The 3 core missions of the Japan Cancer Society are to:

1: promote cancer screenings
2: disseminate correct knowledge / raise awareness of cancer
3: care for cancer patients and survivors
Fighting against cancer for 60 years

On August 1, 1958, the Japan Cancer Society was founded as a nationwide campaign to control cancer by raising public awareness and promoting research of cancer prevention and treatment.

At the time of JCS’s founding, the number of deaths from cancer was 85,000, not even one-quarter of what it is today. But right now, we face cancer as our country’s arch-enemy, with statistics showing that one in two Japanese people will be diagnosed with cancer, while one in three will die from it.

Since our foundation, JCS has promoted early detection and urged the public to undergo cancer screenings. Even today, together with our prefectoral affiliates (the ‘JCS Group’) we sponsor the screenings of about 12 million people each year and this effort has led to detection in over 14,000 cases. In recent years, the scope of our activities has expanded significantly, and in addition to raising awareness of cancer and conducting screenings, JCS now also offers telephone-based or face-to-face consultation and information for the families of cancer patients, support to young medical practitioners, grants for fundamental cancer research, cancer education, anti-smoking campaigns, Relay For Life and the Pink Ribbon Festival.

Our ability to continue with these activities relies entirely on the donations of individuals and corporations. Now, more than ever, we humbly seek support from you, the members of society, so that we may rise to expectations and help fight cancer even more.

Your Donation is Vital

The activities of the JCS are funded entirely from donations.

Main uses of donation money

- Deepen knowledge and raise awareness relating to cancer
- Support for specialists and specialist groups
- Support for cancer patients
- Support for cancer research

Please direct your donation to:

Account Holder:
Public Interest Foundation Japan Cancer Society

- Sumitomo Mitsui Banking Corporation
  Maruouchi branch (branch No.245) saving0518150
- Mizuho Bank
  Ginza branch (branch No.035) saving1003855
- The Bank of Tokyo Mitsubishi UFJ
  kyobashi branch (branch No.023) saving1718240
One in two Japanese will develop cancer. One in three Japanese will die from cancer.

Cancer in Japan Today

In 2015, cancer claimed the lives of 370,346 people in Japan, accounting for 28.7% of all deaths. It has been the primary cause of death in Japan consistently since 1981. However, according to the “age-adjusted mortality rate” (whereby the effect of an increased elderly population is proportionally distributed), the number of deaths is falling year by year. This can no doubt be attributed to early discovery and advancements in cancer treatment. In order to become a society undefeated by cancer, we must ramp up our campaign to fight it.

Current Status of Cancer Screenings in Japan

The Japanese government has slated policies relating to five types of cancer (stomach, lung, colon, breast and cervical cancer) and screening is implemented accordingly. The percentage of people undergoing screenings is gradually on the rise, but over half the population still do not. In particular, the number of people in Japan who have screenings for breast cancer and cervical cancer is notably lower than Europe and the U.S.

Japan’s Largest Cancer Screening Organization

Over 46 JCS group affiliates across Japan carry out screenings under consignment from the individual regional governments. Since 1960, JCS has conducted screenings in various parts of Japan with the use of mobile units, as well as group screenings in screening facilities, sponsoring the screening of over 340 million people in total. The JCS Group has grown to be Japan’s largest cancer screening organization, screening more than 11 million people each year.
Projects of the Japan Cancer Society

Promotion of cancer screening

In order to increase the percentage of people who undergo cancer screening, JCS offers free coupons for breast cancer, cervical cancer and colon cancer screenings, as well as holds awareness seminars and publishes various leaflets, flyers, posters, etc.

Cancer Education

Despite the high number of people who develop cancer, there are very few opportunities to acquire accurate knowledge on the subject, even for adults. JCS believes it is vital to educate people about cancer from a young age and that is why we moved even before the government to establish the Cancer Education Fund in 2009, producing animated educational materials such as DVDs and supplementary readers, as well as conducting school visits by doctors and people affected by cancer. The animated teaching material produced by JCS in 2017 was chosen by the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT) and is now utilized in junior and senior high schools throughout Japan.
Relay For Life in Japan

Relay For Life (RFL) is a charity event held all year around supporting people affected by cancer and their families by having the entire community battle cancer in unison.

RFL began in 1985, when a doctor from Washington in the U.S. felt empathy with cancer patients who battled with cancer 24 hours a day, ran for 24 hours continuously to raise money as support.

Today, RFL is held in over 6000 locations across the globe. To mark the end of each year’s RFL activities, a night-long walking event is held. Since 2006, JCS has hosted this activity in Japan from the pre-event stage. Today, more than 80,000 people in around 50 locations across Japan participate in RFL activities. The money raised is used to educate young medical professionals, provide research grants, etc.

Pink Ribbon Festival

The goal of the ‘Pink Ribbon Festival’ is to raise awareness of the importance of early detection, diagnosis and treatment of breast cancer in as many people as possible.

JCS began hosting this festival in 2003 in collaboration with Asahi Shimbun. In addition to Smile Walk, symposiums, etc. held in Tokyo, Kobe and Sendai during Pink Ribbon Month (October), JCS engages in many kinds of awareness-raising events, including a competition where contestants send in their design or slogan for awareness-raising posters to win a Design Award, illuminations on well-known landmarks and so on.
Free cancer consultations

Cancer hotline

JCS provides telephone-based consultation to cancer patients and their family members, etc., by qualified expert consultants such as nurses and social welfare workers. Consultations cover topics such as symptoms, side effects and after effects, relationships with doctors and family members, etc., job issues, financial burdens and much more.

Recently, the number of consultations related to “anxiety and other mental problems” in particular has risen. Doing our best to consider the feelings of those facing issues, JCS responds to over 10,000 consultation requests each year.

Doctors give advice to patients

An ongoing service provided by JCS for many years whereby well-experienced medical specialists provide consultation on specific cancers to around 800 people each year, either via phone or face-to-face.

Cancer Survivor Club

The “Cancer Survivor Club” was established with the goal of supporting cancer patients so they are not isolated, as well as the family members and community who support cancer patients. Via its own dedicated website, this Club provides various services such as the latest cancer-related information and so on.
Overseas Medical Scholarships

JCS provides motivated young medical practitioners with the opportunities and scholarships to train at dedicated medical institutions overseas in order to develop cancer experts. These experts-in-the-making are sent to either MD Anderson Cancer Center at the University of Texas or the Department of Medicine, University of Chicago. These scholarships comprise of donations raised through Relay For Life (RFL) activities.

Other Research Promotion

JCS works with the National Cancer Center Japan, related academic groups, and the JCS Group affiliates to promote research into incidence risk stratification of breast cancer, early detection of pancreatic cancer, which is well-known as a difficult-to-treat cancer, etc.

RFLJ Project Future Research Grants

In the U.S., donations raised through RFL supported cancer research, and as a result “Glivec” was developed as a new drug for leukemia, etc., ultimately saving many lives. In Japan also, JCS cooperates with the Japanese Cancer Association by utilizing donations from RFL for research grants to develop new treatments and drugs.

Partnership with Global Bridges

In November 2016, JCS established a partnership with Global Bridges, an international organization for tobacco dependence. Global Bridges was established in 2010 and is headquartered out of the US’s Mayo Clinic, renowned for its tobacco dependence treatment program. JCS cooperates with Global Bridges as the Japan base for promoting anti-smoking activities and developing experts related to tobacco dependence treatment, in preparation for the 2020 Tokyo Olympic and Paralympic Games.
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As of August, 2017

Japan Cancer Society

Email: office@jcancer.jp http://www.jcancer.jp