

Foreword

Despite the global scientific and medical efforts, the cancer incidence rates have not decreased, and malignant tumor death rates have been increasing globally. Talking into consideration the alarmingly increasing numbers, the World Health Organization urges all the countries to join their efforts in implementing all possible cancer control measures in order to reduce the incidence and mortality from malignant tumors, and to improve life quality of cancer patients and their families. In Lithuania, the number of cancer patients has been increasing annually (in 2009, this number amounted to 86,000 people). Encouragingly, the mortality rates have stabilized in recent years.

In order to implement cancer control effectively, according to available resources and integrating cancer control in Europe, national cancer institutes have been established, as well as in Japan and the United States and some other countries, with the aim to co-ordinate the oncology research on the national level, implement cancer prevention and early detection programs, and ensure successful implementation of the results obtained during the clinical practice. Such an institute should also be founded in Lithuania, by involving all the possible Lithuanian resources – the best Lithuanian scientists, doctors, society members, politicians and everyone who wants to help people suffering from cancer.

The Institute of Oncology, Vilnius University, corresponds with the model of a multi-disciplinary Cancer Centre common in many European countries. The Institute's activity includes research, specialist training, diagnosis and treatment of patients with malignant tumors. The Institute also performs a function of the population-based cancer registry.

The Scientific Research Centre was established to develop the oncology science at the Institute. The main goal of the Centre is to carry out international research in Lithuania by applying molecular oncology, genomics, proteomics, transcriptomics, overall study, nano-medicine and other methods. Considering the current academic priorities, i. e. a close link between the basic and clinical research, the Institute carries out patient-focused research and creates the conditions for the development of a single education, training and medical practice framework. In view of this, the Institute acquired new research equipment and modernized its clinical framework.

Therefore, the mission of the Lithuanian oncologists is the systematic popularization of cancer prevention possibilities; implementation of prophylactic measures to cancer patients, oriented research, improvement of early cancer diagnosis; assured quality of cancer patient's treatment.

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