

C-FURTHER

Children's Cancer Therapeutics Consortium

Annual review

2024/25

Foreword

In September 2024, we launched C-Further – a joint initiative between Cancer Research Horizons and LifeArc, with one clear purpose: developing more effective, targeted medicines for children and young people with cancer.



Tony Hickson,
Chief Business Officer,
Cancer Research Horizons

One year in, we have taken important first steps toward this goal. In just 12 months, we've laid the groundwork for a child-first drug discovery model that brings together science, funding, and cross-sector collaboration. The early momentum, from growing project submissions to new partnerships, marks the signs that the international community is ready to join forces and drive change.

But let's be clear: we are still at the beginning.

Paediatric cancer remains one of the biggest unmet needs in medicine. Many children and young people, face treatment with outdated, repurposed adult drugs and if they survive, suffer long-term consequences.



David Jenkinson,
Head of Childhood Cancer
Translational Challenge,
LifeArc

For our second year, C-Further is focused on building on our early progress and increasing our outputs. Our short-term goal: to announce and advance our first early-stage therapeutic projects dedicated to paediatric oncology indications. Our community continues to expand as we welcome new partner ideas, and perspectives.

We're building more than a pipeline; we're creating the conditions that will see more innovative treatments reach young people with cancer. If you share our vision that children deserve treatments designed with them in mind, join us. There is no better time to be part of C-Further's story.



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Why change is needed

At just 10 years old, Abbe was diagnosed with stage 4 embryonal rhabdomyosarcoma. Each of the drugs she received during her 54 rounds of treatment were older than she was.

Abbe’s treatment led to remission – but not without cost. Like many childhood cancer survivors, she now faces a higher risk of early menopause, infertility, osteoporosis, and neurological decline. She takes daily medication to manage the long-term effects.

Sadly, Abbe’s experience isn’t unique.



Abbe Pannucci, survivor of childhood cancer, and patient advocate, speaks at the launch of C-Further at the AACR Special Conference: Advances in Pediatric Cancer Research, in Toronto, September 2024.

Nº 1

Cancer remains the leading cause of disease-related death among children and young people (aged 0–24 years) in both the US and the UK

95%

of childhood cancer survivors battle significant health issues by age 45, including a six times higher risk of developing a second cancer in their lifetime

7

From 2007 to 2022 – the 15 years prior to initiating C-Further – only seven drugs were approved exclusively for children with cancer by the EMA and the FDA

Biological and commercial challenges

Childhood cancers are biologically and developmentally distinct from adult cancers. Yet most treatments are repurposed adult drugs – often poorly targeted and harsh on the body – leading to serious long-term side effects.

Each paediatric cancer is rare, making research more difficult – slower, fragmented, and commercially challenging. Small patient populations, high development costs, and limited financial incentives have led to chronic underinvestment, with regulatory hurdles adding another layer of difficulty.

We believe mission-driven organisations are best placed to break this paradigm and initiate meaningful change across the ecosystem.

Our response: C-Further

C-Further is building an international consortium of researchers, clinicians, drug discovery experts, partners, and impact investors all sharing one goal: to create more efficacious and better tolerated cancer treatments for children and young people.

Our approach aims to address both scientific and commercial barriers. We combine drug discovery capabilities, multi-disciplinary expertise, established networks, and dedicated funding to create bespoke support to advance early-stage therapeutic projects.

Our goal is to build a pipeline tailored to paediatric cancers that succeeds both in the laboratory and beyond.

Our foundational investment and early engagement with the community enabled us to launch C-Further ready to support pioneering science, forge robust partnerships, and improve the likelihood that promising treatments can advance to later-stage development.

Wendy Jacquemet-Ross

Head of Partnerships, Childhood Cancer at LifeArc, member of C-Further’s Joint Steering Committee

Our goals

When we launched C-Further, we set the following goals to guide us over the next 5 years and beyond.

1

Building one of the world's fastest-growing child-focussed drug discovery pipelines

Our aim is to deliver 3 drugs into clinical trials every 5 years, specifically designed for the unique biology of children and young people, moving beyond repurposed adult drugs.



2

Tailored commercial approach, more therapeutics to the clinic

By 2029, we aim to demonstrate that our business model can accelerate life-saving discoveries into the clinic, bringing more therapeutics to children.



3

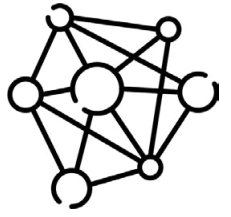
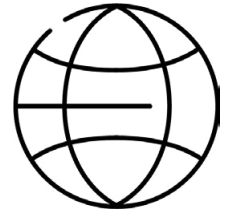
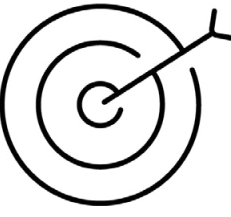
Collaborating to overcome systemic challenges

From 2007 to 2022 – the 15 years prior to initiating C-Further – only seven drugs were approved exclusively for children with cancer by the EMA and the FDA. Our hope is to see that number double in the next 20 years.



Building one of the world's fastest-growing child-focussed drug discovery pipeline

The consortium's first year has been full of scientific momentum. As we wrap up our third project review round, here are a few highlights:

10+  **14+**  **10+** 
modalities countries represented indications

Subject to final contract agreements, C-Further will be looking to announce its first research collaborations in the autumn.



The quality, quantity, and diversity of applications aligns with our hopes for C-Further. This also underscores the importance of a collaborative approach in accelerating the discovery and delivery of transformative treatments for children and young people.

Sheena Patel,
Principal Scientist at Cancer Research Horizons,
Triage & diligence workstream for C-Further



Why researchers work with us

C-Further offers:

- Flexible, collaborative support package tailored to your project and complementing your existing capabilities.
- World-class drug discovery expertise with access to over 350 scientists, and a network of childhood cancer key opinion leaders.
- Founding team with a proven record in cancer and rare diseases therapeutics – together we have contributed to 20 marketed drugs.
- Access to dedicated funding.

[Share your therapeutic project now](#)

Submit a proposal

C-Further continues to invite expressions of interest, year-round, from international researchers in academia or industry with therapeutic opportunities targeting childhood cancers, irrespective of the indication or modality. The next review will take place in early Spring 2026 with exact dates to be confirmed soon.

Any questions? Get in touch at:

info@c-further.org

Stronger together: Welcoming Great Ormond Street Hospital Charity as a new partner



From the start, we've known this isn't a challenge we can tackle alone. It demands collaboration from partners that share our vision and our sense of urgency. When Great Ormond Street Hospital (GOSH) Charity agreed to join C-Further as a core partner, we knew it marked a pivotal step forward for the consortium.

GOSH Charity is the UK's largest charitable funder dedicated to child health research. Its £10m commitment to C-Further – its largest research partnership funding commitment to date – reflects shared conviction and a joint purpose: to deliver new, more tailored and well-tolerated treatments for children and young people with cancer.

The additional funding will help expand and diversify our portfolio, backing more early-stage projects from researchers and biotech partners, speeding up their development, and strengthening our operational capacity.

With strong links into GOSH and the UCL Great Ormond Street Institute of Child Health, GOSH Charity brings scientific depth, clinical insight, and meaningful relationships with patient communities. Their involvement will help shape our ongoing strategy, guide the development of our project portfolio, and scale our operations up at every level.



Too many children face cancer with treatments that weren't designed for them. Joining C-Further allows us to channel our funding, expertise and networks into a global effort that puts children first – where new drugs are developed with their unique needs in mind.

Aoife Regan,
Director of Impact and Charitable Programmes,
GOSH Charity



This partnership isn't just additive – it's catalytic. It deepens our ability to build a diverse pipeline of new drugs designed specifically for children and young people with cancer. It helps move towards our ultimate goal of overcoming systemic barriers to progress – together with the community.

Thomas Edwards,
Business Development Executive at Cancer Research Horizons, Partnership workstream for C-Further

If you believe every young person with cancer deserves a better future, step forward.

With GOSH Charity now part of the consortium, C-Further has more momentum than ever. But here's the truth: tackling childhood cancer isn't sustainable – or even possible – if we work in silos, or limit ourselves to one expertise, one part of the problem, or one country. This is a challenge that demands collective strength and international coordination.

We need partners and philanthropists from across borders – we need people and organisations who refuse to accept the status quo. The door is wide open.

Let's work together to make it happen:

info@c-further.org

Our community, the power behind C-Further



Launch of C-Further at the AACR Special Conference: Advances in Pediatric Cancer Research, in Toronto, Sept 2024.

None of what we do would be possible without the extraordinary network of people who have joined us on this journey – our advisors, our donors, our scientists, our patient advocates, and the wider community of experts who lend their time, energy, and ideas. With thanks to Oak Foundation, whose transformational gift has supported C-Further from the beginning.

Together, they drive C-Further forward and keep us connected to our mission.

To every single person who's shared expertise, asked questions, set up meetings, joined panels or simply cheered us on – thank you.



Working with patients, families and loved ones affected by children's and young people's cancer lies at the heart of our community. They bring the perspective of lived experience and the reality of why the consortium's work is so urgently needed—why we're all working together towards our mission.

Patient insights have helped shape the consortium's foundations and continue to guide its direction to positively impact children and young people. Working together with our core patient representative panel and wider patient advocacy community means lived experiences and insights are embedded across the breadth of our activities and future thinking.

This collaborative approach ensures we're steering C-Further in the right direction to positively impact children and young people.



Victoria Walker, PhD
Patient Engagement and Involvement Lead for C-Further
Research Programme Manager – Children's and Young People's Cancer, Cancer Research UK

Bringing experts on board

To guide our strategy and provide independent scientific review for new and active consortium projects, we appointed experts from across academia, industry and investment to our Scientific Advisory Board. Collectively, this expert group has driven the discovery, development, and clinical translation of dozens of cancer therapeutics—many in paediatric oncology.



I am honoured to chair this distinguished group of leaders and although the challenge ahead of us is great, I know that by working together with the experts assembled by C-Further, we have the necessary skills to address the systemic barriers and transform the treatment landscape for children and young people with cancer.

Alison Maloney,
Chair of C-Further's Scientific Advisory Board
and Head of Biology at Dark Blue Therapeutics.



Alison Maloney (Chair),
Head of Biology,
Dark Blue Therapeutics



Samuel C. Blackman,
Entrepreneur in Residence,
Google Ventures



Frank Mussai,
Lead Medical Director,
Roche



Andy Pearson,
Former Professor of Paediatric
Oncology, Institute of Cancer
Research



Sarah Skerratt,
Chief Research Officer,
Isomorphic Labs



Sarah K. Tasian,
Associate Professor of Paediatrics,
University of Pennsylvania
School of Medicine

Work with us



Creating targeted cancer treatments for children is costly, complex, and risky. Success demands collaboration across disciplines, sectors, and borders, with young patients and their advocates involved at every step. By fostering innovation, sharing tools and knowledge, attracting funding, and deploying it strategically, we can deliver this plan, together.

We call upon academic institutions, industry leaders, philanthropic organisations, governmental bodies, children and young people affected by cancer and their parents to take up this critical challenge with us.

Contact us now at

info@c-further.org

We're looking for innovative research, new partners, funders and impact investors, join us:

info@c-further.org

