



12 young adults represented Belgium at a soccer tournament organised by Inter Milan — and guess who lost? Cancer!

**The KickCancer Foundation sent a team of 12 adolescents and young adults who survived cancer to participate in the soccer tournament the Winners' Cup, which gathered 6 European and 10 Italian teams.**

In 2017, Inter Milan, the famous soccer team where Radja Nainggolan plays, organised for the first time a soccer tournament thanks to the financial support from its main sponsor Pirelli: teams of adolescents and young adults who survived cancer would compete against each other.

The first two editions of this tournament were disputed by Italian teams only. The third one opened its doors to Europe with six teams (Belgium, France, Germany, Greece, Spain and The Netherlands) and 10 Italian ones. The players had to be cancer survivors, born between 1998 and 2004 and in treatment or with a treatment completed no more than five years ago.

Under KickCancer's supervision, twelve young adults, recruited from the University Children's hospital of Queen Fabiola and from Saint-Luc, defended the colours of Belgium. Before the tournament, they benefited from a few weekly practice sessions and received a sport gear from our generous sponsor the webshop decathlon.be.

**We could unveil the results of the tournament, but that would be missing the point.**

The tournament was organised with the aim to shed a light on the specific needs of adolescents and young adults with cancer (15 to 24 years). The care facilities are less adapted to their psychosocial needs because they are stuck between two age groups (infancy and adults). They are also sometimes monitored in units which are not specialised in paediatric tumours. Once he or she is 16 years old, a cancer patient can be monitored in a care unit that never deals with paediatric cancers.

As a result, some adolescents and young adults have a lower cure rate than children with the same malignancy.

This underlines the importance of collaborations between adult and paediatric oncology wards, in order to ensure that these young patients have access to the best treatments and have their specific psychosocial needs properly taken care of. To cure more cancers and to improve the quality of life of survivors, we must not only ensure that new treatments are developed: we must also create infrastructures allowing patients of all ages to be treated according to their needs, in a bed of their size and attended by a doctor specialised in their pathology. These infrastructures must also allow these patients to meet their peers with whom they can share their experience.

Those are the reasons why KickCancer decided to send a team to Italy to defend the colours of Belgium. Childhood does not stop at the age of 16!

## Supporting KickCancer day by day...

KickCancer has been supported by many of you all year long. It is a great gift for us: we benefit from your financial support of course, but you also provide us with access to your network and visibility and have the opportunity to advertise specific issues about paediatric cancers to your friends, family and colleagues.

For instance, companies organised awareness lunches with their employees... Birthday boys or girls gave up their gifts and asked to finance research instead. Brave people made great resolutions and ran the 20km, triathlon or a car rally under our banner. People also chose to honour the memory of loved ones who passed away by soliciting donations for our benefit.

Thank you, thank you, thank you to all of you... Rolex Benelux, Luca's family and friends and Megane's brother who ran the 20km of Brussels... the parents of Maxime and Kassiopée, the families of Albert, Paul-Henri and Jean-Louis... Guy who celebrated his 40th birthday, Gautier who walked to Santiago of Compostela... and all the names we cannot mention here. Your commitment to our cause gives us that extra motivation each and every day.

### Interested in doing this as well?

It is as easy as creating a fundraising page and sharing the link with everyone who may want to support you.

—————> [www.runtokick.org](http://www.runtokick.org)

If some of your friends, relatives or colleagues prefer to make a wire transfer (for example because they do not like to donate online), contact us ([info@kickcancer.org](mailto:info@kickcancer.org)) and we can provide you with an "action code".



## RUN TO KICK 2019!

**KickCancer is organising a 2019 RUN TO KICK edition that will shortly thereafter become a classic.**

Stand in the starting blocks and register immediately (why wait?): slow and steady wins the race, so start fundraising now to grab a medal in September.

WARNING: spoiler alert, in 2019 the medals will be awarded by **Angèle**, the famous singer, to four categories of participants: to the three best individual fundraisers, the three best teams "family and friends", the three best "corporate teams" and our "crush" (the team or runner that made our heart melt — it's 100% subjective and we claim it loud and clear!). Angèle will indeed come and run with us to support the cause defended by KickCancer.

No need to be a great sportsperson to participate: participants can choose to either walk or run. It is not the fastest runner who steps on the RUN TO KICK podium but the one who raises the most funds! It is a ONCE IN A LIFETIME opportunity to steal the podium from a marathon runner!

If you'd like a selfie on the podium with the singer, you know what you have to do: register and raise funds like a champion and with talent... but for the benefit of children with cancer. YES, YOU CAN!

Register on [www.runtokick.org](http://www.runtokick.org)

[kickcancer.org](http://kickcancer.org)

**Help us to kick and make a difference for kids with cancer by making a donation and amplifying our voice on social media.**

### To make a donation

Fondation King Baudouin — KiCa Fund  
BE10 0000 0000 0404  
Communication: 016/1960/00070

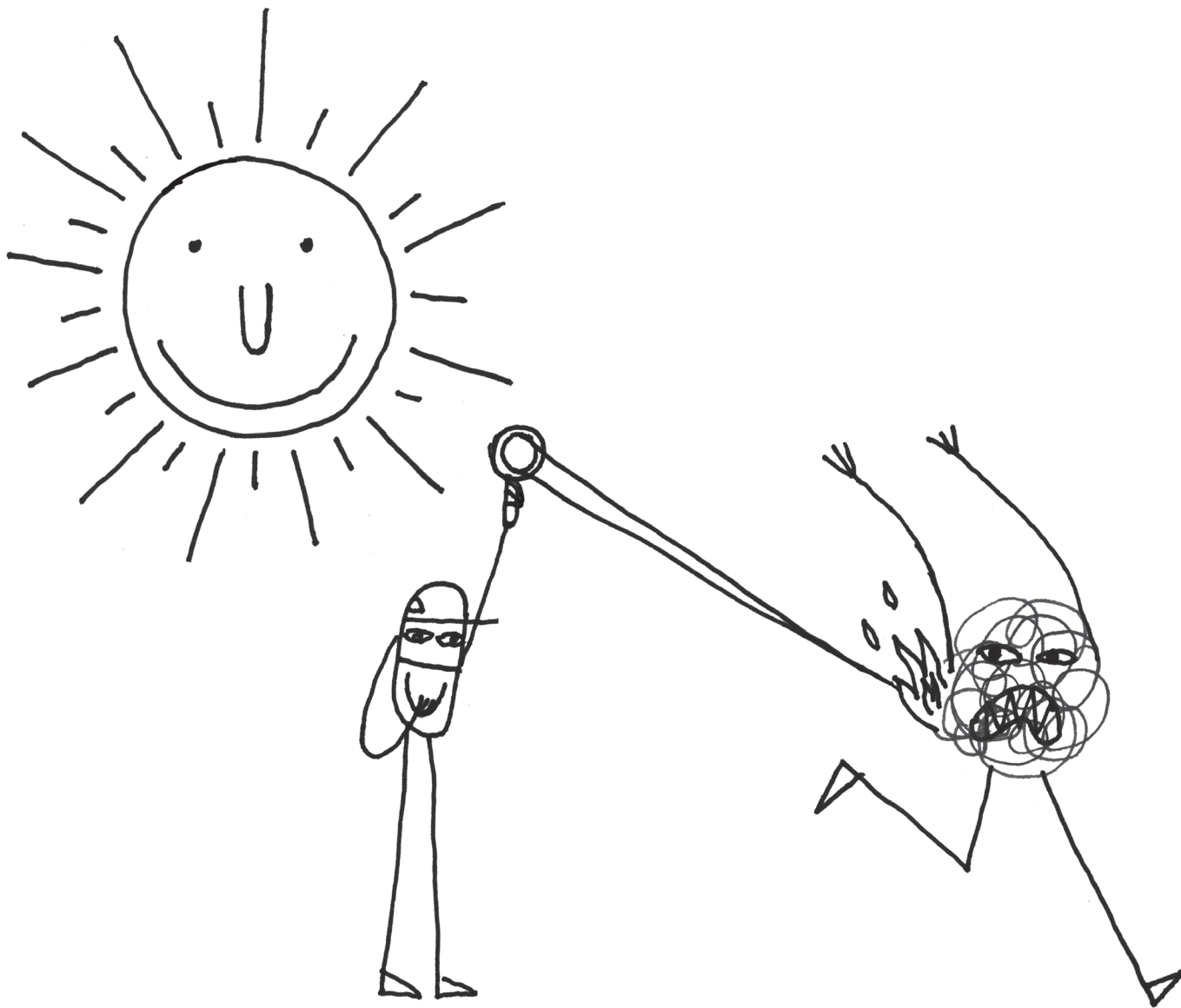
All donations from 40 € or more are tax derivable in Belgium.

The Foundation accepts dual legacies and can help you put them in place. More than 90% of your donations will directly fund research or will go to our activities to defend children with cancer, less than 10% will be used for our communication, fundraising, administration and soft power.

Contact us: [info@kickcancer.org](mailto:info@kickcancer.org)  
[www.kickcancer.org](http://www.kickcancer.org)

# kick cancer

## Summer News



Hello!

KickCancer is pleased to announce that we will only go on a vacation if we get a chance to torch cancer to death with a magnifying glass. He sure will feel the heat coming! But please, as always, do not forget to cover yourself with sunscreen. The truth be told, we do deserve a summer break: our first six months have been loaded with activities and we are proud to tell you all about it in our Summer News. And, of course, we are making sure to prepare an unforgettable RUN TO KICK 2019 edition. We are happy to wish you relaxing and exciting vacations, filled with beautiful moments with your family and friends and look forward to welcoming you with your sneakers on for RUN TO KICK on September 29th.

A few key metrics

1 dream ambassador

2 research projects in the making about to be finalised

6 articles in the newspapers, 3 radio shows and 8 online articles

8 people contributing to KickCancer’s success as employees, freelancers or volunteers

Participation in 4 international conferences on research or the access improvement to treatments

KickCancer is pursuing its two-lines strategy in order to improve available treatments for children with cancer: the financing of research projects and the soft power or the creation of dialogue channels with all the players likely to contribute to the improvement of these treatments.

Our research projects

European call for projects: 600.000 euros at the end of 2019

KickCancer’s strategy has always been to foster a **European ambition for research** in paediatric oncology.

Today, research is often funded at a national level or through research networks. When charities fundraise, they are looking for projects on their own and have them reviewed either by an inhouse scientific committee or through an ad hoc peer review process. Some greater calls for projects are organised, but then, again, they are often aimed at national projects.

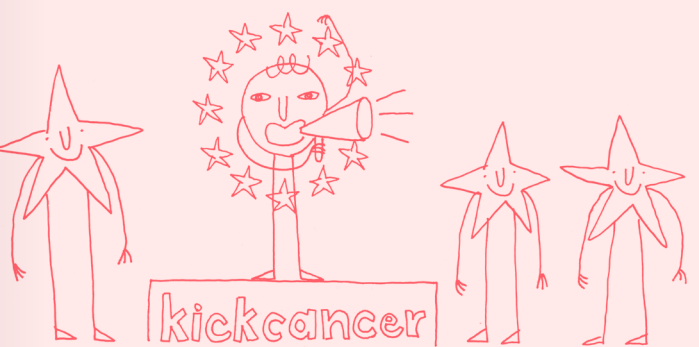
We want to do better. We indeed believe that the most promising projects, wherever they originate from, should be selected and financed.

We also want to encourage collaboration among the biggest academic laboratories and unearth the most creative, innovative projects from smaller research teams...

This is why we have saved some of the funds that we have raised in the last few months in order to be able to participate in the set-up of the first open **European call for research projects**. For such a tender to be successful, we have to mobilise significant funds in order to make sure that the best (academic) research teams are incentivised to participate.

This is also why we want to keep fundraising in order to increase the amount at stake from KickCancer in that call. This initiative is joint with two other European charities, as we intend to pool our funds to increase the size of the call — together, we want to reach a size of up to 2 or 3 million euros. Increasing the size of the call will not only raise the ambition for European research projects in the field of paediatric oncology; it will also spare some efforts to researchers, who often spend too much time looking for sources of funding and filling out application forms. The goal here is to lead the way forward to a one-stop-shop.

This call for project will be launched in the course of 2019 and we hope that it will raise the ambition of European researchers to a new exciting level in the field of paediatric oncology.

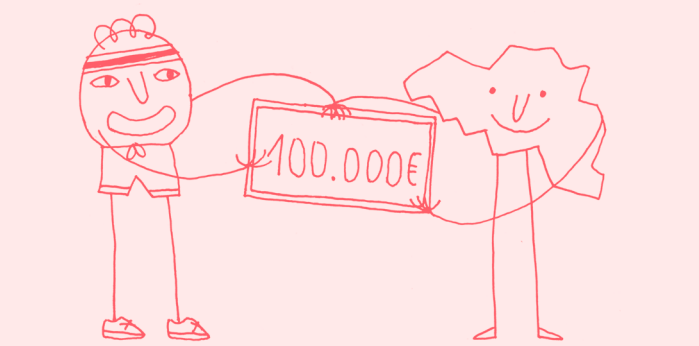


A coordination unit for clinical trials in Belgium: also 100.000 euros in 2019

The first 100.000 euros raised during this year’s RUN TO KICK will also be allocated to the coordination cell between the Belgian paediatric oncology units.

**Progress:** thanks to a joint grant from the King Baudouin Foundation, the BSPHO (the Belgian Society for Paediatric Haemato–Oncology) is analysing the collaboration between the Belgian paediatric oncology units with the aim to identify the first useful expenses and employee positions that should be financed. Thanks to our funding, the BSPHO will soon unveil its brand-new website that will provide the patients with relevant information but also the professionals with a secure intranet where the latter will be able to share useful documents about the treatment of patients.

**Long-term development:** KickCancer’s objective is to convince other Belgian institutions to finance this unit. The expansion will provide structural and coordinated support to Belgian paediatric oncology centres for the establishment and funding of their clinical trials. The underlying vision is of course above all to improve the therapeutic offer for children with cancer in Belgium.



Updates on our ongoing projects

A clinical trial for solid tumours

The innovative clinical trial is testing the combination of three standard metronomic chemotherapies with a “check-point inhibitor” of the anti-PD1 or Nivolumab® type. This test allows children to benefit from immunotherapy.

The clinical trial is now open in four paediatric units in France, where three patients were enrolled. The study will open soon in Belgium as the first administrative authorisations have been recently granted.

**Next steps:** The study is structured in two phases; the first phase will end by the end of 2019- early 2020 and bring its first batch of responses. At the end of the first phase, there will be a first report (December 2019 – January 2020) and afterwards annually. The final results of the trial will be

available in the first quarter of 2024, five years after its opening, to allow two years of complete follow-up of the last patient admitted to the study.

A project to improve our understanding of the resistance mechanisms of high-risk cancers

In case of inefficiency of standard “front line” treatments, the orientation towards new therapeutic approaches and the understanding of the mechanisms explaining the resistance to the treatments, must be based on in-depth analyses of the interactions between the tumour and the patient.

This project will provide a better understanding of the resistance mechanisms and to standard treatments through comprehensive molecular diagnostic analysis performed for children and adolescents with high-risk tumours using high-throughput sequencing performed diagnosis but also at several points during treatment. Once it obtained the required administrative approvals in 2017 and early 2018, the project started end April 2018 in the first three centres (Institut Curie, Gustave Roussy and Léon Bérard Centre). The study is now open in 22 centres in France. 88 patients have been included to date and recruitment is in line with the expected projections. The first analyses have now been completed and are currently under interpretation.

Participation in international conferences

KickCancer cannot seriously aim at funding research without attending the scientific fora where research projects are discussed and presented. Of course, we do not pretend to understand everything that is said or presented in detail — we are neither doctors, nor biologists and if we were, our contribution would not have any original added value.

We participate in and regularly speak at international conferences because we want the specific voice of patients to be heard and contribute to the joint innovation efforts with our different skills.

Specifically, for instance, in April 2019, we participated in the **Paediatric Strategy Forum** on the development of drugs for patients with Acute Myeloid Leukaemia (AML). Leukaemia is the most common form of cancer in paediatrics. It comes in two sub-types: lymphoblastic or myeloid. The second one, topic of the forum, is the least common one.

This forum is meant to bring all the players likely to contribute to innovation together: regulators (the European Medicines Agency and some national agencies), pharmaceutical companies that have developed an AML drug, clinicians specialised in paediatric haematology, researchers and patients or patient representatives. The aim of these discussions is crucial: there are currently many agents developed for adults with AML. Most of these drugs could be transposed in children... However, there are drastically fewer paediatric patients than adults. Yet, for a clinical trial to make a case, it is paramount to recruit enough patients.

In paediatrics, this comes down to two consequences: the need to coordinate clinical trials at an international level in order to warrant a sufficient recruitment and the careful selection of the agents that will be tested in children in priority (the most promising ones). This is explained in a few words, but the underlying work is gigantic: we must aim at harmonising administrative procedures to ensure that clinical trials can open in several countries simultaneously and it is necessary that some pharmaceutical companies agree to halt their open paediatric trials to increase the chances of success of those with agents that are identified as more promising...

The soft power or improvement of the regulatory and cultural environment

European activities

With the end of the Commission’s legislature and the electoral campaign, we naturally had to slow down the pace of our work, but we are now ready to welcome the new European Parliament Members and future Commissioners.

KickCancer, jointly with several other European associations active in the field of paediatric cancers, will soon publish a position paper recapping its past positions and developing new propositions. This paper aims at accelerating innovation for the benefit of children with cancer. Follow us on our social medias if you want to hear all about it — we will also organise a press campaign during the second half of 2019.

In addition, the European Commission is about to launch a new funding program “Horizon 2027”. This program includes, like the previous ones, three pillars: scientific excellence (open to all scientific projects in all fields), industrial leadership (public or private partnerships) and societal challenges. The third pillar defines several missions which must be boosted: the projects that fit into those missions will benefit from a preferred funding. In collaboration with several European associations, we want to make sure that one of these missions specifically target paediatric cancers – precisely because those cancers have a harder time to attract private funding.