



Raisa Gorbachev Foundation
Combatting Childhood Cancer

summer 2011



UPDATE

We are all united in our aim for a brighter future for children and young people suffering from cancer. Recently, the Raisa Gorbachev Foundation has started to fund two new areas: professional training & development of medical staff and research.

The research focuses on three key areas - palliative care, improved child cancer treatments and best practice in care. The development of doctors and nurses will allow those at the forefront of their professions to treat more children more effectively.



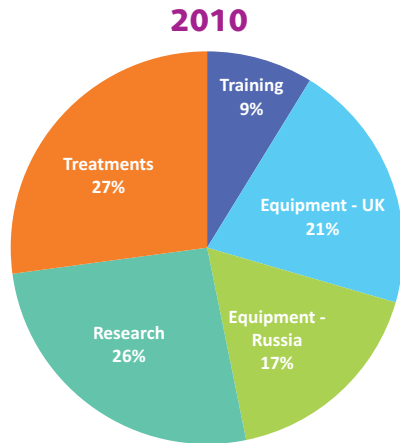
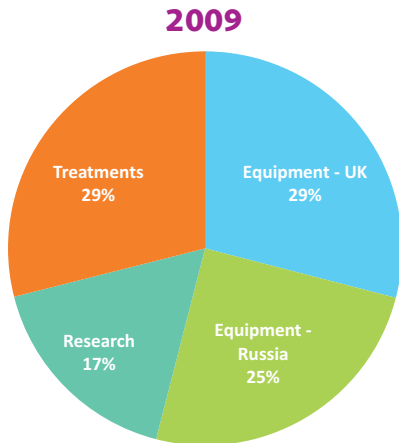
2010 SUMMARY OF SPENDING

In autumn 2010, we outlined the Foundation's updated strategy and the key areas of focus (TREAT). The two charts show how this is implemented. The introduction of new approach to training is a clear reaction to demand. New initiatives include the Scholarship scheme, the training of palliative care doctors and development of nursing training.

Expenditure on equipment both in Russia and the UK has decreased. The right equipment is crucial for the treatment of young cancer sufferers, but the demand for equipment is decreasing.

New emphasis on investment in research will aim to develop new and improved treatments and improve best practice. This will have a significant impact on the treatment and care of children with cancer as well as for their families.

The proportion of funds spent on individual treatments has stayed constant over the last two years. Many of the children we provide treatment for are in urgent need of help, as all other paths for treatment have been closed. Often we provide the last chance for remission.



The Foundation's team has been strengthened by the appointment of Dr Harald Lipman as medical advisor. He has launched the Raisa Gorbachev Scholarship and his input into the grant assessment process is invaluable.

RAISA GORBACHEV SCHOLARSHIP

Leading UK paediatric oncology units will host children's oncologists from Russia to observe and learn. This will not only encourage collaboration and best practice sharing between our partners, but this scheme aims to foster and develop the use of international standards across national borders.

AN ALTERNATIVE CHEMOTHERAPY: Erwinase, How it Works

Healthy cells are able to create their own protein, asparagine. Leukaemia cancer cells need to take this protein from the blood to function. A common form of chemotherapy introduces an enzyme into the body to "eat" the unattached asparagine protein in the blood. By removing this protein from the blood the cancer cells should eventually die.

Some patients are allergic to the most commonly used chemotherapy treatment, and this is when doctors turn to Erwinase. The drug has the same effect and this specific form of the enzyme does not induce the same allergic reaction. Erwinase is licenced and approved for use in the UK however, in Russia it is not licenced. A licence can be granted for individual use, but there is no state funding. The Raisa Gorbachev Foundation works with partners in Russia to help to fund Erwinase for those children who will die without it.



Viktor has lived in an orphanage for two years. Diagnosed with leukaemia at the end of 2010, he is receiving treatment in Moscow. The Foundation funded Erwinase for Viktor after he had an allergic reaction to normal chemotherapy. Families usually have to find funds for their child's treatment, as Viktor has no family, the Foundation provided funding for this drug.



PARTNERSHIPS

Collaborations between the Foundation and other charities, hospitals and institutes continue. We are collaborating on new research into underdeveloped areas including children and young people's palliative care. As more of this age group survive longer than ever before with terminal conditions it is a vital area of development.

A few questions - Geordie Greig, Trustee

Why are you interested in the plight of children suffering from cancer?

There is something deeply upsetting, almost as if nature is turning on its head when a child dies before their parents. It is vital to have a spark of hope that a solution to this terrible disease will be found one day. In the meantime we need to raise funds to try to alleviate the difficulties, suffering and challenges of children and parents in every way we can.

What do you feel are the priorities for the foundation?

We need to keep up the energy and focus to try to diminish the progress of this disease and do what we can to reduce suffering. We need to do all we can to help those who are fighting this disease.

You visited a hospital in Russia, what impact did that have on you?

To see really desperate faces of children fighting cancer, and the anxious, tired faces of parents dealing with really difficult times was very moving and it gave me a kick start to try and do what little I can.



"All of this is only possible due to the help and generosity of our supporters, we owe them a huge thank you and we look forward to welcoming you to our next annual fundraising event."

Evgeny Lebedev, Chairman

Huge thanks to all who support our charity and all our partners who help to make the work we do possible. It is our aim at the Foundation's Gala on September 22nd to push the funds raised since 2006 past the £10 million mark. We hope you will help us.

The Foundation's accounts can be found on our website: www.raisafund.org.uk

For further information, please contact

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Certain names and photos have been changed to protect the identity of the children.

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