Fact Sheet

National Center for Tumor Diseases (NCT) Heidelberg

The National Center for Tumor Diseases (NCT) Heidelberg is a joint institution of the German Cancer Research Center (DKFZ), Heidelberg University Hospital (UKHD) and the German Cancer Aid (DKH). As Germany's leading "Comprehensive Cancer Center" and Oncological Center of Excellence, the NCT connects interdisciplinary patient care with excellent cancer research under one roof. The NCT acts as a central portal for all cancer patients of the UKHD and is the clinical platform for translational projects and studies of the DKFZ.

Since 2015, a second site for the NCT beside Heidelberg has been under development in Dresden. The NCT Dresden is a joint venture of the DKFZ in Heidelberg, the University Hospital Carl Gustav Carus, the Medical Faculty of the TU Dresden and the Helmholtz Center Dresden-Rossendorf (HZDR). The Hopp Children’s Cancer Center (KITZ) was founded in Heidelberg in 2017. The pediatric oncologists work closely with the NCT Heidelberg in joint research structures.

Aim

The aims of the NCT Heidelberg are to involve promising approaches from cancer research in patient care and prevention as soon as possible, to initiate studies, and to develop new treatments and prevention strategies.

Following the successful launch of the NCT Heidelberg, the additional federal and state funding provides the opportunity to establish the NCT as an internationally competitive, patient-oriented oncology center of excellence. For this purpose, the already existing cross-location cooperation between Heidelberg and Dresden is being expanded. Implementation includes structural measures, such as building expansion in Heidelberg, new construction in Dresden, and the establishment and expansion of central facilities as well as the creation and expansion of clinical and scientific profile areas.

History

2004 Founding NCT Heidelberg
2005 Start of clinical operation
2006 Founding NCT Cancer Registry
2006 Founding NCT Trail Center
2009 Founding NCT Tissue and Biobank
   First Charity Regatta „Rowing against Cancer“
2010 Moving to the new NCT building
2010 Awarded as Oncological Center of Excellence of the German Cancer Aid
2011 First NCT Charity Run
2012 Award Patient Friendly Hospital for the first time
2012 Co-founding of the German Cancer Consortium (DKTK)
2013 Start NCT DataThereHouse
2013 Start NCT MASTER-Program
2015 Founding NCT - Partner Location in Dresden
   Start of a new funding program with federal funds to strengthen specific cancer research
   programs (NCT 3.0)
2015 First NCT Charity Concert “Bars against cancer”
2016 Award Patient Friendly Hospital for the third time
2016 Expansion of the NCT MASTER-Program to all DKTK sites
2017 Founding Hopp Children’s Cancer Center (KiTZ)
2018 For the third time funding as Oncological Center of Excellence through the German Cancer Aid
2018 Start Translational Immunotherapy
2019 Building expansion NCT Heidelberg

Patient care
Central portal for all cancer patients at UKHD. Specialized counseling services and self-help.

Patient care in NCT Heidelberg (for 2016):
- >60,000 patient visits / year during consultation
- >20,000 systemic therapies / year
- >15,000 new cases / year
- 60 outpatient treatment spaces
- More than 20 percent of patients are referred from more than 100 km away

Clinical trials
- Currently 500 oncology clinical trials and investigator initiated trials (IITs)
- Approximately 40 percent of all NCT patients are enrolled in studies

Research
- Center-wide program for precision oncology with the aim of personalized cancer medicine,
  including in the areas of genomics, proteomics, imaging, radiotherapy, immunology and prevention
NCT Translational research priorities in three fields:
- **Precision therapy and Imaging** (including radiooncology and surgical oncology programs),
- **Immunotherapy** (with focus on immunomodulation, cell and antibody-based therapies and vaccination strategies) and
- **Molecular stratification** (with focus on molecular guided patient stratification for the development of novel diagnostic and therapeutic strategies in somatic and hereditary cancers).

**Quality**
- Evidence-based guidelines for diagnosis, therapy and follow-up
- >20 interdisciplinary tumor boards / week
- Core Facilities - NCT Cancer Registry, NCT Trail Center, NCT Tissue and Biobank

**Staff**
> 500 scientists, physicians and qualified scientific, clinical and administrative staff

**Networks and Cooperations**
Innovative research and new treatment strategies demand interdisciplinary networking and collaboration. In order for patients to benefit from new diagnostic and therapeutic approaches, the NCT cooperates with numerous national and international organizations:
[www.nct-heidelberg.de/cooperations](http://www.nct-heidelberg.de/cooperations)

**Board of Directors**

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<tr>
<th>Prof. Dr. Stefan Fröhling</th>
<th>Prof. Dr. Dirk Jäger</th>
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<td>Translational Medical Onkology, DKFZ</td>
<td>Medical Oncology, UKHD</td>
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<th>Prof. Dr. Peter Lichter</th>
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<td>Molecular Genetics, DKFZ</td>
<td>Radiooncology, UKHD</td>
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**In Partnership**
- German Cancer Research Center (DKFZ)
- Heidelberg University Hospital (UKHD)
- German Cancer Aid (DKH)

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