
CANCER RESEARCH INSTITUTE

National Cancer Center, Korea

History

Neoplasia became the leading cause of mortality in Korea in 1983, and since then the proportion of deaths caused by cancer has steadily risen. Approximately 100 thousand people are becoming new cancer patients every year while 65 thousand people die from the disease. In order to cope with this worrisome trend of ever-rising cancer incidence and mortality, the Korean government formulated a 7-year plan to establish the National Cancer Center (NCC) in 1989 and after an investment of a total of 124 million dollars it was finally opened in 2000. At this time Dr. Jae-Gahb Park was appointed as the first President and the NCC took over the National Cancer Control Planning Board from the National Institute of Health and the Central Cancer Registry Center from the National Medical Center.

Mission and Objectives

The National Cancer Center (NCC) has a mission to reduce the incidence and mortality of cancer by means of specialized research, quality care, education & training, and national cancer control programs, and consequently to promote national health and welfare.

In order to achieve its mission the NCC has the following functions:

- Basic and clinical cancer research ;
- Clinical oncology services for cancer patients;
- Education and training for medical professionals and experts from industry, academia, institutes and government;

- Implementing of the national cancer control programs: cancer statistics & registration, prevention, early detection and public awareness ;
- Consulting services for cancer-specializing medical institutions

Under the President, the NCC is organized into a Division of Education and Training, a Research Institute, the Hospital, an Office of Planning and Coordination and the Office of Administration. There are a total of 773 personnel, including 141 research staff and 41 medical doctors. The Research Institute itself is divided into 5 Divisions with some 26 branches, while the Hospital, with a capacity of 500 beds, has 11 Clinical Oncology Centers.



The Korean National Cancer Center, Opened in 2000



**Dr Jae-Gahb Park,
President of the Korean NCC**

As a central agency implementing 'the 10-year Strategy for Cancer Control', the NCC is endeavouring to lower the people's incidence and mortality by upgrading nationwide cancer control programs such as the Cancer Registry Program, the National R&D Program for Cancer Control, and the Cancer Screening Program. The center is currently building a web-based cancer information database in order to enhance public awareness of cancer.

The NCC pursues mutually beneficial cooperative relations with other organizations around the world. Some examples of bilateral cooperation for joint research and exchange of personnel and information, are:

- The Agreements of Cooperation made with the National Cancer Institute, U.S.A. in October 2001 and with the National Cancer Center, Japan in August, 2001.

As a responsible member of the international cancer community, the center is actively participating in multilateral cooperative activities organized by international organizations such as the International Union Against Cancer (UICC) and the World Health Organization (WHO). In fact, a number of scientists from the NCC attended the recent APOCP First General Assembly Conference, in Nagoya, Japan, lead by Dr Hai Rim Shin of the Department of Cancer Control and Epidemiology.

The aim of the NCC is to provide a world-class cancer institution devoted to cancer research, patient care, education & training, thereby realizing national cancer control policy in the 21st century. We can look forward to major successes by Korean scientists working within its walls in the future.