** someone in the UK dies from cancer.



Dr. Alan Malcher

GOSH

GOSH is the charitable foundation of the Great Ormond Street Hospital, a children's hospital that combines the most cutting-edge research with personalised treatment therapies. CRIS is currently co-funding two important clinical trials.

CAR4ALL: CD19/22 CAR T CELL THERAPY FOR PAEDIATRIC ALL

Principal researcher: Prof. Persis Amrolia

In this clinical trial, Dr Persis Amrolia's team will treat 12 patients with dual CAR-T cells. These special CAR-T cells have been modified in two ways (rather than only one), so that they recognise two different tumour molecules. This means that if a tumour manages to conceal one type of molecule, the therapy can still work on the other. Additionally, these CAR-T cells have been designed not to over-stimulate to the patient's lymphocytes when they encounter the tumour cells, preventing them from becoming exhausted and allowing the therapy to function for longer.

BRAIN TUMOURS, DIFFUSE MIDLINE GLIOMA (DMG)

Principal researcher: Prof. Karin Straathof

In this clinical trial, CAR-T technology is being used for the first time to combat Diffuse Midline Glioma which is an aggressive paediatric brain tumour which is currently incurable. CAR-T technology involves taking T lymphocyte cells from the patient's immune system and genetically engineering them with a type of molecular detector that allows them to find and destroy tumour cells.

FIGHT KIDS CANCER

In 2023, CRIS joined the Executive Committee of Fight Kids Cancer (FKC), consolidating its place in this consortium. The FKC 2023 call for projects focused predominantly on different types of brain tumour (such as medulloblastoma and diffuse midline glioma). However, CRIS cancer has supported other projects from FKC previous call (2022) Projects related to other types of solid tumour (such as kidney and childhood sarcomas) as well as blood cell tumours (Hodgkin's lymphoma and acute T lymphoblastic leukaemia). A total of twelve different European countries are taking part in these projects and clinical trials, reflecting the collaborative spirit of this powerful initiative.

Please see page 25 for further information on FKC.

OXFORD UNIVERSITY

■ LUNGVAX

Principal researchers: Prof. Sarah Blagden,
Prof. Tim Elliott

CRIS (together with Cancer Research UK) is co-funding a **revolutionary clinical trial led by Prof. Sarah Blagden**, from the University of Oxford. This trial has been designed for patients who have received an early diagnosis of lung cancer and have received surgery to remove their tumour(s). These patients have a high risk of relapse or developing new lung tumours. This Phase I/II trial will seek to determine whether the administration of the LungVax vaccine is better than no vaccine at preventing or delaying the onset of cancer in people at risk of recurrent or new non-small cell lung cancer (NSCLC).

■ INFINITOPES: PREVENTATIVE CANCER VACCINATIONS

Principal researcher: Dr. Jonathan Kwok
CRIS also supports Dr. Jonathan Kwok, CEO of Infnitopes (University of Oxford), who is working on developing vaccines that prevent metastasis in cancer patients.

■ OXFORD CANCER CLINICAL ACADEMIC TRAINING PROGRAMME

CRIS has awarded the first beneficiaries of a program created with the University of Oxford and Oxford Cancer, to promote the research careers of young and brilliant doctors. This ambitious three-year training program paves the way for future new collaborations with this prestigious university. The beneficiaries are Dr. Robert Watson, who works in cancer immunotherapy, and Dr. Eleni Louka, who **specialises in a type of childhood leukaemia with a particularly poor prognosis.**

Principal researcher: Dr. Eleni Louka
Junior Myelomonocytic Leukaemia (JMML) is a rare cancer of the blood, which belongs to a group of infant leukaemias with very poor prognosis. For many years, there has been little progress in treatment. Currently it can only be treated through a bone marrow transplant, and more than 30% of patients will relapse. It is therefore vital that we develop new, effective and less aggressive treatments.

Through her pioneering work Dr Louka has identified a particular type of cell which appears to be responsible for the relapse in patients. She will focus on developing therapies that target these specific cells, and creating far more effective treatments for this type of leukaemia.



With your funding and your support we were able to start work in summer 2023, designing and testing the parts of the vaccine we are now manufacturing.

Prof. Sarah Blagden

Principal researchers: Dr. Robert Watson
Immunotherapy has changed the way in which we understand and treat cancer. Unfortunately, it does not work for all patients, and sometimes causes severe side effects. It remains difficult to predict which patients will respond well, and which will not. Throughout his career, Dr Watson has made great strides in identifying the factors that allow us to better predict a patient's response, and thereby select the most suitable therapy. However more work is needed in this field so he will continue to focus on improving immunotherapy treatments which will benefit a great number of patients.

INTERVIEW WITH REYISA BUGHDA

Research Associate at UCL before, currently researching CAR-T cell immunotherapy as a treatment for Mesothelioma cancer in Dr Astero Klampatsa's team at the ICR, typically associated with asbestos exposure

What led you to your chosen subject?

I studied biomedical sciences during my undergraduate years, and I found myself gravitating towards oncology. I was fascinated by the complex mechanisms of tumour development, the constant battle between cancer cells and our immune system, and the many modalities of treatment developed for patients.

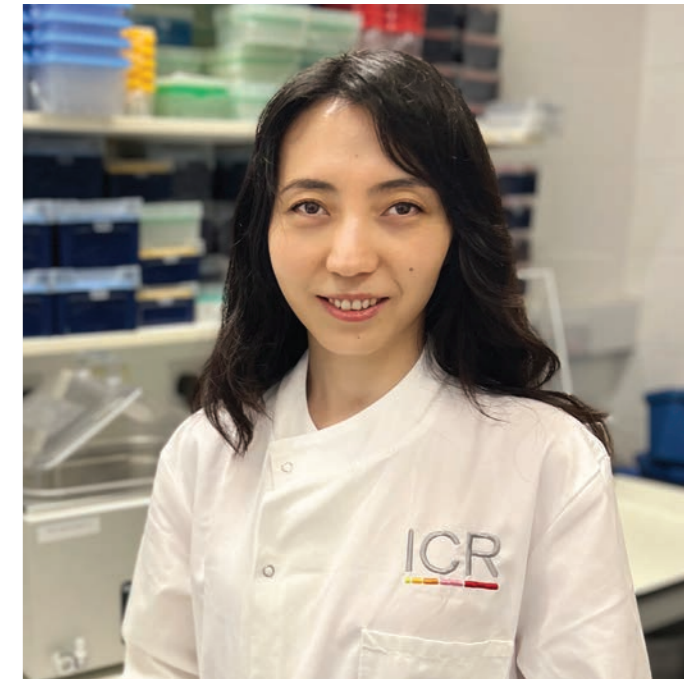
Following my studies, I had the opportunity to work in the industry on novel immunotherapies for cancer, which made me realise the huge potential of immunotherapy in cancer treatment in general. I therefore decided to gain further expertise in this field through higher academic studies.

What is the Focus of your PhD?

My PhD focuses on developing a robust cellular immunotherapy against malignant pleural mesothelioma.

Mesothelioma is primarily caused by exposure to asbestos. Although the use of asbestos has been banned in the UK, its incidence is high with around 3,000 cases annually due to a long latency period between exposure and development of disease. It's worth noting that asbestos continues to be mined and used in countries in Southeast Asia and China, therefore the global incidence of mesothelioma is expected to rise.

The therapy I work on is called CAR T-cell therapy, which involves the genetic modification of the patient's own immune cells to recognise and kill cancer cells. These therapies are successful in treating haematological malignancies but are faced with several barriers in the treatment of solid tumours. My work is to develop a CAR T-cell therapy that overcomes some of these barriers, namely, the tumour stroma and hostile cytokine. The tumour stroma is composed of cells called fibroblasts, and my CAR-T cell therapy has two targets: a) a protein expressed by fibroblasts called FAP and b) a cytokine



produced by cancer cells called TGFb. By targeting both of these, we hope to stress the tumour and modulate the tumour microenvironment to allow an efficient anti-tumour immune response.

What do you hope your research will lead to?

I hope my research will lead to robust preclinical results that can be published in a scientific journal. I do hope that my work will succeed in producing an efficient CAR-T cell therapy for mesothelioma, and an insight into the immunobiology of this tumour.

What does the support from CRIS mean to you?

The support from CRIS is funding my PhD project, including my stipend and all consumables, therefore it is crucial for carrying out my research. With my PhD fellowship's budget we have invested in necessary equipment, reagents and services that are needed to perform experiments. Getting support from CRIS also means having credibility and validation for our research, which motivates us to achieve our research goals.

What would you say to any scientist thinking of applying for funding from CRIS?

If you have novel ideas for any technology or research that contributes to cancer prevention, diagnosis, or treatment, do not hesitate to apply for funding from CRIS. They are a great Foundation, that will help realise your ideas and provide support throughout your project.

ON THE SPOTLIGHT CRIS & ICR

The development of effective cancer treatments takes many years of research, funding and commitment. That is why at CRIS, we strive to establish long and lasting partnerships with leading centres in the field of oncology. We are particularly honoured to have formed a close relationship with the ICR, one of the world's most influential cancer research organisations.

The relationship initially started when CRIS supported the ICR's research into haemato-oncology and childhood thirteen years ago. Having seen the immense support ICR gave to its researchers and the progression of these projects, we then decided to invest further in the new and highly specialised area of immunotherapy.



'CRIS's incredible donors and supporters have funded research grants at the ICR that have allowed us to establish a new immunotherapy lab and to continue our research into myeloma and childhood brain tumours, where treatment advances are urgently needed.'

Professor Kristian Helin

INTERVIEW WITH PROFESSOR KRISTIAN HELIN

Chief Executive and President of The
Institute of Cancer Research, London



We would like our donors to understand the complexity of research developing into real cancer treatments for patients. Could you elaborate on the process and period of time required from concept to treatment?

At The Institute of Cancer Research, London, we aim to improve the lives of people with cancer, and we primarily do this by creating new treatments that are more effective against the disease while being kinder to the body. We are in an exciting time in cancer research – new interventions made possible by research, including our own, are continually becoming available to save people's lives and improve their quality of life.

However, the effort that goes into each of these developments cannot be overstated. Taking a drug from initial discovery through to patients is a long, multistep process with many possible barriers. Overall, a timeframe of 10 to 15 years from start to finish is realistic, so the process requires huge tenacity, dedication and passion. It is all worth it, though, when we see lives being saved and extended to give people more valuable time with their loved ones.

Our scientists work across all stages of cancer research – starting from discovery science at the laboratory bench, to better understand the biology of cancer and to identify and validate a potential target for the development of

a new drug candidate, and going all the way through to clinical trials that result in new treatments becoming available to patients.

At the Institute of Cancer Research (ICR), our Centre for Cancer Drug Discovery is a pioneering new facility where researchers are working tirelessly on finding and designing potential cancer drugs to targets that we have identified and validated through the work in our discovery science divisions.

Even though we have a well-defined biological target, it is not an easy process to develop new drug candidates. Only about 2–3 per cent of drug candidates will pass to the preclinical testing stage, where researchers must demonstrate safety and efficacy ahead of clinical trials in people. About 2 per cent of these preclinical compounds



Prof. Kristian Helin, FMedSci ForMemRS,
Thomas Bland, Deputy Director of Development,
Lola Manterola, CRIS co-founder,
Elena Muyo, CRIS UK Director

We are indebted to CRIS for playing a huge part in our efforts to make the discoveries that defeat cancer.

will then progress to clinical studies, which can sometimes take 10 years or more to complete. If the drug performs well in clinical trials, drug regulators will determine whether it can be approved for the treatment of patients.

Getting a drug approved is a huge cause for celebration, but it is not the only piece of the puzzle. Our work on better understanding cancer biology, prevention and alternative diagnostic and treatment approaches is crucial for defeating cancer.

As an expert in epigenetics, could you explain how the environmental factors can have an impact in cancer?

In simple terms, epigenetics is the study of how our genome is regulated without any changes to the DNA sequence. Epigenetics is a control system present in all our cells that can determine when our genes are turned on or off, and therefore which proteins are produced. Epigenetics is essential for normal development because it determines which genes are expressed in specific cells and at what time during growth and development.

Epigenetic changes are present in all cancers, and they often lock cells into a specific state, such as, for instance, continued proliferation. Epigenetic changes can be caused by mutations in the genes regulating the epigenetic states, or they can be directly induced by increasing or decreasing the activity of these genes – by, for example, exposure to environmental pollutants, heavy metals or electromagnetic radiation. This exposure can alter the activity of genes by causing them to be activated or silenced, which will change the production of proteins in the cell.

In cancer research, the study of epigenetic mechanisms is important for understanding not only cancer development but also what we call cellular plasticity, or the fact that cancer cells have different development trajectories and respond differently to drug treatments.

And, in addition to the long-time documented link between cancer and smoking, can other lifestyle habits play a key role in developing cancer?

Research has linked multiple lifestyle factors to cancer, but, apart from smoking, they seem to increase the risk of cancer rather than causing it directly. Genetic factors can mean that a person is already predisposed to cancer, and some cases of the disease result from unavoidable occupational exposures or infection by viruses. This can make it challenging to determine the extent to which lifestyle factors can be held

accountable. However, making certain lifestyle choices is a sensible step towards reducing your risk of cancer.

Most people are aware that sun exposure and excessive consumption of certain foods can increase the risk of cancer, but they might not realise that alcohol, obesity, stress and physical inactivity have also been identified as risk factors. It is important to highlight, though, that some people live a very healthy lifestyle and still develop cancer. For example, people who do not smoke can still get lung cancer, so it is important that we avoid perpetuating stigma around cancers that are associated with certain behaviours.

Thanks to research, we have discovered so much more about cancer and how each individual patient reacts differently to it. How close are we to having personalised treatments for all types of cancer?

Personalised medicine for cancer is where we want to get to with our discoveries. At the ICR, we have long been committed to finding smarter, kinder treatments, and we're doing this, in part, by developing new ways to treat cancer that are more specific to each person's disease. However, cancer is extremely complex. There are more than 200 types of cancer, and they have a vast range of causes and presentations. In addition, each patient is unique. No two people have the exact same genetics, behaviours and experiences. This poses an enormous challenge!



Our scientists are working hard to understand how genetic and environmental factors interact to determine cancer risk and how cancer grows. We apply this knowledge to our research into new treatments, with the aim of developing interventions that are specific to certain subgroups of people and therefore most likely to lead to a good outcome. Although the ability to deliver fully personalised care to every individual is still a long way off, and might not even be feasible, we are optimistic that this approach will significantly improve survival and quality of life for many people with cancer.

Why do we need foundations such as CRIS to fund research when there is already government funding for research?

Research is very expensive. While we're fortunate to benefit from government and industry funding, that income would not be enough to continue the progress we've been making. We are completely reliant on the support of charities and foundations like CRIS Cancer Foundation.

CRIS's incredible donors and supporters have funded research grants at the ICR that have allowed us to establish a new immunotherapy lab and to continue our research into myeloma and childhood brain tumours, where treatment advances are urgently needed. That research would simply not be happening without CRIS. We are indebted to CRIS for playing a huge part in our efforts to make the discoveries that defeat cancer.



Since we first established the CRIS Cancer Foundation, we have looked to the ICR as a benchmark of professionalism and excellence in cancer research

Lola Materola

WE ARE GLOBAL

Cancer is a deeply complex, global problem. To succeed in our mission to prevent, diagnose and treat it, research needs to be a joint effort between leading professionals from around the world. We must encourage collaboration between the best teams, identify the most brilliant researchers and provide them with the necessary means to bring us closer to a world where cancer is just one amongst other treatable diseases.

This has been clear to CRIS from the outset, which is why we have a targeted international and global outreach. We have offices in Spain, the United Kingdom and France, all of which are growing through our collaborations with some of the most prestigious cancer research institutions in the world.

INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITY IN 2023

The beneficiaries of the programs CRIS has developed with the **Damon Runyon Cancer Research Foundation and the Prostate Cancer Foundation in the US and the Princess Margaret Cancer Centre in Canada** were selected, and the awards granted.

The "CRIS-Damon Runyon - Dale F. Frey Award for Breakthrough Scientists" has allowed Dr. Liudmila Andreeva (Universitätsklinikum Tübingen, Germany) to be attracted to Europe from the United States, to create her own laboratory and develop her innovative lines of investigation.

Through the **Prostate Cancer Foundation**, the "Young Investigator Award" was awarded to Dr Dimitrios Doultinos (University of Oxford) and Dr. Alexander Würzer (Technischen Universität, München, Germany), who have joined the community of researchers supported by CRIS.

In Canada, the winner of the program is Dr. Catia Fava Gaspar (Portuguese Institute of Oncology), who for the next two years will be trained in drug development by some of the greatest international experts in the field.

CRIS France continues to grow, and over the coming year CRIS plans to expand the number of projects it supports there through the identification of new researchers who demonstrate great potential.

In addition, the second call for applications has been completed for the "**Real Life Trials in Oncology**" program which CRIS sponsors together with the Institut Gustave Roussy in Paris. This program seeks to develop collaborative clinical trials led by French and Spanish researchers to answer key questions relating to current treatments and which can have a rapid application in routine clinical practice. Under this program, there are two new international clinical trials being developed between Spain and France:

Dr. Christophe Willekens (Institut Gustave Roussy, Paris) and Dr. Pau Montesinos (La Fe, Valencia), will use a combination of treatments to treat patients who cannot receive chemotherapy.

Dr. Eric Baudin (Institut Gustave Roussy, Paris) and Dr. Rocío García Carbonero (Hospital 12 de Octubre, Madrid) will test a change in the dose of radiotherapy in certain gastrointestinal tumours, to maintain effectiveness but reduce side effects.

16 COUNTRIES

UK	BELGIUM
SPAIN	SWEDEN
FRANCE	NETHERLANDS
ITALY	DENMARK
IRELAND	SWITZERLAND
CANADA	ISRAEL
GERMANY	US
LUXEMBURG	AUSTRALIA

CRIS continues its international growth, developing strong partnerships with powerful entities, and making a significant contribution towards the development of new strategies in the fight against cancer.

OUR EUROPEAN PARTNERS

CRIS France's activities are predominantly focused on our partnership with the **Institut Gustave Roussy** in Paris, a world-renowned cancer centre, where we have created a call to co-finance life clinical trials as well as co-funded childhood cancer projects.

In line with our vision for international collaboration, CRIS became a member of the **Fight Kids Cancer (FKC)** consortium in 2022. The consortium includes associations from Belgium, the Netherlands, France, and Luxembourg, with the aim of financing extraordinary international projects and clinical trials with the potential to change the landscape of childhood cancer.

OUR GLOBAL PARTNERS

In the United States, we have partnered with some of the most world-renowned cancer research institutions. For the past 5 years, we have been working with the prestigious **Damon Runyon Cancer Research Foundation** (with over 70 years of history and 12 Nobel Prize laureates), as well as the **Prostate Cancer Foundation** (the most important prostate cancer research centre in the world).

More recently, we have partnered with the **Princess Margaret Cancer Centre in Toronto, Canada**, where we are creating new training programs for medical researchers.

Finally, through our CRIS Scholarship and CRIS-Out-Back programs we have been able to reach research institutions and hospitals around the world.

OUR IMPACT

310
RESEARCHERS AND SCIENTISTS
VS 2022 +25%

85
TEAMS OF RESEARCHERS
VS 2022 +60%

153
LINES OF RESEARCH
VS 2022 +27%

69
NEW TREATMENTS DEVELOPED BY CRIS TEAMS
VS 2022 +50%

499
CLINICAL TRIALS IN UNITS AND CRIS PROJECTS

8,328
PATIENTS BENEFICIARIES OF CRIS CLINICAL TRIALS
VS 2022 +38%

1,105
SCIENTIFIC PUBLICATIONS ON DEVELOPMENTS

1,116
PAPERS AT CONFERENCES

15
LICENSED PATENTS

122
DOCTORAL THESES LINKED TO CRIS

7
NEW PATENTS ONGOING

11M
POTENTIAL BENEFICIARIES OF CRIS DEVELOPMENTS PER YEAR

80 RESEARCH CENTERS AROUND THE WORLD

£43.5M INVESTED

CRIS

FUNDING AROUND THE WORLD

The CRIS commitment to cancer research is global. We have built an extensive network of international cooperative alliances with **cutting-edge research centres and researchers** to combat cancer.

CRIS Projects

- **London:** Institute of Cancer Research (ICR), Great Ormond Street Hospital (GOSH), Francis Crick Institute, University College.
- **Oxford:** University of Oxford (OCTO).
- **Paris:** Institute Gustave Roussy.
- **Nice:** Centre Méditerranéen de médecine moléculaire.
- **Massachusetts:** General Hospital Cancer Center.
- **Luxemburg:** Foundatioun Kriibskrank Kanner.
- **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, IMIM, Universidad de Barcelona/IDIBELL.
- **Navarra:** Clínica Universidad de Navarra.
- **Bilbao:** CIC bioGUNE, Universidad del País Vasco.
- **Malaga:** IBIMA.
- **Seville:** IBIS Sevilla, Hospital Universitario Virgen del Rocío.
- **Valencia:** INCLIVA Valencia, Hospital Universitario La Fe.
- **Salamanca:** CIC.
- **Albacete:** CHUA.
- **Murcia:** Instituto de Neurociencias CSIC-UMH.
- **Santiago:** IDIS Santiago de Compostela.
- **Burgos:** Hospital Universitario de Burgos.

Co-Funding with International Institutions

- **UK:** University College, London (PCF). The Gurdon Institute, University of Cambridge (Damon Runyon). Newcastle University, Newcastle (PCF). University of Oxford (PCF). University of Oxford (OCTO)
- **Spain:** Hospital Ramón y Cajal, Madrid
- **France:** Institute Gustave Roussy (Program RLTiO and FKC). Imagine For Margo (FKC). Hôpital Armand-Trousseau (FKC). International Agency for Research on Cancer (FKC). CHU de Bordeaux (FKC).
- **Italy:** Università degli Studi di Trento (FKC).
- **Ireland:** University College Dublin (FKC).
- **Germany:** Technical University of Munich (PCF). Eberhard Karl University of Tübingen (Damon Runyon).
- **Belgium:** Kick Cancer.
- **Luxemburg:** Foundatioun Kriibskrank Kanner.
- **Netherlands:** Princess Maxima Center (FKC). University of Amsterdam (FKC).
- **Israel:** Weizmann Institute of Science (Damon Runyon). Schneider Children's Medical Center of Israel (FKC).
- **Sweden:** Karolinska Institute (FKC).
- **Switzerland:** University of Geneva (Damon Runyon). University Children's Hospital (FKC).
- **Canada:** Princess Margaret Cancer Center, Toronto.

CRIS Research Fellowships

- **UK:** ICR, London. Royal Marsden NHS Foundation Trust, London. Sheffield Hospital. University Hospital, Southampton. The Beatson Cancer Center, Glasgow.
- **Madrid:** Universidad Complutense de Madrid. Universidad Francisco de Vitoria. Hospital Príncipe de Asturias.
- **Barcelona:** VHIO. VHIR.
- **Malaga:** Hospital Universitario Virgen de la Victoria.
- **Murcia:** Hospital Virgen de la Arrixaca.
- **France:** Institute Gustave Roussy, Paris. Centre Hospitalier, Lyon.
- **Denmark:** Aarhus University Hospital, Aarhus.
- **Netherlands:** Princess Maxima Center, Utrecht.
- **US:** Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, Boston. Vanderbilt Ingram Cancer Center, Nashville. Mount Sinai School of Medicine, New York. UT Southwestern Medical Center, Dallas. Weill Cornell Medicine, New York. Columbia University, New York. Mayo Clinic, Rochester. Yale Medical School, New Haven.
- **Canada:** Princess Margaret Cancer Center, Toronto.
- **Australia:** Children's Cancer Institute, Kensington.

PCF: Prostate Cancer Foundation (US)
 FKC: Fight Kids Cancer (Europe)
 OCTO: Oncology Clinical Trials Office

CRIS RESEARCH ADULT PROJECTS

Partnering with leading cancer research institutions worldwide.

CRIS carries out research projects not only in CRIS Units but also in other research institutes in Spain, UK and France. CRIS is also active in other European countries, the US and Canada. Many of these international projects are co-financed by prestigious international institutes such as the Gustave Roussy Institute in France, The Damon Runyon Cancer Research in the US and the Princess Margaret Hospital in Canada.

GENERAL CANCERS

Translational Immunotherapy

Principal researcher: Professor Kevin Harrington, Dr. Alan Melcher,
Centre: The Institute of Cancer Research, London

LUNGVAX


Principal researcher: Prof. Sarah Blagden, Prof. Tim Elliot
Centre: Oxford University.

Infinitopes: Preventative cancer vaccinations

Principal researcher: Dr. Jonathan Kwok
Centre: Oxford University.

Immunotherapy on Thoracic Tumours

Principal researcher: Dr Astero Klampatsa
Centre: The Institute of Cancer Research, London

436  **+39% VS 2022**
ADULT PROJECTS

Solid Tumours

Principal researcher: Dr. Liudmila Andreeva
Centre: Eberhard Karl University of Tübingen, Germany.
Programme: Damon Runyon Cancer Research Foundation (USA)

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.



Prof. Kevin Harrington



Dr. Mercedes Herrera

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.

New Immunotherapy Strategies

Principal researcher: Dr. Lucía Gandullo.
Centre: The Francis Crick Institute (London), Instituto de Biomedicina de Sevilla (IBIS)
Programme: CRIS Out-Back 2023.

Pancreatic Cancer

Principal researcher: Dr. Mariano Barbacid.
Centre: CNIO Madrid.

Pancreatic Cancer

Principal researcher: Dr. Meritxell Rovira
Centre: Universidad de Barcelona / IDIBELL, Barcelona
Programme: CRIS Excellence Programme 2023

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

SEVENAZA

Principal researcher: Dr. Eric Baudin / Dr. Rocío García Carbonero.
Type of Cancer: Myeloid Acute Leukaemia
Centre: Institute Gustave Roussy, Paris / Hospital Universitario 12 de Octubre, Madrid.

LOWTOX-RLT

Principal researcher: Dr. Christophe Willekens / Dr. Pau Montesinos.
Type of Cancer: Gastrointestinal
Centre: Institute Gustave Roussy, Paris / Hospital Universitario La Fe, Valencia.

PULSE

Principal researcher: Dr. Benjamin Besse (FR), Dr. Luis Paz-Ares (SP).
Type of Cancer: Lung
Centre: Institute Gustave Roussy, Paris / Hospital 12 de Octubre, Madrid.

CARE1

Principal researcher: Dr. Laurence Albiges / Dr. Cristina Suárez.
Type of Cancer: Kidney
Centre: Institute Gustave Roussy, Paris / Vall d'Hebron Institute of Oncology, Barcelona.



Dr. Eric Baudin

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.

Multiple Myeloma

Principal researcher: Dr. Luis Gerardo Rodríguez
Centre: Hospital Clínic / IDIBAPS, Barcelona
Programme: CRIS Clinical Talent Programme 2023.

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: Unidad CRIS de Nuevas Terapias Experimentales (Hospital Clínico San Carlos) and Centro de Investigación del Cáncer, CIC, Salamanca.

Hormone-Positive Breast Cancer

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

Breast Cancer Metastasis

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

Breast Cancer (CRIS Treatment-resistant Breast Cancer project)

Principal researcher: Dr. Dr. Ana Ruiz Sáenz.
Centre: CIC BioGUNE, Bilbao
Programme: CRIS Clinical Talent Programme 2023.

OVARIAN CANCER:

Ovarian Cancer

Principal researcher: Dr. Alberto Ocaña and Dr. Atanasio Pandiella.
Centres: Unidad CRIS de Nuevas Terapias Experimentales (Hospital Clínico San Carlos) and 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

Principal researcher: Dr. Dimitrios Doultisinos.
Centre: Oxford University, UK.
Programme: Young Investigator Awards, PCF USA.

Prostate Cancer

Principal researcher: Dr. Alexander Wurzer.
Centre: Technical University of Munich.
Programme: Young Investigator Awards, PCF USA.

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

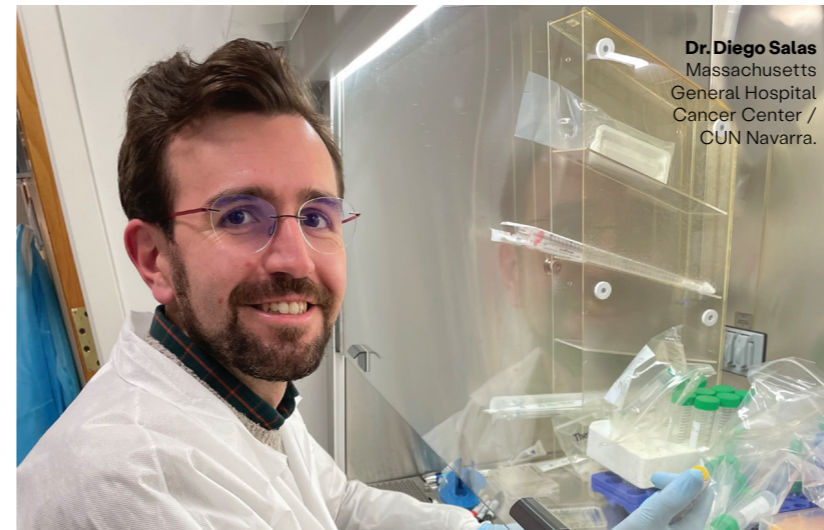
Principal researcher: Dr. Núria Romero.
Centre: Hospital de la Princesa, Madrid.
Programme: CRIS Clinical Talent Programme 2021.

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.

CRIS Immuno-Oncology Unit

Principal researcher: Dr. Luis Paz-Ares,
Dr. Luis Álvarez Vallina.
Centre: Hospital Universitario 12 de Octubre.

BOWEL CANCER:

Immunotherapy treatments in Colon Cancer.

Principal researcher: Dr. Robert Watson.
Centre: Oxford University, UK
Programme: Oxford Cancer Clinical Academic Training Programme.

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: CRIS Excellence Programme 2019.

Predisposition towards Bowel Cancer

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

Bowel Cancer Biomarkers

Principal researcher: Dr. Elena Élez.
Centre: Vall d'Hebrón Institute of Oncology (VHIO), Barcelona.
Programme: CRIS Clinical Talent Programme 2023.

Sarcomas, Gastrointestinal Tumours

Principal researcher: Dr. César Serrano.
Centre: Vall d'Hebrón Institute of Oncology (VHIO).
Programme: CRIS Excellence Programme 2023.

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.

CRIS RESEARCH CHILDHOOD AND YOUTH PROJECTS

Every year there are **400,000 new cases of paediatric cancer in the world resulting in 90,000 deaths**. It is the leading cause of death by disease amongst children in developed countries.

Childhood cancers are usually quite different to adult cancers, and therefore require specific types of treatment. Unfortunately, many children are still being treated with adult drugs that were developed decades ago. These drugs have been found to cause late-life health issues for over 70% of survivors, and research to develop new treatments is scarce.

Children need drugs designed to take into account the specific features of childhood malignancies. Since our inception, CRIS has provided funding for paediatric research projects to identify the specific genetic features in childhood cancer that will inform new treatments, and to develop innovative treatments designed for children's malignancies, which are safer, less invasive and have less impact on long-term health.

The more we have learned, the greater our determination has become to provide funding for this critical research. So, in addition to our direct funding of child-specific projects in Spain, UK and France and the further 12 projects we fund through our collaboration with **Fight Kids Cancer**, CRIS set up the pioneering **"CRIS Unit for Advanced Treatments in Childhood Cancer"** in Madrid in 2018, with funding renewed for 2023.

BLOOD CANCER:

CAR4ALL: CD19/22 CAR-T cell therapy for paediatric
Principal researcher: Prof. Persis Amrolia.
Centre: Great Ormond Street Hospital.

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.

81 **+97%**
VS 2022
**PAEDIATRIC
PROJECTS**



Dr. Eleni Louka

Juvenile Myelomonocytic Leukaemia (JMML)

Principal researcher: Dr. Eleni Louka.
Centre: Oxford University, UK
Programme: Oxford Cancer Clinical Academic Training Programme.

BRAIN CANCER:

Brain Tumours, Diffuse Midline Glioma (DMG)

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

Brain Tumours, Diffuse Midline Glioma (DMG)

Principal researcher: Prof. Karin Straathof.
Centre: Great Ormond Street Hospital, London.

Brain Tumours, Diffuse Midline Glioma (DMG)

Principal researcher: Dr. Jacques Grill
Centre: Institute Gustave Roussy, Paris

Brain Tumours, Medulloblastoma

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

Brain Tumours, Medulloblastoma

Principal researcher: Dr. Sara Labiano.
Centre: Clínica Universidad de Navarra / CIMA, Pamplona.
Programme: CRIS Post-Doc Programme 2023.

SARCOMAS AND GENERAL CANCER:

Ewing Sarcoma

Principal researcher: Dr. Enrique de Álava,
Dr. Rosa Noguera.
Centre: IBIS Sevilla/ INCLIVA Valencia.

Ewing's Sarcoma and Rhabdomyosarcoma

Principal researcher: Dr. Virginia Laspidea.
Centre: University College of London, Centro de Investigación Médica Aplicada (CIMA), Pamplona.
Programme: CRIS Out-Back 2023.

FIGHT KIDS CANCER



FIGHT KIDS CANCER IMPACT IN NUMBERS

MORE THAN
18
MILLION EUROS

30 RESEARCH
PROJECTS
7 Clinical Trials
23 Transactional
Research
Projects

11 DISEASE
AREAS
SUPPORTED

15 BENEFITING
EUROPEAN
COUNTRIES

CRIS RESEARCH FIGHT KIDS CANCER

Fight Kids Cancer (FKC) is a joint venture between five European NGOs with a mission to catalyse and accelerate pan-European research into innovative, impactful, and less toxic new therapies that improve the outcome for all children and adolescents with cancer.

The program was founded in 2009 by **KickCancer** (Belgium), **Imagine for Margo** (France) and the **Foundation Kribskrank Kanner** (Luxembourg) and they were joined by the **CRIS Cancer Foundation** (Spain) and **KiKA** (the Netherlands) in 2022.

Childhood cancer is a rare disease, which is why this type of collaborative program is so important. In addition to promoting the development and sharing of scientific knowledge and methods across Europe, it provides critical funding for research into paediatric cancers which unfortunately receive very little structural funding due to their rarity.

The Fight Kids Cancer programme funds both early phase clinical trials and translational research. It supports innovative interventions or approaches towards novel treatment (such as innovative drugs, artificial intelligence, imaging, radiotherapy, surgical approaches...).

Applications or "calls" for funding occur once a year and are received from multiple countries across Europe. They undergo a robust selection process and are independently reviewed by international experts.

With the support of CRIS and the other foundations of FKC, **9 projects** have been selected for funding in 2023, with a total value of **€4.3 million**.

FIGHT KIDS CANCER

PROJECTS



2023

- ▶ **PATO:** a promising new therapeutic strategy for brain tumours (Dr Samuel Abbou, Institute Gustave Roussy, Paris)

A **clinical trial** in which drugs directed against a faulty mechanism of tumour cells will be used to treat various types of glioma, pineoblastoma, ependymoma, and low-grade gliomas. 57 patients will participate.

Participating Countries: France, Austria, Germany, Denmark, Spain, Italy, the Netherlands, United Kingdom.

- ▶ **EurHoly:** improving treatments for Hodgkin's lymphoma (Dr. Mathieu Simonin, Hôpital Armand-Trousseau)

This **translational project** seeks to generate strong data that supports the use of a very powerful and innovative technique in the follow-up of patients with Hodgkin's Lymphoma, namely the use of genetic analysis tools to detect traces of tumour cells in the blood.

Participating Countries: France, Germany.

- ▶ **MedulloDrugs:** finding new treatments in medulloblastomas (Dr. Luca Tiberi, Università degli Studi di Trento)

This **translational project** will use 3-dimensional laboratory models to identify new weak spots in medulloblastoma cells, so that they can be targeted using drugs.

Participating Countries: Italy, France

- ▶ **EpiTarget-kids:** a program to reveal the vulnerabilities of infiltrating brainstem glioma (Dr. Rita Khoueiry, International Agency for Research on Cancer, Lyon)

This **translational project** will carry out an in-depth analysis, using state-of-the-art techniques, to identify errors in the way DNA is read in DIPG cells, and to search for drugs that may be useful against these tumours.

Participating Countries: France, Austria.

- ▶ **ATG4TALL:** a preclinical testing platform to improve the treatment of resistant T-Type acute lymphoblastic leukaemia (Dr. Frank van Leeuwen, Hôpital Armand-Trousseau, Paris)

This **translational project** is led by a large international

consortium, which joins forces to find the best way to treat treatment-resistant acute lymphoid leukaemias.

Participating Countries: The Netherlands, United Kingdom, Germany, Portugal, France, Ireland, Sweden, Belgium.

- ▶ **Encourage:** cure more brain tumors and glioma (Dr. Ana Guerreiro Stücklin, University Children's Hospital, Zurich)

This **translational project** will investigate the molecular causes for why many gliomas become resistant to treatment and will look for new strategies to overcome these resistances.

Participating Countries: Switzerland, France

- ▶ **Skeletal late effects:** understanding and preventing the side effects of radiation therapy (Dr. Phillip Newton, Karolinska Institutet, Stockholm)

This **translational project** will study how radiotherapy affects children's growth and attempt to unravel the molecular mechanisms behind it. The goal is to improve the quality of life for children receiving radiation therapy and to understand how to minimise the effects on growth.

Participating Countries: Sweden, Switzerland.

- ▶ **Remodeling:** making immunotherapy effective for brain tumours (Dr. John Bianco, Princess Maxima Center for Pediatric Oncology, Utrecht)

This **translational project** will study the state of the immune system in diffuse midline glioma, and how to facilitate drug entry into these brain tumours through the use of ultrasound.

Participating Countries: The Netherlands.

- ▶ **BioESMART:** confirming the potential of a treatment for Ewing's sarcoma (Dr. Jordane Chaix, Bordeaux University Hospital)

This **translational project** will analyse why certain patients respond and others do not to a very novel therapy, a double antibody (bispecific), which although very promising, does not work for all patients.

Participating Countries: France, Switzerland.

2022

- ▶ **BEACON2:** (Dr Lucas Moreno, VHIR, Barcelona)

A clinical trial testing the effectiveness of different types of new therapies against neuroblastoma: combining chemotherapy with therapies against blood vessel synthesis or combining chemotherapy with antibodies against a protein typical of neuroblastoma cells (GD2). It is expected to include 75 patients.

Participating Countries: Spain, UK, France, and other European countries.

- ▶ **HEMiSMART** (Dr. Michel Zwaan, Princess Máxima Center, Utrecht)

Clinical trial aimed at patients with leukaemias and lymphomas, in which the participating children will undergo sequencing and genomic studies and will receive distinct types of therapy according to the findings. This trial will include 140 patients.

Participating Countries: Netherlands and other European countries, including France.

- ▶ **SACHA INTERNATIONAL** (Dr. Pablo Berlanga, Gustave Roussy)

This clinical trial seeks to draw up a registry of all advanced therapies provided for compassionate use in children and adolescents, essential to understand the progress of new therapies at a European level. This registry is expected to include 1455 patients.

Participating Countries: France, Spain, UK, other European countries, Australia, and New Zealand.

- ▶ **Cure2MLL** (Dr. Ronald Stam, Princess Maxima, Utrecht)

This ambitious collaborative project between expert groups in MLL leukaemias aims to validate new therapeutic targets, to gain an in depth understanding in depth of the mechanisms of MLL and create a solid basis for developing clinical trials for relapsed MLL leukaemias.

Participating Countries: Netherlands, Spain, UK, and Italy.

- ▶ **Prevention of Neuroblastoma relapses** (Dr. Rogier Versteeg, University of Amsterdam)

This project studies specific cells that could be behind most neuroblastoma metastases, and the most appropriate way to attack them.

Participating Countries: Netherlands and Germany

- ▶ **PG-AML** (Dr. Shai Izraeli, Schneider Children's Medical Center of Israel)

The objective of this project is to develop a genetic methodology to improve the follow-up of minimal residual disease and to better characterise the tumour cells of each patient with Acute Myeloid Leukaemia.

Participating Countries: Israel

- ▶ **DIGITWINS** (Walter Kolch, University College Dublin)

This project will develop a strategy to design digital simulations (digitwins) based on the results and biological characteristics of the tumours of children with neuroblastoma, in order to predict which treatments will work best for each child.

Participating Countries: Ireland, UK



CRIS RESEARCH UNITS

Driving the development of new treatments

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

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.

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.



CRIS NEW EXPERIMENTAL THERAPIES UNIT

HOSPITAL CLINICO 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.

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.

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.



Clean Room of the CRIS Unit at La Paz Hospital.

CRIS UNIT FOR ADVANCED TREATMENTS IN CHILDHOOD CANCER

HOSPITAL UNIVERSITARIO DE LA PAZ, MADRID

The CRIS Unit for Advanced Treatments in Childhood Cancer was established in 2018 to provide a centre for advanced research and the development of innovative clinical trials, so that young patients who do not respond to conventional treatments, or who have relapsed, can access new therapies. Unfortunately, in recent decades there has been very little progress in the treatment for childhood cancer which remains a huge challenge for the affected families as well as the public health service.

So far, over 750 children have received treatment here for various types of leukaemia, Hodgkin's lymphoma, aplasia, primary immune deficiencies, as well as solid tumours such as Ewing's sarcoma, osteosarcoma, medulloblastoma, neuroblastoma and gliomas.

The unit's multi-disciplinary team are pioneering the development and use of next generation cell treatments in Spain. In 2022, the unit was authorised to produce two types of cellular treatment which are already being used on young patients in clinical trials: first, the use of natural killer (NK) cells to treat childhood sarcoma, and secondly the use of advanced "dual" CAR-T cells in relapsed leukaemia patients, so-called as they are able to attack two (rather than one) target.

A large number of research projects are also housed within the unit. Of particular interest:

- ▶ **Project Gabi:** Development of cellular treatments which combine the efficiency of T-lymphocytes with the versatility of the immune systems NK cells.
- ▶ **Project Fast-Track:** Search for the genetic weak points in tumours and the drugs which could be used in relapsed paediatric patients.
- ▶ **Project Hercanin:** Study into the genetic predisposition to childhood cancer and counselling for families at risk.
- ▶ **Project Neuroblastoma:** Development of treatments to combat neuroblastoma and metastasis.
- ▶ **Project Childhood Sarcomas:** Improvement and development of new therapies.
- ▶ **Project Brain Cancer:** Development of new treatments for diverse types of brain cancer.
- ▶ **Project Mateo – CRIS Cancer Foundation for JMML (Juvenile myelomonocytic leukaemia):** Development of new treatments.

15 funded
clinical
studies



CLINICAL STUDIES PROMOTED BY CRIS

The CRIS Cancer Foundation promotes clinical studies designed by renowned researchers who, based on their laboratory results, provide new ideas for therapies and strategies for new treatments.

The work of the promoter in clinical trials consists of assuming the legal responsibilities established under Spanish legislation (Royal Decree on Clinical Trials (RD1090-2015), as well as the financing and management of clinical trials.

In the case of clinical trials promoted by CRIS against cancer, financing can come from both public and private funding entities and the pharmaceutical industry.

CRIS has gradually been increasing the number of Clinical Studies it promotes. At the current time, we are supporting the following studies:

CLINICAL STUDIES:

► BREAST CANCER:

BR-007: This study is directed at patients with hormone receptor positive breast cancer, who have become resistant to hormonal therapy. It evaluates the safety of a therapy which targets a potential weakness in these highly resistant cancer cells.

Principal researcher: Dr. Miguel Ángel Quintela.

BR-008: Breast cells often develop resistance to drugs that control the growth of tumour blood vessels. This trial tests the safety of an immunotherapy treatment aimed at reactivating the cells of the immune system responsible for rejecting tumours.

Principal researcher: Dr. Miguel Ángel Quintela.

BR-009: Breast cells often develop resistance to drugs that control the growth of tumour blood vessels. This trial tests the safety of a therapy targeting the metabolism of tumour cells that develop such resistance.

Principal researcher: Dr. Miguel Ángel Quintela.

Rogabreast: This study focuses on hormone receptor positive breast cancer patients and evaluates the safety of a triple treatment against potential weaknesses in tumour cells.

Principal researcher: Dr. Miguel Ángel Quintela.

► BOWEL CANCER:

Dermia: This is a trial to manage the side effects on the skin caused by an effective treatment against bowel cancer.

Principal investigator: Dr. Patricia Ramírez.

► BLADDER CANCER:

Dutreno: The objective of this study is to evaluate the possibility of improving the outcomes of patients with aggressive bladder cancer by administering immunotherapy before operating on them.

Principal researcher: Dr. Enrique Grande.

Nicaragua: The objective of this study is to evaluate the safety and effectiveness of a new drug combination in patients with bladder cancer who do not respond to conventional therapies.

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

CCTGBL.13: This study tests the effectiveness of using the immunotherapy drug "Durvalumab" after initial treatments (chemotherapy, surgery, or radiotherapy) for invasive bladder cancer

Principal researcher: Ignacio Durán.

► CHRONIC MYELOID LEUKAEMIA:

ResToP: This study assesses the therapeutic value of a new treatment regimen for patients with Chronic Myeloid Leukaemia.

Principal researcher: Dr. Joaquín Martínez

► LYMPHOMA:

MDA-BTG-2020-01: This trial 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 assesses the relationship between some of the most aggressive forms of prostate cancer and certain familial mutations that occur in genes related to DNA repair.

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

► IMMUNE THROMBOCYTOPENIA:

REVOGEN: This study is aimed at identifying the molecular signals, or biomarkers, that allow early detection of patients who are unlikely to respond to a particular treatment for immune thrombocytopenia.

Principal researcher: Dr. Tomás González.

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

Principal researcher: Dr. Tomás González.

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

Principal researcher: Dr. Tomás González.

► MYELOID LEUKAEMIA:

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

Principal researcher: Dr. Tomás González.

CRIS PROGRAMMES

Global reference in supporting cutting-edge research

Research careers in Spain are hampered by the lack of means and opportunities. This means that many brilliant researchers prefer to develop their careers in other countries or abandon research permanently to opt for other options with more stability. CRIS Cancer Foundation is aware of the importance of job stability for researchers, for the development of their scientific careers and their innovative projects, which in turn allow their advances in research have a greater scope and a more immediate impact on the treatments that patients receive.

The CRIS Cancer Foundation launched its CRIS Research Programs in 2019, and in a short time they have become a reference point in both Spain and Europe. We offer four types of program that correspond to the different needs of the scientific and medical careers of researchers. The programs' funding (up to €1,250,000) and duration (five years) are particularly attractive to researchers, allowing them to develop their projects under optimal conditions.

These are very demanding programs to access, with potential candidates undergoing several rounds of external evaluation by national evaluation agencies as well as by an international committee made up of world leaders in cancer research.



Award-winning researchers in the CRIS programmes in its 2023 edition.

The CRIS Excellence Programme

Its objective is to provide extraordinary resources to outstanding researchers.

This highly sought after program provides funding for ambitious research projects in Spain, which show exciting potential, but which would not ordinarily receive funding. Two programs are awarded annually, for a total of €1.25 million over 5 years.

Financial Provision

£1,050,000
allocated over 5 years

5 annuities of **£210,000**

We provide extraordinary means to outstanding researchers

The CRIS Clinical Talent Programme

Its objective is to consolidate the career of medical researchers in Spain.

Medical researchers are essential in the design and clinical implementation of effective cancer treatments. There are very few medical researchers in the field due to the substantial healthcare burden placed on these doctors, preventing them from being able to develop their lines of research continuously and effectively. The CRIS Clinical Talent Program provides a total endowment of €400,000, for a period of 5 years.

Financial Provision

£335,000
allocated over 5 years

5 annuities of **£67,000**

We consolidate the career of medical researchers in Spain.

The CRIS Post-Doc Programme

This programme seeks to facilitate the return to Spain and establishment of young researchers. The postdoctoral period is usually a period of extensive scientific production where researchers prepare to direct research groups. Opportunities to lead research teams in Spain are scarce and lack stability and financing, leading young researchers to drop out or look for professional stability in other countries.

We offer two CRIS Post-Doc Talent Programs each year, to facilitate the transition of young researchers from post-Doc to group leaders at the helm of cancer research and to allow them to develop their projects and professional careers in Spain. The financial award is €400,000 for five years.

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 Out-Back Programme

Its objective is to encourage research training abroad with guarantees of a return to Spain.

Most researchers benefit from a period spent abroad, learning new techniques, developing innovative lines of research, establishing professional contacts, and, for doctors, acquiring knowledge of new treatments and diagnostic techniques.

However, most scholarships and contracts abroad do not provide for a return to work in Spain.

The CRIS Out-Back Programme, is a flexible duration program of a maximum of 5 years that finances between 2 and 4 years of training for young scientists in an international reference center, combined with 1-2 years of contract upon return. The financial endowment is €70,000 per year.

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.

Real Life Trials in Oncology Programme

Clinical research is an opportunity to validate the efficacy of new treatments in a real context. They represent a great opportunity for participating patients to access innovative treatments that may benefit them.

Trials that test new drugs, new cell therapies or new devices usually require significant levels of infrastructure and have an enormous cost per patient.

However, there are many clinical trials in which strategies and combinations with already approved drugs are used. These "real life" studies have a much lower cost but can potentially benefit millions of patients. And yet, achieving financing for these studies is, paradoxically, quite complicated.

Together with the Gustave Roussy Foundation (Paris), Cris Cancer Foundation has created the Real-Life Trials in Oncology call, in which "real-life" clinical trials have a principal investigator in France and another in Spain. The main idea behind this program is to provide competitive financing conditions to clinical researchers to develop their trials in France and Spain.

The budget for this program is 1.5M euros spread over 3 years, which can be allocated to a single trial or to several smaller trials (up to a maximum of 1.5 million euros).

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.



Funding
2019-2023
£17.36
million

RESEARCHERS

IN THE CRIS PROGRAMMES 2023

CRIS EXCELLENCE PROGRAMME

Project: CRIS Gastrointestinal Sarcomas Project

Researcher: Dr. César Serrano (1).

Institution: Vall d'Hebrón Institute of Oncology, Barcelona

Project description: Dr. César Serrano uses the most advanced technologies to understand the molecular characteristics of gastrointestinal tract sarcomas, through a very extensive study of sarcoma samples from patients. The objective is to analyse which alterations in the chromosomes are most characteristic of these sarcomas, understand the cellular mechanisms that are altered due to these changes and clearly define the role that chromosomal instability has in the prognosis of patients. Dr. César Serrano hopes to be able to detect weak points in these tumours that can be targeted with drugs, so that we can achieve effective and precise therapies.

Project: CRIS Origin of Pancreatic Cancer Project

Researcher: Dr. Meritxell Rovira (2).

Institution: Universitat de Barcelona/IDIBELL Instituto de Investigación Biomédica de Bellvitge

Project description: Dr. Meritxell Rovira is an expert in the study of the origin of pancreatic cancer. Over the years she has accumulated deep molecular information from more than 22,000 individual pancreatic cells, making it easier for her to identify many distinct groups of cells, some of which could be involved in causing the most serious forms of pancreatic cancer. Through her rigorous and extensive work, Dr. Rovira plans to create new laboratory models to simulate different types of pancreatic cancer, originating from these different cell types, to determine which are more or less aggressive. These tumours will then be studied at a molecular level, to understand their evolution and function.

The knowledge acquired from this study will be used to understand how to detect these tumours in their initial stages, and to identify potential weak points against them. This project could provide vital information for the early detection of pancreatic cancer (perhaps even from blood samples), and even determine new treatment methods.

THE CRIS CLINICAL TALENT PROGRAMME

Project: CRIS Colon Cancer Biomarkers Project

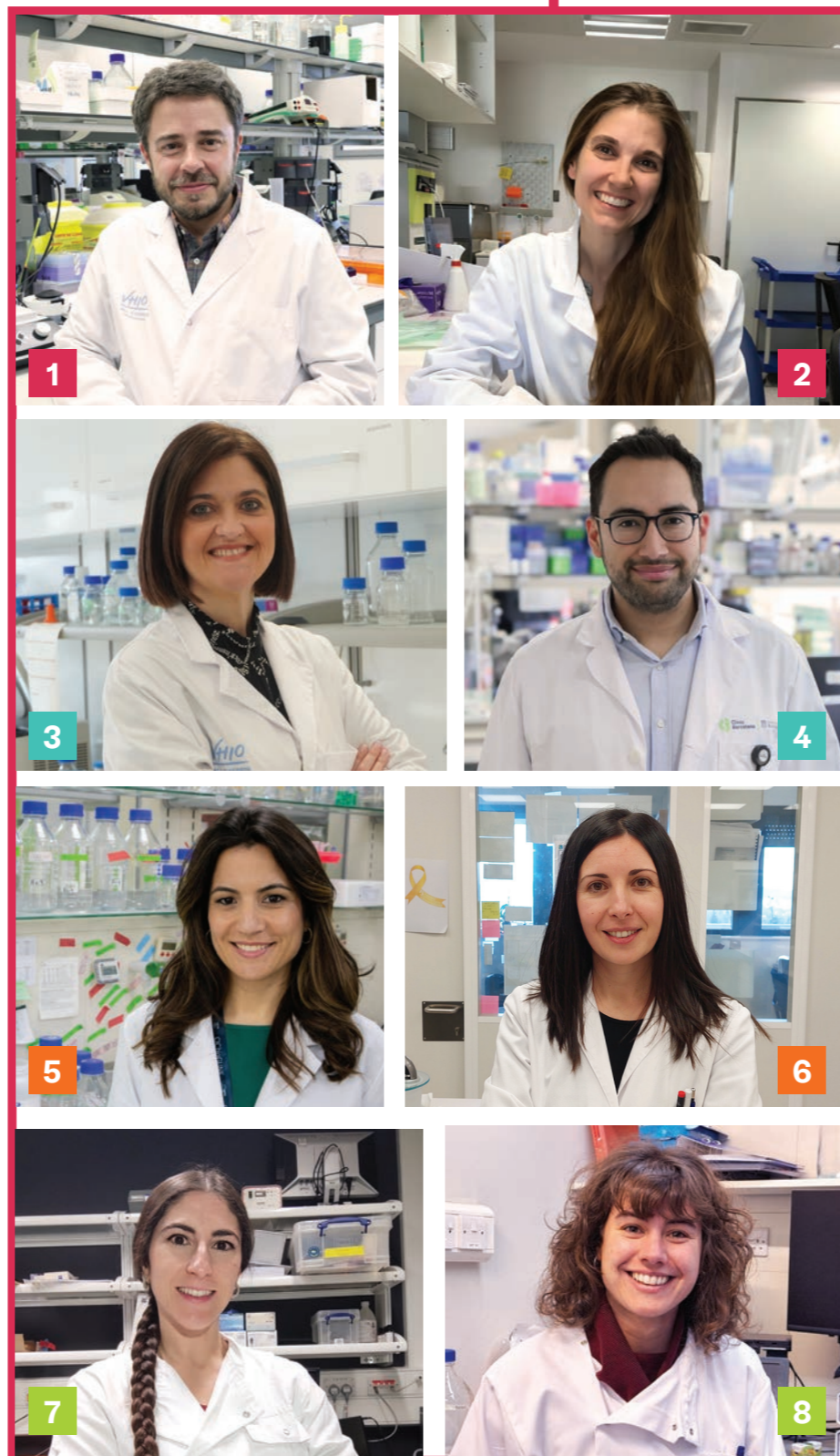
Researcher: Dr. Elena Élez (3).

Institution: Vall d'Hebrón Institute of Oncology, Barcelona

Project description: Dr. Elena Élez and her team are experts in colon tumours with mutations in the BRAF gene and have already led several clinical trials with different drug combinations to try to improve the survival of these patients. In this project, Dr. Élez will analyse a large number of samples from patients with colon cancer.

This analysis will attempt to identify the biomarkers of each patient's tumour cells that can help predict whether or not they will respond to a particular treatment. These biomarkers will make it easier for doctors to select the most appropriate treatment for each individual person and improve patient outcomes.

Once these biomarkers have been identified, the researchers will check if it is possible to detect them via liquid biopsy, rather than surgical biopsy. This technique involves



extracting a blood sample from the patient and using highly innovative technologies to study the tumour cells.

This project could contribute to creating treatment strategies that are easy to apply in hospitals, that are not as aggressive for patients, and that are more personalised to each patient.

Project: CRIS CAR-T and Multiple Myeloma Project

Researcher: Dr. Luis Gerardo Rodríguez (4).

Institution: Hospital Clínic de Barcelona

Project description: Dr. Luis Gerardo Rodríguez is working on designing and testing the effectiveness of new CAR-Ts which are much more advanced than existing ones. The key improvements are that these new CAR-Ts are now able to detect not only one type of tumour molecule, but two. This means that if the tumour hides one of them, the CAR-T remains efficient. These new CAR-Ts are designed to be much more sensitive and better able to detect tumour cells. In addition, the team are working on further improvements which will help the CAR-T cells to remain active for longer in the body, stop them from becoming de-activated, and function even if the tumour emits signals that would ordinarily deactivate other lymphocytes.

The goal of this project is to deliver new CAR-T therapies against multiple myeloma that are more effective, longer lasting, and work even in patients for whom conventional CAR-Ts are ineffective.

CRIS POST-DOC TALENT PROGRAMME

Project: CRIS Treatment resistant Breast Cancer Project

Researcher: Dr. Ana Ruiz Saenz (5).

Institution: BioGUNE, Bilbao

Project description: Dr. Ana Ruiz Saenz has designed an ambitious project, involving the drug Trastuzumab-Deruxtecan (TzDx). This drug was specifically designed to target cancer cells in patients with HER2+ breast cancer, however, for reasons which are not yet understood, it also seems to help patients with other types of breast cancer. In this project, she will use very advanced laboratory models to try to understand why some HER2- or low HER2+ tumours respond to Trastuzumab-Deruxtecan and others do not. First, she will determine what biological mechanisms are responsible for whether or not patients respond. Next, she will confirm her results via some very innovative laboratory models developed by her laboratory. Finally, she will verify, in human beings, that these mechanisms are indeed the ones behind the functioning or failure of therapies with Trastuzumab-Deruxtecan.

Project: Childhood Brain Tumour Radioimmunotherapy Project

Researcher: Dr. Sara Labiano (6).

Institution: BioGUNE, Bilbao

Project description: Dr. Sara Labiano is studying new immunotherapy strategies to enhance the effects of radiotherapy in children with GDM. Rather than boosting the activity of T-lymphocytes, she will try to stimulate an anti-tumour response via the myeloid cells. These cells are usually part of the environment of tumour cells and play a key role in the coordination and organisation of immune responses.

The results of this project could be of great importance, because we urgently need to develop new, effective and safe therapies to treat childhood patients with Diffuse Midline Glioma.

CRIS OUT-BACK PROGRAMME

Project: **New Immunotherapy Strategies**

Researcher: Dr. Lucia Gandullo (7).

Institution: Francis Crick Institute / IBIS, Sevilla

Project description: Dr. Lucia Gandullo is using genetically engineered molecules, to direct different types of cell (in addition to dendritic cells) to take the remains of tumor cells and activate T- lymphocytes, with the purpose of generating a stronger and longer-lasting immune response. In this project, Dr. Gandullo will verify the effectiveness of these molecules in improving the immune response to tumours, which could have a huge impact in the field of immunotherapy and greatly improve treatments for patients.

Project: **Ewing's Sarcoma and Rhabdomyosarcoma**

Researcher: Dr. Virginia Laspidea (8).

Institution: Clínica Universidad de Navarra / UCL London

Project description: Dr. Virginia Laspidea is studying how the different elements of the immune system behave when we use protons to irradiate childhood sarcomas. Once she has been able to analyse this immune response, she will use some of the most recent immunotherapy strategies to complement the proton radiation therapy. In one study, she will use CAR-T cells (immune system cells modified with a radar/detector that allows them to find and destroy tumor cells). In a second study, she will analyse the effect of oncolytic viruses, which are viruses which have been modified to attack and destroy tumour cells. Through this innovative project, Dr. Laspidea aspires to come up with new combinations of therapies which will be put into practice in clinical trials, and provide answers for all those children with sarcoma who still do not have adequate therapies.

REAL-LIFE TRIALS IN ONCOLOGY (2022)

PULSE:

Researcher in France: Benjamin Besse, Institute Gustave Roussy, Paris / **Researcher in Spain:** Luis Paz-Ares, Hospital 12 de Octubre (10)

Project: Non-small cell lung cancer is the most common form of these tumours. This trial seeks to demonstrate that it is possible to increase the interval between treatments for patients receiving immunotherapy.

ETNA-Cohort2:

Researcher in France: Barbara Pistilli, Institute Gustave Roussy, Paris. / **Researcher in Spain:** Mafalda Oliveira, Vall d'Hebron Institute of Oncology, Barcelona. (9)

Project: Triple-negative is one of the most aggressive forms of breast cancer. This trial 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.

CARE1:

Researcher in France: Laurence Albiges, Institute Gustave Roussy, Paris. / **Researcher in Spain:** Cristina Suárez, Vall d'Hebron Institute of Oncology, Barcelona. (11)

Project: Renal cell cancer is the most common type of kidney tumour. This trial seeks to demonstrate that the presence of a PD-L1 molecule in tumours can predict which patients will benefit more from one combination of treatments over another.

REAL-LIFE TRIALS IN ONCOLOGY (2023)

SEVENAZA:

Researcher in France: Dr. Christophe Willekens, Institute Gustave Roussy, Paris. / **Researcher in Spain:** Dr. Pau Montesinos, Hospital Universitario La Fe, Valencia. (12)

Project: To seek to reduce the severe side effects of the combination of two treatments (Venetoclax and Azacitidina) for those patients who cannot receive chemotherapy, by testing the efficacy of reducing the treatment with Venetoclax from 28 to 7 days.

LOWTOX-RLT:

Researcher in France: Dr. Eric Baudin, Institute Gustave Roussy, Paris. / **Researcher in Spain:** Dr. Rocío García Carbonero, Hospital Universitario 12 de Octubre, Madrid. (13)

Project: Testing whether reducing the intensity of a targeted radiotherapy treatment is safer but just as effective.

INTERNATIONAL GRANTS

CRIS finances the training of researchers, in collaboration with the most relevant medical and scientific societies.

DAMON RUNYON CANCER RESEARCH FOUNDATION (USA)



Researcher: Dr. Liudmila Andreeva.

Center of Origin: Eberhard Karl University of Tübingen, Germany.

Project description: In her new lab, doctor Liudmila Andreeva will focus on how the mechanism used by the human cells to

identify bacteria and viruses, could play a crucial role developing malignancies like cancer.

PRINCESS MARGARET CANCER CENTER (TORONTO, CANADA)



Researcher: Dr. Catia Fava Gaspar.

Center of Origin: Hospital Ramón y Cajal, Madrid

Project description: Dr. Gaspar is a young medical researcher with extensive and varied training, and a deep interest in understanding the mechanisms of cancer. Her

current training involves learning as much as possible about how to incorporate the most advanced molecular research into the development of new treatments and patient care.

Thanks to this program, she will gain the exceptional experience required to lead a promising career focused on the development of cancer treatments.

PROSTATE CANCER FOUNDATION (USA)



Researcher: Dr. Alexander Wurzer.

Center of Origin: Technical University of Munich, Germany.

Project description: The purpose of this study is to discover the distribution mechanism of 225Ac-PSMA inside the body, specifically where it is distributed and in what quantities. His strategy

involves using a modified version of 225Ac-PSMA that allows it to be detected with PET/CT machines, which are readily available in hospitals. The aim is to determine what causes the side-effects and what the most effective treatment dose should be.



Researcher: Dr. Dimitrios Doultinos.

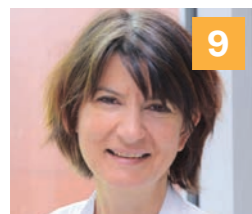
Center of Origin: Oxford University, UK.

Project description: For several years, Dr. Doultinos has been studying a series of proteins and cellular molecules that seem to play an important role in protein and DNA repair.

He has focused on two of these

mechanisms, IRE1 and miR-346, and is analysing both their role in treatment-resistant prostate cancer as well as the possibility of simultaneously blocking these mechanisms.

One of the most relevant hypotheses is that if both mechanisms are blocked at the same time, the tumour cell will have significant problems in repairing its DNA which will make it much more sensitive to treatments. This project can play a fundamental role in understanding prostate cancer resistance, identifying resistant patients, and developing effective therapies against the most aggressive forms of prostate cancer.



9



10



11



12



13



CRIS EVENTS

IN 2023
OVER
£3M
FUNRAISED
IN THE UK

Every penny makes a massive difference. You make a massive difference. **Together we can make a difference.**

WORLD CANCER DAY RESTAURANT CAMPAIGN

To mark World Cancer Day in February, CRIS asked local restaurants to invite their customers to add an additional £1 to their final bill throughout the month of February, as a donation to CRIS Cancer.

The following restaurants took part this year:

- Hispania
- Jose Pizarro
- Cambio de Tercio
- Copita
- Badiani
- Barrica



ON YA BIKE BARCLAYS

Static bike challenge organised with Barclays in their London and Paris offices in aid of two CRIS paediatric brain tumour projects at the ICR, London and the Gustave Roussy Institute, Paris.

11 teams battled it out to win "longest distance covered", "most funds raised" and "fastest rider". A huge thank you to Barclays for their immense energy and support in the planning and execution of this event. Thank you to the generous donors who helped us raise over £50,000!



ROYAL PARKS HALF MARATHON

Over 50 runners took to the streets of London for the Royal Parks Half Marathon in aid of the CRIS Cancer Foundation, including volunteers, doctors, scientists, cancer survivors, family members of cancer patients. Encouraged along the way by our amazing volunteers, our incredible runners managed to raise over £65,000.



FEBRUARY

5th MARCH

10th MAY

23rd MAY

30th MAY

8th OCTOBER

18th NOVEMBER

AINHOA ARTETA AT THE SPANISH EMBASSY IN LONDON

The Spanish Ambassador's residence in London played host to an exquisite evening of music, food and fundraising thanks to the gracious Ainhoa Arteta, the ingenious Quique Dacosta and our generous sponsor, Marketaxess. These donations of talent, time and resources mean that ALL of the funds raised will go directly to support Professor Persis Amrolia's CAR-T cell research for childhood leukaemia.



THE REAL GREEK

For the second year running, in partnership with Pancreatic Cancer UK, The Real Greek and VDK Capital, friends and family participated in a CRIS sponsored walk in memory of Christos Karatzeni, to raise funds and awareness for pancreatic cancer.



TRADEWEB FOOTBALL TOURNAMENT

CRIS was honoured to be selected as the chosen charity for Tradeweb's annual football tournament at Millwall FC. 16 of Dealerweb's clients formed teams to compete in this event. CRIS is incredibly grateful to all who participated and raised funds on our behalf.

CRIS ANNUAL BALL

CRIS hosted its 12th annual Gala, held simultaneously in London, Madrid, and Paris. In London, we welcomed over 450 guests to the magnificent halls of the Natural History Museum. Long-standing members of the CRIS community, including scientists, sponsors, donors, and volunteers, as well as guests who were experiencing the magic of CRIS for the first time, enjoyed an incredible evening which celebrated the power of collective action in the fight to defeat cancer and save lives.



A NIGHT TO MAKE HISTORY



CRIS ANNUAL BALL

On 18th November 2023, CRIS hosted its **12th annual Gala, held simultaneously in London, Madrid, and Paris. In London, we welcomed over 450 guests to the magnificent halls of the Natural History Museum.** Long-standing members of the CRIS community, including scientists, sponsors, donors, and volunteers, as well as guests who were experiencing the magic of CRIS for the first time, enjoyed an incredible evening which celebrated the power of collective action in the fight to defeat cancer and save lives.

This year, our speaker from the scientific community was **Sarah Blagden, Professor of Experimental Oncology at the University of Oxford,** and founder of the LungVax project, which is attempting to develop the first preventive vaccine against lung cancer. The vaccine is designed to train the immune system to recognise and kill abnormal lung cells. This revolutionary project is being co-funded by Cancer Research UK and the CRIS Cancer Foundation.



We also heard from cancer patient, Jo Ball, who following a PET scan relating to a diagnosis of early stage (treatable) breast cancer, was shocked to discover she also had advanced stage cervical cancer, which sadly has an extremely poor prognosis. Thankfully, research has produced an HPV vaccine to prevent cervical cancer which is already being rolled out to children aged 12. Whilst it is too late for Jo to benefit from this vaccine, she urged the audience to continue to support CRIS so that research projects such as LungVax receive the funding they need to deliver a lifeline to those suffering from this devastating disease.

TOTAL RAISED

£2,861,776



In summer 2023, work began on the designing and testing of various parts of the vaccine and the manufacturing phase started in the autumn. The initial goal is for the injection to prevent the appearance of lung cancer in an upcoming trial with 600 smokers and high-risk ex-smokers. The ultimate goal is to have a vaccine that you get at age 40 that protects you from cancer.

Professor Blagden shared a sobering slide of an iceberg to represent the fact that pre-cancers can last decades before the appearance of a tumour, therefore it is critical to invest in research which focuses on this "pre-cancerous stage." She explained that if we understand what biological events cause cells to become cancerous, we can begin to identify biomarkers in the blood. Detected at this stage, the disease is reversible.

She reminded the audience that 50% of us will get cancer at some point in our lives and stressed the urgency to invest in life-saving research. She concluded by expressing her immense gratitude to all the CRIS supporters and donors, whose generosity makes a massive difference in facilitating what are extremely expensive but critical research projects.



SPONSORS



RUNNING FOR CRIS

In 2023, our runners embraced the challenge of fundraising and promoting CRIS Cancer Foundation's work, some running over 80km, others running the Tokyo Marathon, all being an inspiration to many of us.



Quantum Pacific, Harry Odling



Tokyo Marathon 2023
Gonzalo Garcia Villanueva



Royal Parks Half Marathon Team



Tokyo Marathon 2023
Enrique Álvarez Labiano

At the Royal Parks Half Marathon thanks to our wonderful ambassadors Manu Mondedeu and Vassileos Karatzenis, who helped spread the word, CRIS had 50 runners, tripling the number of participants from the previous year. On the day, CRIS had a marquee set up for the runners to gather with their friends, family, and CRIS volunteers after completing the 21 km race. The event was a tremendous success, raising an impressive **£60,000**.

INTERVIEW WITH VASILEIOS KARATZENIS

CRIS Cancer Ambassador

When did you first hear about CRIS?

My college friend Manuel Mondedeu and his wife Marta Brime (who was on the Board of Trustees at Cris Cancer at that time), kindly invited us to our first Cris Gala in London, back in 2016. It was our first opportunity to meet Lola Manterola and the Cris team, their volunteers, and researchers.

What is it about the CRIS Cancer Foundation which motivated you to fundraise on CRIS's behalf?

The inspiring story of Lola and her passion to invest in cancer research so that, in the future, everyone can live in a cancer-free world, was very motivating. The game changer though, was when my brother was diagnosed in 2019 with pancreatic cancer and was given only a few months to live. Lola and her team were a great support, and I will never forget that.

In 2022, you ran the Royal Parks Half Marathon on behalf of CRIS, winning the award for most funds raised by any participant. For the 2023 run, you envisioned and delivered a much bigger presence for CRIS, inviting sponsorship, inspiring many more runners to participate, and more than tripling the amount of funds raised. You are an outstanding example of how one person's vision and actions can make a dramatic difference to the work of a charity like CRIS.

As an Ambassador of CRIS, what would you say to encourage others who are motivated by your achievements to take the next step in joining the fight to defeat cancer?

I have lost a brother, my uncles, my mother-in-law, and a close friend to this cruel disease. I decided to run my first Half Marathon in memory of my brother Christos, for those who are not here with us anymore, as well as for all the cancer survivors. We all need to contribute to the fight against cancer. Donating to charities like Cris Cancer, we can achieve our goal of living in a cancer-free world, for the generations to come.



Donating to charities like Cris Cancer, we can achieve our goal of living in a cancer-free world, for the generations to come.





CRIS GEMs – a regular giving club

A GEM is a precious stone; it is also an outstanding person or thing. **For the CRIS Cancer Foundation, a GEM is an incredible person willing to act and work with us to achieve a world free of cancer.**

CRIS was founded in 2011, and over the past 13 years we are proud to have **invested more than £42 million in cancer research**. We have funded **499 clinical trials and 80 research projects across 16 countries**, with **11 million potential beneficiaries** of CRIS developments per year.

With a **27% annual growth rate** since inception, made possible by the incredible support of all our donors, the CRIS community has much to be proud of. However, despite huge advances in treatment, cancer remains a major global health issue and there is still much work to be done.

To continue to grow and scale we must explore all avenues in our fundraising initiatives.

Today we would ask you to consider **“Investing in Life”** by becoming a **CRIS GEM (Give Every Month)**. Regular monthly contributions allow CRIS to plan ahead and guarantee funding for longer term projects, as well as enabling you to plan your giving in a manageable way which suits your own budget.

As an active member of our CRIS community, you will enjoy invitations to our exclusive events, receive updates on all our projects and learn how your donations are making a real difference in our mission to defeat cancer.

Invest in life - Become a GEM!



STUART GROSTERN

GEM Donor

How did you first find out about the CRIS Cancer Foundation?

I first learned about CRIS from my friend and former work colleague, Diego Megia (Señor Manterola!), who explained the inspiring story of how CRIS came into being as a result of Lola's diagnosis and their incredible relentless search to find research-driven treatments for incurable forms of cancer.

What is it about the CRIS Cancer Foundation which inspired you to become a GEM?

I was diagnosed with stage 3 bowel cancer in the prime of my working career and was fortunate enough to have had a surgically removable tumour, an amazing surgical/medical team and just enough time to save me. I was one of the lucky ones. Since then, I have had many less fortunate friends, younger and older, succumb to cancer. Diego told me about Lola's condition and their efforts to explore new and different treatments resulting in starting the CRIS Cancer Foundation. Lola and Diego have translated their life/family saving mission into one of the most inspiring organisations you will ever find and I dare anyone not to be inspired by them!

What would you say to other people considering becoming CRIS GEMs to encourage them to join the CRIS community?

If you already know about CRIS and its amazing work and are already a donor, make a regular monthly donation! The power of monthly donations is the predictability it provides the organisation to enable CRIS to plan its funding of its valuable research projects more confidently. It's a no-brainer.

TESTIMONIAL

JO BALL

Cancer patient

How has cancer affected your life?

Being diagnosed with two cancers has accelerated my desire to make everyday count, however I have also noticed a shift in my patience levels, feeling a bit more intolerant at times. This juxtaposition of heightened appreciation for life's moments alongside a decreased tolerance for things that don't align with my priorities has been and continues to be a challenging aspect of coping with uncertainty. In the beginning my confidence took a dip as I felt a shadow of the person I used to be. Little by little I have gained it back by not letting a disease define who I am and what I want to do.

How did you become aware of the work of the CRIS Cancer Foundation, and what is it about CRIS that most impresses you?

I first became aware of the work of CRIS Cancer Foundation through Instagram, a platform that hosts a significant cancer community. During moments of panic following my diagnosis, I felt compelled to seek out someone online who shared my experiences with cancer and more importantly had found a positive outcome. As I scrolled through social media looking for a mirror image of myself I came across @criscanceruk and was immediately impressed by their founder and her journey. Their commitment to funding innovative research projects aimed at improving cancer treatments and outcomes provides hope and inspiration to people like myself.

Why do you feel so strongly about encouraging potential donors to invest in cancer research?

It's easy to overlook the impact of sustained support for cancer research. The truth is, behind every statistic, there's a face, a family, a network of lives who desperately depend on this work. In the UK the horrifying statistic is that 1 in



2 of us WILL get cancer. I cannot think of a bigger call to action and plea to donors to recognise the importance of a sustained commitment to cancer research organisations like the CRIS Cancer Foundation. Based upon that statistic we all need to invest in this shared future where research is the key.

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

I thought long and hard about answering this question (it brought a tear to my eye and a lump to my throat as I recalled vividly the panic and fear that engulfed me the day I turned up for many treatments). To someone going through treatment, I want to convey my heartfelt empathy and solidarity. I see you, and I'm deeply sorry that you're facing this difficult chapter. In moments like these, I'm reminded of the wise words of Kris Hallenga:

“Trust your body, believe in hope, leave room for miracles.”

Though I may borrow her words, please know that they carry the essence of what I want to share with you all. You're not alone.

INTERVIEW WITH MENCIA ROCA DE TOGORES

Events Manager at CRIS Cancer Foundation, London office.



Where did you first hear about CRIS?

The first time I heard about CRIS was through my good friend Maria Diaz, one of the most veteran CRIS volunteers, who invited me to support CRIS by buying tickets for the 2014 Annual Gala. A few years later, Maria introduced me to the volunteers group and I started attending their weekly meeting. Later, I joined the Gala Prize Committee and the Gala Registration Team and since February 2023, I proudly form part of the CRIS team.

Why did you want to become involved?

I have always been very conscious about the importance of investing in cancer treatment. Both my father and my grandfather died of lung cancer, and many of my close relatives have suffered different types of cancer. This terrible disease has unfortunately always been present in my family, so I had a strong urge to do something about it.

It was not until I met Lola Manterola and the CRIS Cancer Foundation that I felt that my fundraising efforts would be truly invested in research for cancer treatments.

What is your role at CRIS?

I am part of the fundraising team, and I am responsible for coordinating all the CRIS UK fundraising events.

What do you most enjoy about working for CRIS?

My favourite part of working for CRIS is feeling that we are enabling scientists to continue with their research and bring about a cure for cancer. My father firmly believed that finding a cure for his cancer was only a matter of time. Through our work, we are allowing other cancer patients to buy that extra time with their loved ones.

What is the most challenging aspect of your role?

The most challenging part of my role is listening to our patients' testimonies, as they remind me of the days of uncertainty when my own father was battling the disease.

What are the strategies and strengths that set the CRIS Cancer Foundation apart?

The CRIS Cancer Foundation combines a small, flexible organisational structure with an in-house scientific committee of leading researchers from all over the world. This combination allows CRIS to act quickly and make well-considered decisions around its investments. CRIS's commitment to encouraging collaboration between scientists around the world as well as our partnerships with leading global cancer research institutions are both important strategic decisions which will make the difference needed to cure cancer.

Become one of our heroes



My Super CRIS Challenge is one of the most popular CRIS Cancer initiatives because it is a fun and easy way to challenge yourself while helping us raise vital funds for CRIS, that bring hope to many patients and families.

HOW DOES IT WORK?

All you need to do is to choose your challenge and create a fundraising page.

Your goal can be something that:

- » **Test your physical, mental boundaries:** run a marathon, hike mountains...
- » **Push yourself to overcome a personal fear**
- » **Do something fun and new with your friends.**
- » **Your gift to us:** weddings, wedding anniversaries, 50th birthday...)

To date, the response has been overwhelming. Thanks to the generous support of donors like you, we have been able to raise over **£700,000** together!

DREAM BIG AND BE YOURSELF!

There are no set rules for this one.



CRIS Cancer Foundation
Enrique's 50th Birthday!!!!

Thank you for joining me for my 50th birthday party on the 25th of November. I can't wait to see you in London



Josefa Diaz Mercado
Fefi and Gabriel 20th wedding anniversary
Fundraising for CRIS Cancer Foundation

174%
Lucy King · 3rd+
Senior Research Analyst, CCUS at Wood Mackenzie
1yr ·

After 6 months of training, the day is finally here! In the early hours of the morning I will start the three peaks challenge, taking on Ben Nevis first, then moving on to Scafell Pike and Snowdon.

Thank you so much to everyone who has donated - I've managed to raise just over £1400 for CRIS Cancer Foundation, which is a fantastic charity dedicated to facilitating and developing research to beat cancer as a serious health issue.

It's still not too late to donate though! Any donations are really appreciated. Thank you!



Lucy's Three Peaks Challenge for CRIS Cancer Foundation - JustGiving



CRIS INTERNATIONAL IN FIGURES



OUR FIVE-YEAR PLAN

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.

INVESTMENT

MORE THAN

£32M

TOTAL 2019-2023

£9.8M

2023



35%

2023 VS 2022

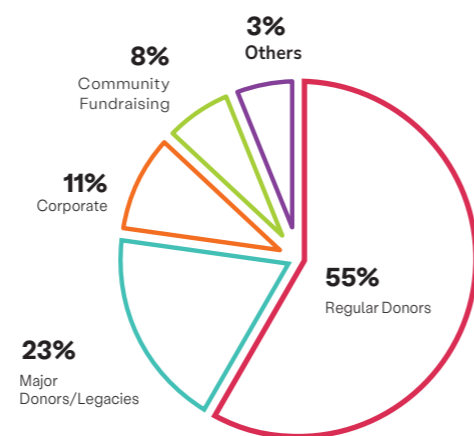


We use funds efficiently, so that every pound invested in cancer has the maximum impact.

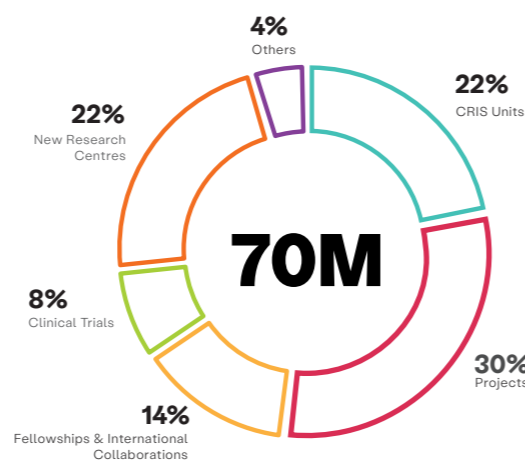
We are immensely grateful for the support we have received over the years from our individual and regular donors, their families, corporate partners, community fundraisers and our diligent volunteers, without whom we would not be able to continue funding pioneering research.

CRIS makes long term commitments to 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 £70 million.

FUNDS RAISED



5 YEAR COMMITMENT



UK FINANCIALS

	2022	2023
	Total £	Total £
Incoming resources from:		
Donations and legacies	210,978	955,310
Other fundraising activities	1,573,401	2,036,264
Investments	6,212	19,389
Total income resources*	1,790,591	3,010,962
Expenditure on:		
Fundraising events	239,827	439,433
Overheads	70,470	89,242
Donations made to research	1,468,154	1,713,146
Total expenditure*	1,778,452	2,241,821

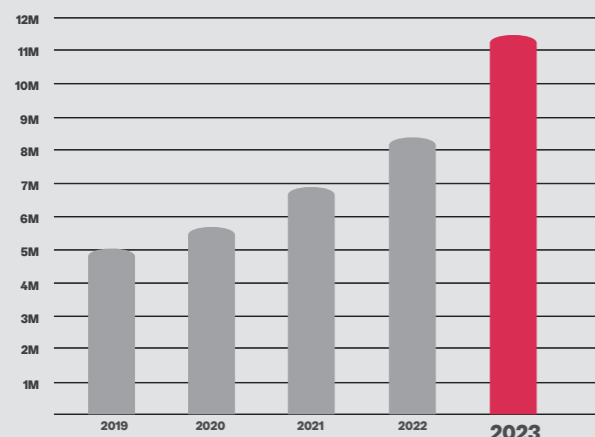
RATIOS 2023

Overheads/total income	3%
Every £1 spent in fundraising raises	£7
Pence in the pound available to beat cancer	82

CRIS INTERNATIONAL OVERVIEW 2023

	Total income resources (£)	Total expenditure (£)
UK	3,010,962	2,241,821
SP	13,246,855	11,675,630
FR	281,220	43,000
Total	16,539,037	13,960,451

INVESTMENT IN RESEARCH OVER THE LAST 5 YEARS



*CRIS CANCER FOUNDATION, A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE (CHARITY NO. 1140193) Annual Report and Financial Statements for the period ended 31 December 2023

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.

**The data in these tables are provisional and subject to change pending the closure of the fiscal year.

CRIS UK 2023 CORPORATE COLLABORATIONS

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

CORPORATE DONATIONS & GRANTS



ANNUAL BALL SPONSORSHIP



PARTICIPATING WCD CAMPAIGN



MATCHING DONATIONS FROM THEIR EMPLOYEES TO CRIS



Lola Manterola at Barclays fundraising event

CRIS PARTNERS



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.

www.criscancer.org.uk

info@criscancer.org.uk

Second floor office, 3a Harrington Road, London, SW7 3ES
CRIS Cancer Foundation is a registered charity (charity no. 1140193)

