



PANCREATIC CANCER 2019 ELECTIONS MANIFESTO

By 2030, pancreatic cancer is set to be the 2nd leading cause of death by cancer, if no action is taken^{1,2}. Following the Declaration by the European Multi-Stakeholder Platform on Pancreatic Cancer³, we call the new European Union legislators to do what is needed to halt this violent and deadly disease.

In 2014, Pancreatic Cancer Europe issued the Pancreatic Cancer Declaration, calling the European Union to play a central role in the fight against pancreatic cancer.

Patients affected with pancreatic cancer lose 98% of their healthy life expectancy at the point of diagnosis⁴. Pancreatic cancer has the lowest survival rate of all cancers and its prevalence is still expected to increase in decades to come⁵. It is the only cancer whose mortality is on the rise in both sexes⁶.

Today, a diagnosis of pancreatic cancer is generally associated with a death sentence and few patients are alive one year after diagnosis, while an earlier diagnosis could help reduce the mortality of the disease.

Due to severe underdiagnosis, the overall median survival for a person diagnosed with metastatic pancreatic cancer is 4.6 months. If diagnosed in time, chances of survival increase.

Little progress on new therapies is notably due to low research funding. Therefore, additional resources should be created to fund research into pancreatic cancer.

In the Pancreatic Cancer Declaration from 2014, five key targets for 2020 were identified:

- 1** Launch education and awareness campaigns in all Member States;
- 2** Develop specific plans to tackle pancreatic cancer and integrate pancreatic cancer in the broader Member State cancer control policies;
- 3** Improve early diagnosis by launching national campaigns towards healthcare professionals and patients;
- 4** Improve data collection and work towards the development of pancreatic cancer registries in Europe;
- 5** Increase the number of pan-European and national pancreatic cancer research projects.

However, we are still far from achieving these five key targets in a comprehensive and successful way. **The European elections in May 2019 are a key opportunity for national and European policymakers to commit to and prioritise these 5 key targets.** Pancreatic Cancer Europe calls for the newly elected European Union policymakers to commit to these targets by signing this Pancreatic Cancer European 2020 Manifesto, as well as for current policymakers, to call for action on their new colleagues.

PANCREATIC CANCER 2019 ELECTIONS MANIFESTO

If I am elected in the European Parliament elections in 2019, during my mandate I will work towards making the fight against pancreatic cancer a priority in the European Union, to ensure there is real change in research, diagnosis and care, to curb the trend and make sure there is hope for all the citizens affected by pancreatic cancer.

I will aim at ensuring that the European Union takes appropriate action by:

- 1** Increasing political awareness on pancreatic cancer through active promotion of awareness campaigns;
- 2** Proposing to include pancreatic cancer in cancer control policies and rare cancer initiatives at EU level;
- 3** Transmitting my colleagues in my Member State to include pancreatic cancer in their initiatives at national level, with the aim at developing national pancreatic cancer plans;
- 4** Asking the European Commission to increase awareness of pancreatic cancer towards the scientific and patient communities to enable earlier diagnosis;
- 5** Asking the European Commission to enable the development of pancreatic cancer training programs for treating physicians about symptoms and risk factors to improve earlier diagnosis;
- 6** Supporting the establishment of adequate national pancreatic cancer registries;
- 7** Pushing for an increase in the allocation of funds for the research into pancreatic cancer to improve diagnosis and early treatment;
- 8** Pushing for the creation of new funding streams by the European Commission to support research on pancreatic cancer.

Pancreatic Cancer Europe is an association composed of European experts, academics, patients, clinical practitioners, journalists and policy makers and is committed to raising awareness around pancreatic cancer with a view to improving standards of care, diagnosis and data collection for patients suffering from pancreatic cancer across Europe. For more information, please consult our website www.pancreaticcancereurope.eu.

1. Rahib L, Smith B D, Aizenberg R, Rosenzweig A B, Fleshman J M, Matrisian L M. Projecting Cancer Incidence and Deaths to 2030: The Unexpected Burden of Thyroid, Liver, and Pancreas Cancers in the United States. *Cancer Res* June 1 2014 (74) (11) 2913-2921
2. Quante A S, Ming C, Rottmann M, Engel J, Boeck S, Heinemann V, Westphalen C B, Strauch K. Projections of cancer incidence and cancer related deaths in Germany by 2020 and 2030. *Cancer Medicine* 2016; 5(9):2649-2656
3. https://www.pancreaticcancereurope.eu/files/user_upload/downloads/english/RPP-061-15_Declaration_PC_Eng.pdf
4. Carrato A, Falcone A, Ducreux M, Valle J, Parnaby A, Djazouli K, Alnwick-Allu K, Hutchings A, Palaska C, Parthenaki I. A systematic review of the burden of pancreatic cancer in Europe: Real-world impact on survival, quality-of-life, and costs. *J Gastrointest Cancer* 2015 Sep;46(3):201-11
5. Malvezzi M, Bertuccio P, Levi F, La Vecchia C, Negri E, et al. European cancer mortality predictions for the year 2013. *Annals of Oncol.* 2013; 24:792-800
6. Health Consumer Powerhouse, Euro Pancreatic Cancer Index, 2014, ISBN 978-91-980687-3-3