



The Swiss Cancer League – united against cancer

Goals and Organisation

The Swiss Cancer League (founded in 1910) is a charitable organization dedicated to cancer prevention, patient-oriented research funding and supporting cancer patients and their loved ones. As a national organization based in Bern, it unites 19 cantonal and regional cancer leagues. It is mainly funded through donations and is ZEW0 certified.

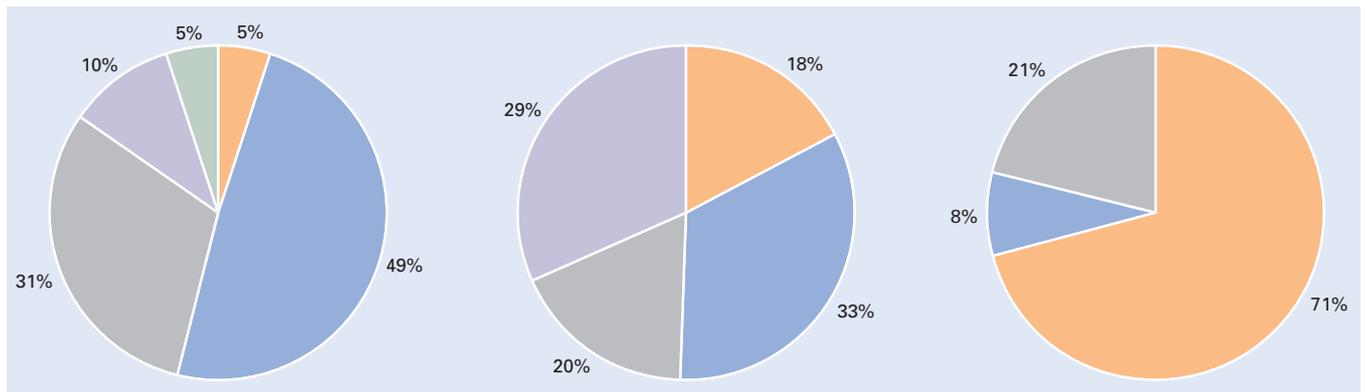
The Swiss Cancer League's main office location in Bern has close to 100 employees working in the departments of prevention and early detection, counseling and support, research and development, research funding, fundraising, communications, human resources, as well as in finance and administration.

A further 130 members of staff work in the cantonal and regional leagues. 10 board members are in charge of the Swiss Cancer League's strategy, while operative leadership lies in the hands of 8 management board members.

Cancer in Switzerland – some numbers

Every year in Switzerland, about 37,000 people are newly diagnosed with cancer and approximately 16,000 die from it. Statistically, in the course of their lives, every third person is affected by some form of cancer. Due to demographic developments Switzerland must expect a continued increase in numbers of people with newly-diagnosed cancer. This underscores the urgency of prevention, early detection, psychosocial care, and the promotion of research.

Income and Expenditure



Source of funds 2011 (in million CHF)	
Public administration	1,1
Donations	10,3
Bequests and legacies	6,5
Sales and services	2,2
Project contributions and sponsoring	1,0
Total	21,1

Application of funds 2011 (in mil. CHF)	
Counseling and support	3,9
Prevention and early detection	7,3
Science and research	4,3
Fundraising/administration	5,6
Total	21,1

Distribution of funds 2011	
Projects and programs	71 %
Fundraising	8 %
Administration	21 %

The Cancer League is active – three examples

Information services for those facing cancer

The Swiss Cancer League's Cancer Hotline provides information and advice to individuals suffering from cancer, their loved ones, cancer specialists, and the wider public. Each year our dedicated advisors respond to some 4,000 requests for information about cancer-related issues. The cancer forum provides online peer support for those faced with cancer.

The Swiss Cancer League and its cantonal and regional Leagues offer a wide range of consultation services and support to individuals with cancer, and to their families and friends. The Swiss Cancer League has expanded their services specifically for young people: The Cancerline is a chat for children and teens and new, age-appropriate web pages have been made available for them.



«Being diagnosed with cancer causes a lot of problems. The Swiss Cancer League supported me in my search for solutions, when I was at the end of my tether and couldn't focus on administrative red tape.»

R. F., Mother and Administrator, St. Gallen

Prevention and early diagnosis

About a third of all cancer diagnoses could be prevented if people didn't smoke, and made sure they had a well-balanced diet and adequate physical activity. But not all risk factors – age, gender or genetic disposition – can be controlled. In some forms of cancer a tumor or an early sign thereof can be detected at a very early stage and this greatly improves the effectiveness of the treatment and the chances of survival.

The Swiss Cancer League provides advice on how to reduce any risk of cancer and on how to recognize early signs of cancer. It actively advocates the introduction of systematic screening programs.



«It is thanks to the Swiss Cancer League that the importance of the prevention of colon cancer has been receiving the attention it requires. The organisation is also very active at the political level to improve early diagnosis.»

Dr. Reto Guetg, M.D., FMH Specialist,
Medical Examiner, santésuisse, Bern

Funding for cancer research projects

Funding patient-oriented cancer research at Swiss universities, hospitals and academic research institutions is a fundamental task of the Swiss Cancer League and its partner organization, the foundation Cancer Research Switzerland.

Research projects are financed from the entire oncological research spectrum. Together, both organizations support 60 to 80 research projects and scholarships per year, for a total of 14 to 15 million Swiss francs. Approximately 80 percent of the funding derives from Cancer Research Switzerland and 20 percent from the Swiss Cancer League.



«In Switzerland more than 80 percent of children suffering from cancer survive their illness. Studies funded by the Swiss Cancer League help us find out more about the long-term impacts of aggressive therapies. This knowledge contributes to the clarification of the causes of cancer in children and improvement of their treatments.»

Professor Dr. Claudia Kuehni, M.D., Head,
Swiss Childhood Cancer Registry, ISPM,
University of Bern



swiss cancer league

Swiss Cancer League, Effingerstrasse 40, Post Box 8219, 3001 Bern
Telephone 41 31 389 91 00, Fax +41 31 389 91 60, info@swisscancer.ch
Credit Suisse, Zurich, IBAN CH34 0483 5015 5480 0100 0, Swiss VAT no. CHE-107.818.640