



Towards coordinating translational cancer research in Europe

*Jane Cope (a), Maria Ferrantini (b) and
Claudio Lombardo (c,d)*

E-Oncology: A bilateral Italy-UK Workshop

London, 27th October 2008

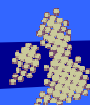
Italian Institute of Culture

(a) National Cancer Research Institute, United Kingdom

(b) Istituto Superiore di Sanità, Rome, Italy

(c) Istituto Nazionale per la Ricerca sul Cancro, Genoa, Italy

(d) Focal Point International Affairs, Alleanza Contro il Cancro, Rome, Italy



NCRI
National
Cancer
Research
Institute



Translational Cancer Research and Innovation

The European paradox

Translational research is understood as research activities which aim to take findings from basic research to clinical research and from bed to the bench for the benefit of patients and to improve competitiveness



**“INNOVATION (translational research)
IS THE REAL EXPLOITATION OF NEW IDEAS,
A VITAL BASIS FOR COMPETITIVENESS,
PRODUCTIVITY AND SOCIAL WELFARE”**

FUNDS  **KNOWLEDGE**  **FUNDS**



EUROPEAN COUNCIL

Lisbon 2000



Stockholm 2001



Barcelona 2002

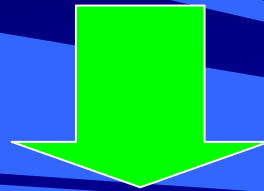


BEFORE 2010

Europe should become the most
competitive and dynamic
knowledge-based economy in the world

THE ROLE OF EUROPEAN RESEARCH

- Stimulate training and mobility of researchers
- Stimulate private investments
- Improve Excellence in S&T
- Easily disseminate research results
- Stimulate competition
- Define pan-European policy challenges
- Encourage Financial and Human Resources pooling to achieve a critical mass
- Coordinate national policies
-
-



**SPEED THE INNOVATION PROCESS TO STIMULATE
PRODUCTIVITY AND SOCIAL WELFARE
(BENEFITS FOR PATIENT)**

EVOLUTION OF THE EUROPEAN RESEARCH POLICIES

□ V FP Cooperative research

□ VI FP Cooperative research +
Coordination of Natl Res.Plans

□ VII FP Cooperative research +
Coordination of Natl Res.Plans +
Basic research

**VII FP- COOPERATION
THEME 1**

HEALTH



**BIOTECHNOLOGY, GENERIC
TOOLS AND MEDICAL
TECHNOLOGIES FOR
HUMAN HEALTH**



**TRANSLATING
RESEARCH FOR
HUMAN HEALTH**



**OPTIMISING THE DELIVERY
OF HEALTHCARE TO
EUROPEAN CITIZENS**

**INTEGRATING BIOLOGICAL DATA AND
PROCESSES: LARGE-SCALE DATA
GATHERING, SYSTEMS BIOLOGY**

**TRANSLATIONAL RESEARCH
IN OTHER MAJOR DISEASES:
CANCER, ...**

EUROCAN + PLUS

- Euro-CAN was an EC funded “Coordination Action” project, specifically called for in FP6 with the task to explore modes of coordination of cancer research (funding) in Europe.
- Duration: about 2 years
- Financial volume: 3 Mio €
- participants: >200

- Coordinator
- Overall: Peter Boyle (IARC, Lyon)
- Funding agencies: Peter Lange (Berlin)

EUROCAN +PLUS and the European platform on translational cancer research

- coordination between basic, clinical and epidemiological research
- networking among funding bodies

Creation of an ERA-NET on Translational Cancer Research

- cooperation between comprehensive cancer centres - networking

Format and instrument to be defined

June 26th 2008

5 Interested EU National Funding Bodies
launched the so-called Go5 Task Force

AIM

define the interest and following
actions to implement a

***Joint Scientific Self-Supporting Initiative on
Translational Cancer Research***

From EUROCAN to the “NEW” NET (Joint European Translational CAncer REsearch NETwork)

Rome June 26th 2008

First meeting of Go5

Rome October 1st 2008

First meeting of interested EU national Funding Body Representatives
launched by the Go5 task force

AIM

define actions to implement a
Joint Scientific Self-Supporting Initiative
on Translational Cancer Research
agreed among EU Member States

Who are the actors within this NEW-NET?

Group of 5 (Go5):

Italy – UK

France – Germany – Spain

Other Funding Bodies from European Member States and Associated Countries

Austria – Belgium – Bulgaria –

Greece – Hungary – (Israel) –

Latvia – Norway – Poland –

Portugal – Slovenia – Switzerland...

Italian Ministry of Health: DM 21 luglio 2006 Extraordinary National Cancer Programme

ACC
30 mln
Euro

Programme 1
Reduction of disparities in access to diagnostic tools and therapies

Programme 2
Integration of the research activities through the setting up of structures and networks of interinstitutional collaboration

Programme 3
Transfer of knowledge into the development of actions aiming at cancer prevention, diagnosis and treatment (national trials in innovative therapies, prevention, and therapies without an industrial interest in collaboration with AIFA).

Programme 4
Stimulate international collaborations



ACC and the building of the ERA for cancer research and applications

PROGRAMME 2:
The Italian Networks

Cancer Registries

Biobanks
& Biomolecular Resources

National Network for Clinical
Studies and GMP facilities

National Network
START

Bioinformatics

Pre-clinical models
and animal facilities

Hereditary Tumors

Telepathology TESEO

T →

R

A →

I

N →

I

N →

G

P →

E

O →

P

L →

E

PROGRAMME 4:
The European Infrastructures
and Networks

Eranet European Cancer Reg.

BBMRI -Networking major
biobanking across Europe

ECRIN-Infrastructure for
Clinical Trials and Biotherapy

CoCanCPG: Production of
European Cancer Guidelines

INSTRUCT (Int. Structural
Biology Infrastructure)

EATRIS -Translational
Research Infrastructure

Accreditation

PREPARING THE MODEL FOR A NATIONAL TRASLATIONAL RESEARCH INFRASTRUCTURE

THE PARALLEL CONVERGENCES

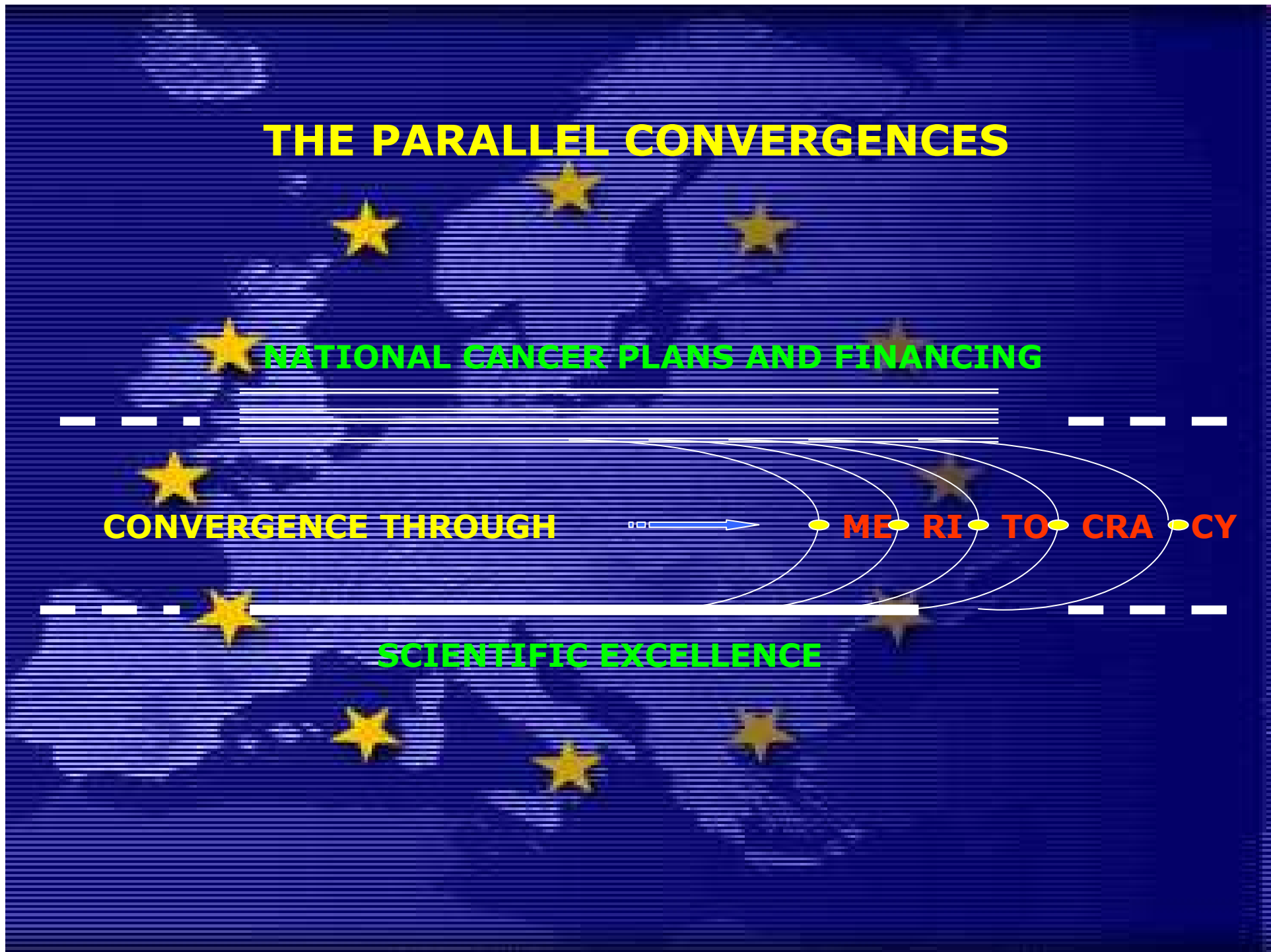
NATIONAL CANCER PLANS AND FINANCING

CONVERGENCE THROUGH

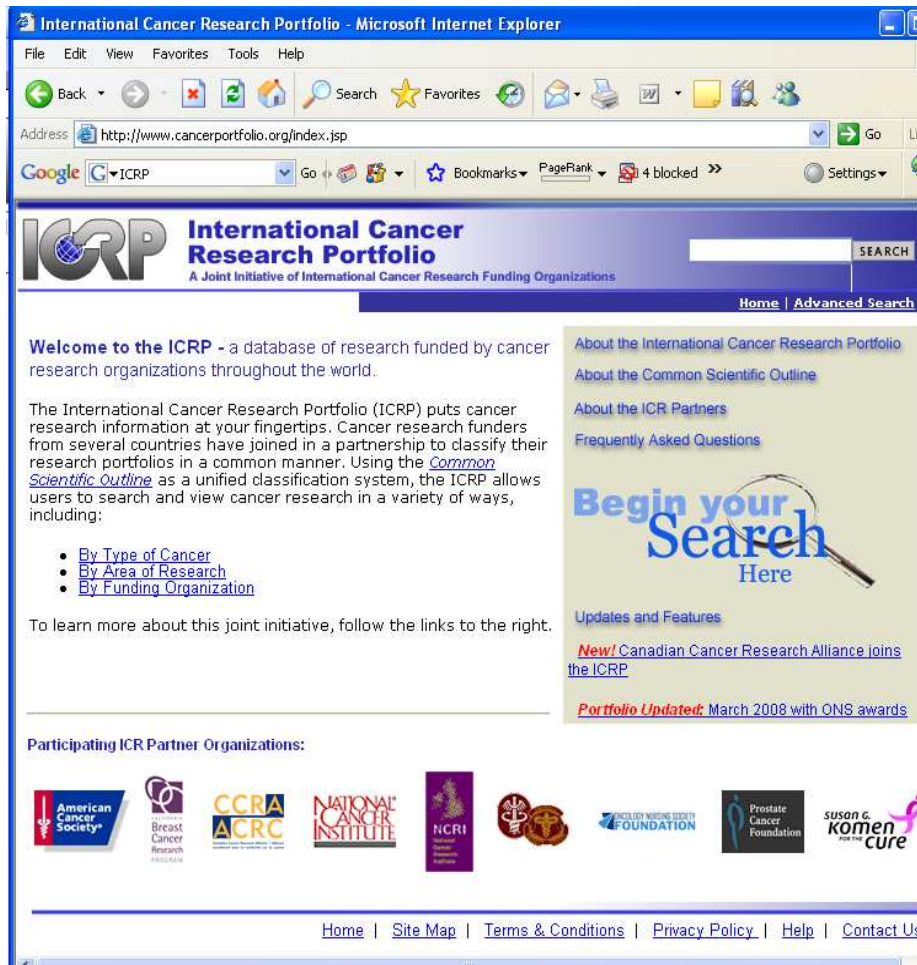


ME • RI • TO • CRA • CY

SCIENTIFIC EXCELLENCE



The International Cancer Research Partnership and Portfolio (ICRP)



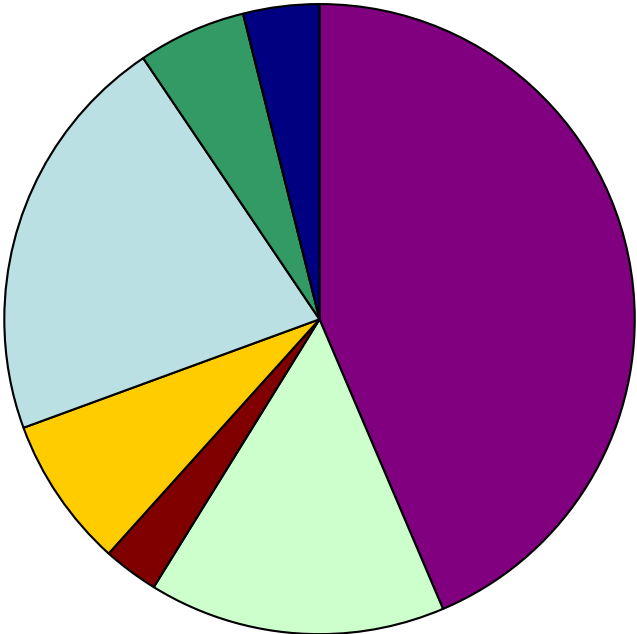
- The International Cancer Research Portfolio is a publicly available, easily searchable website
- Partners update their data at least once per year
- All awards are coded and have abstracts attached
- Used by
 - Public to identify projects of interest
 - Researchers to identify collaborators
 - Funders to identify reviewers/referees
 - Funders to avoid duplication

<http://www.cancerportfolio.org>

Spend by Common Scientific Outline

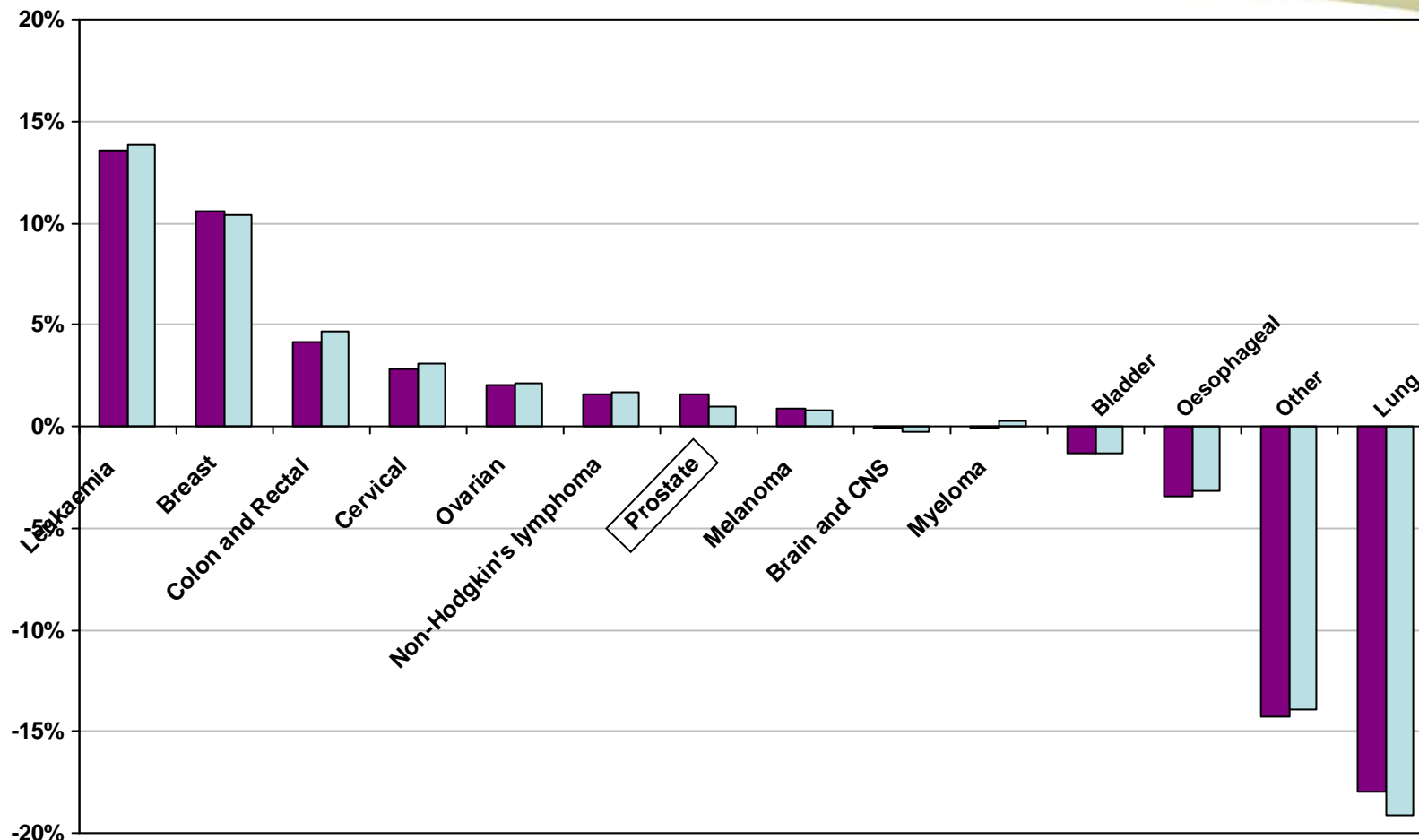


Total spend by NCRI partners in 2005 £350m



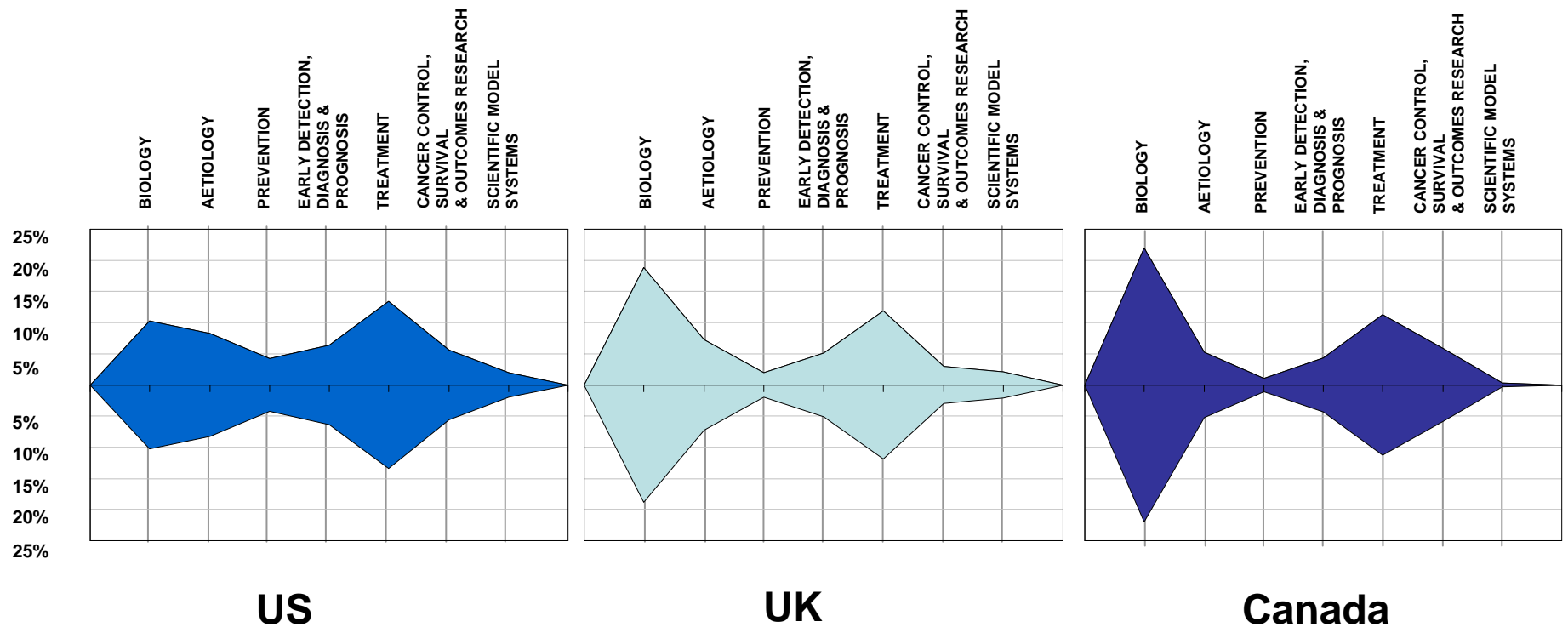
- CSO1 – Biology
- CSO2 – Aetiology
- CSO3 – Prevention
- CSO4 – Early detection, diagnosis and prognosis
- CSO5 – Treatment
- CSO6 – Cancer Control, Survival and Outcomes
- CSO7 – Scientific Model Systems

% research spend vs % mortality



% Spend **2002** - % Mortality (2000)
 % Spend **2006** - % Mortality (2004)

International Comparison 2005



The **E**uropean **R**esearch **A**rea **NET**work Scheme

ERANET General Objective:

to develop and strengthen the coordination of national and regional research programmes by providing a common framework of cooperation

New-NET Specific Objective:

to create a broad group of cooperation and to establish a wide

Joint **E**uropean Initiative on
Translational **C**ancer **R**esearch



Towards a NEW-NET on Translational Cancer Research

A European world-class joint programme for translational cancer research among national authorities will have a major positive impact on the way cancer will be diagnosed, treated and monitored in the near future contributing to strengthen the competitiveness of the European industry.

***The Initiative could be the starting point
to promote the setting-up of a***

JOINT PROGRAMME FOR RESEARCH

(Com 2008 -468 Final)

NEW-NET High Level requirements

1. The **Awareness** of the need to promote actions supporting the process of transfer of results into clinical practice
2. The **Willingness** by European Governments to support a coordination scheme to encourage the allocation of funds for a joint work programme
3. The European Commission's **Intention** to launch an ad-hoc call for proposal to create a specific ERANET for translational cancer research

NEW-NET

Potential fields of action

a general consensus was reached on an ERA-NET focusing on

- ❑ **clinical research and identification and validation of biomarkers for diagnosis, prognosis, and response to therapies;**
- ❑ **phase I, phase II, and phase IV post-marketing optimization trials would be considered;**
- ❑ **multi-centric clinical studies should be preferentially represented by phase II studies and post-marketing therapy optimization trials (phase IV);**
- ❑ **a common interest has been registered also on paediatric and rare cancers as targets of the clinical studies.**

Other initiatives are also foreseen:

**Mutual exchange of national research plans
Training and continuing education programmes
Connections with other major EU initiatives (IMI, ERIs..)**



**THANK YOU
FOR YOUR ATTENTION!**