

2022

DONOR DIGEST

Issue #3. July 2022



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PRELUDE

Dear Friends,

In the blink of an eye, half of 2022 has flown by. Time seems to pass us by so quickly that we often don't realize the small but significant progress we make. As a saying goes, "it's the culmination of little things that make big things happen". Thank you for your continued support of Cancer Research Malaysia. As a non profit organisation fully funded by donations, we wouldn't be where we are today without you!

In this third edition of our Donor Digest, you will read about how your donations are changing the lives of cancer patients in conjunction with Cancer Survivors' Month. You will also learn about the progress we are making through our clinical trials unit since the launch of Malaysia's first immunotherapy clinical trial! Lastly, we will share a number of ways we can all connect with and celebrate cancer survivors better.

As always, it's a joy writing to you. From all of us at Cancer Research Malaysia, thank you for supporting our cause and making a meaningful difference.

THE CANCER RESEARCH MALAYSIA TEAM



RENEWED HOPE THROUGH CLINICAL TRIALS!



For many years, cancer treatments have revolved around 3 main pillars: surgery, radiotherapy, and chemotherapy. Because of advancements in research, there is now a new form of targeted treatment called immunotherapy. Immunotherapy is a treatment method that empowers your immune system to fight cancer cells and is shown to have lasting impact particularly for some patients with lung, melanoma and head and neck cancers.

But the benefit of immunotherapy in breast cancer has not been as promising and it is clear that only some patients will benefit. What isn't so clear however is how to select patients who would benefit.

Our scientists showed that Asians are 4 times more likely to carry a gene variant that increases immune cells in breast cancers, suggesting that these patients may have a lasting response to immunotherapy.

Read more about how our AUROR clinical trial is paving the way for immunotherapy for breast cancer patients [HERE!](#)

REMOVING BARRIERS TO CARE



"I only wanted to get well". That was *Aishah's simple wish. At only 31 years old, she was diagnosed with breast cancer. That wasn't her only challenge. She was a doting mother to her kids and 4 months pregnant. It was a daily struggle to make ends meet, especially during the MCO period. The rising cost of living coupled with high treatment and transportation costs to the hospital was taking a toll.

Our research has shown that financial, logistic and knowledge barriers can contribute to poorer survival for low-income patients, and half of the deaths due to breast cancer in Malaysia could be prevented if we systematically address these barriers. At our Pink Ribbon Centre in Hospital Tengku Ampuan Rahimah Klang, Aishah was connected to our Patient Navigation community who walked the journey with her.

"Cancer Research Malaysia helped me with my chemotherapy fees, financial aid applications, and always provided me the support I needed to successfully complete my treatment. I am so grateful for the help I received."

By systematically reducing barriers to timely diagnosis and care, our Patient Navigation Programme has shown that providing active support for patients throughout their cancer journey leads to improved treatment continuity and survivorship. We are actively working with government hospitals to expand this programme from 4 centres to other centres in Malaysia.

Your generous donations are helping us create better systems so that patients like Aishah, can receive timely diagnosis, care, treatment and ultimately, improved outcomes.

"Of all the forms of inequality, injustice in health is the most shocking and inhuman because it often results in physical death." Dr Martin Luther King

*Patient's name has been altered for privacy.

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CELEBRATING OUR HEROES

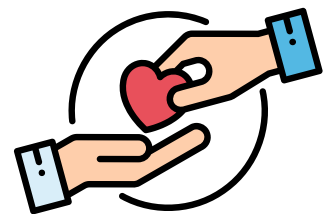
This Cancer Survivors' Month, we celebrate cancer survivors around the globe and remain steadfast in our pursuit to improve the odds.

The journey of overcoming cancer is often a long and winding road. Cancer survivors cope with life after cancer in different ways. We turned to cancer survivors to learn how we can better stand in solidarity with them:



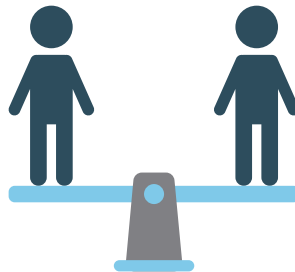
Life is not the same.

We have to pick ourselves up again and strengthen ourselves mentally & psychically to go back to our normal lives



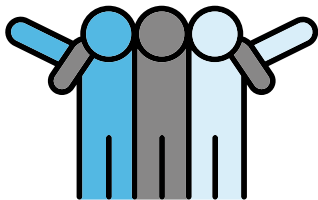
Be Kind.

We have scars inside and outside the body that not only effects our health and mobility but our confidence too.



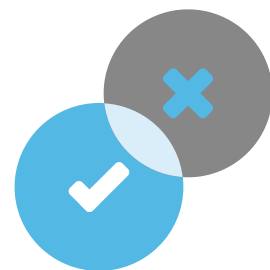
Dont Compare.

Every cancer patient is different. Our symptoms, treatments, and progress will vary.



Cancer is not contagious.

Please don't look at me like an alien. You can hug, kiss, or touch me.



Understand and respect our choices.

Every person deals with cancer differently. Some may choose to get involved in cancer-related causes but some may not prefer to revisit these memories.

CONCLUSION

Imagine a future where cancer is a controlled disease and no longer feared. That is a future worth fighting for!

Your support and contribution help ensure continuity of our work to save lives. Thank you for making a positive difference.

Here is some additional content for your consumption.



"I survived cancer because of research done yesterday."

Check out how cancer research is impacting lives directly from a group of brave cancer survivors, and why we need more research specifically in Asians,

Share **this video** with someone today and let's reverse cancer together!



Compelled to support our work further?

Contact our Engagement Team at +6012 680 8330 or email us at info@cancerresearch.my

We'd love to hear from you!

Until next time, take care and stay safe!



We thank you for your continued support!
Towards A Future Free of The Fear of Cancer

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