#CANSA85

We’re so excited and proud - the Cancer Association of South Africa (CANSA) is celebrating its 85th anniversary of fighting cancer!

No one could have predicted the widespread impact it would have when the then National Cancer Association was established in 1931.

Today, CANSA plays a leading role in cancer research and cancer control policy development, as well as providing care, support and education to South Africans affected by the dreaded disease.
1930’s - CANSA history

• In 1931, the decision to establish the National Cancer Association is made at the first National Cancer Conference held in South Africa. The 75 delegates represent 24 bodies, as well as individuals concerned about the suffering caused by cancer.

• It’s planned that the association will establish a cancer register and cancer centres or clinics in large hospitals throughout the country where the causes, optimal treatment of cancer and better diagnostic methods will be investigated.

• The Memorandum of Articles of Association of the National Cancer Association is registered in terms of the Companies Act on 29 January 1932.
1930’s - Cancer history

• 1929 - German physician Fritz Lickint recognises the potential connection between smoking and lung cancer.
• 1939 - Gordon Ide at Rochester University, New York, suggests tumours might generate a substance that encourages the growth of blood vessels to sustain them.
1940’s - CANSA history

• War slows down the development and influence of the National Cancer Association, but progress is made in cancer research in the US.
1940’s - Cancer history

- 1947 - Sidney Farber in the Children’s Hospital in Boston puts leukaemia into brief remission with a drug aminopterin.
- 1949 - The US Food and Drug Administration approves the first chemotherapy drug based on a poison gas from World War 1.
1950’s - CANSA history

• A National Cancer Congress is convened by the Minister of Health, Dr Karl Bremer, and the National Cancer Association introduces educational programmes to inform the public about the importance of early detection of cancer and healthy living.

• Clinical facilities for early detection of uterine cancer are established and a Durban-based laboratory performs about 70 000 Pap smears annually.

Dr George Oetttlé was the first cancer researcher to receive a grant from CANSA in 1958 to initiate a research programme into cancer in South Africa.
1950’s - Cancer history

- 1950 - A study by Doll and Hill warns that smoking is a major cause of lung cancer.
- 1956 - Metastatic cancer is cured for the first time when methotrexate is used to treat a rare tumour called choriocarcinoma.
1960’s - CANSA history

- The first interim home (now known as CANSA Care Homes) was pioneered in Pretoria, followed by similar homes in Johannesburg, Bloemfontein, Durban, Cape Town and Port Elizabeth. Find out more on http://www.cansa.org.za/cansas-care-support/cansa-care-homes/
1960’s - Cancer history

• 1965 - Vincent DeVita and colleagues at the US National Cancer Institute in Washington show combination therapy can cure advanced Hodgkin’s lymphoma.
1970’s - CANSA history

- An innovative educational and fundraising initiative called 'Toktokkie' (also known as 'Tap-Tap') is launched nationwide.
- Research grants continue to be sponsored at major universities and research institutions. Research is of international calibre to enable South African cancer therapists to provide continuously improving levels of therapy to patients.
1970’s - CANSA history

• Community services are expanded and a total care programme is developed to assist cancer patients and their families from diagnosis to the terminal and bereavement phases, where necessary. Doctors, nurses, social workers, ministers of religion and volunteers are involved in these initiatives.

• Volunteers form part of the 'I Can Cope' programme designed to help cancer patients and their families cope with a cancer diagnosis. Other support groups such as Reach for Recovery for breast cancer patients and survivors are established.
1970’s - Cancer history

• 1971 - Godfrey Hounsfield, working for EMI at Hayes, Middlesex, invents the CT scanner which improves imaging for both surgery and radiation treatment.

• 1975 - César Milestein and Georges Köhler at Cambridge invent monoclonal antibodies.

• 1975 - Larry Einhorn of Idiana University shows combination therapy can cure 70 percent of advanced testicular cancer cases.
1980’s - CANSA history

• As a member of the organisation known as the Union for International Cancer Control (UICC), the National Cancer Association hosts the UICC's Executive Committee meeting in Johannesburg, as well as an international conference on oesophageal cancer in Cape Town.

• Care facilities open in Soweto; Langa, Western Cape; and Bloemfontein (now Mangaung) in the Free State, to provide a variety of community services.

• The Hospicare Programme also provides numerous services ranging from home nursing to pain control.

• The Karl Bremer hospitium was opened followed by the Theunis Fichardt hospitium.
1980’s - Cancer history

• 1981 - Trials organised by Bernard Fisher, a Pennsylvania surgeon show that removing just the tumour and not the whole breast works equally well for early breast cancer.

• 1983 - Harold zur Hausen discovers first HPV16 and then HPV18 responsible for about 70 percent of cervical cancers. He wins a Nobel Prize in 2008 for the discovery that human papilloma viruses cause cancer.
• The National Cancer Association changes its name to the Cancer Association of South Africa (CANSA) and a new corporate identity is developed.

• CANSA’s mission is “fighting cancer and its consequences countrywide for the benefit of all South Africans in cooperation with the community by supporting research, health education, information, care and supportive services”.

• CANSA's National Head Office relocates from Braamfontein to Bedfordview.

• An information service is formed to gather, archive and distribute information about cancer and CANSA's activities to cancer patients and their families, academics, medical professionals, students and members of the public.
1990’s - CANSA history

• The first Mobile Health Clinic was introduced in the Free State. CANSA now has nine mobile clinics that travel to remote areas to provide screening and early detection programmes.

• CANSA, as a member of the Tobacco Action Group, plays a major role in the anti-tobacco legislation of 1999 to ban advertising and sponsorship activities of tobacco products.

• The Sanlam Cancer Challenge was launched in 1993 that has resulted in drawing more than 40 000 golf players country-wide in over 800 golf club competitions.
1990’s - Cancer history

- 1994 - The first inherited breast cancer gene BRCA1 is found.
- 1997 - Rituximab, the first drug based on monoclonal antibody, is licenced.
- 1998 - Herceptin, a monoclonal antibody drug aimed at hormone-sensitive breast cancer is licenced.
2000’s - CANSA history

• CANSA modernises its image, adopting a new logo and corporate message “Striving for a Cancer Smart South Africa” in line with its mission to “substantially reduce the impact of cancer by promoting health in all communities within South Africa through advocacy and the sustainable facilitation of research, prevention, early detection and care”.

Cancer Association of South Africa
Research • Educate • Support
2000’s - CANSA history

- CANSA introduces its integrated three-tiered (research, advocacy and health programmes) service to all people affected by cancer and the general public.

- The CANSA Shavathon phenomenon hits South Africa with thousands of people affected by cancer and members of the general public shaving off, dying or cutting their hair in solidarity with cancer sufferers. The campaign continued to gain momentum each year and has become an important event on South Africa’s annual calendar.
2000’s - CANSA history

- CANSA's environmental awareness campaign is launched, taking a stand on environmental issues by actively communicating CANSA's researched-based position statement on cancer and the environment.

- Taking its advocacy role as cancer “watchdog” to the next level, CANSA launches the “CANSA Seal of Recognition”, endorsing products proven to help to prevent cancer with “Smart Choice” and “SunSmart” labels.
2000’s - CANSA history

• The lymphoedema programme is introduced during the inaugural Women's Health launch in 2009.
• The global movement, Relay For Life is introduced in 2005 that honours and salutes just over 5 500 Survivors and enjoys the participation of about 4 500 teams per year.
2000’s - Cancer history

- 2001 - Imatinib (Glivec), a drug that interrupts tumour signalling pathways, is licenced for chronic myeloid leukaemia and also found to be effective against gastrointestinal stromal tumours.
- 2002 - The Cancer Research campaign merges with the Imperial Cancer Research Fund to become Cancer Research UK.
- 2004 - Avastin the first drug to inhibit blood vessel formation by tumours is licenced.
- 2006 - A vaccine against human papilloma virus, the cause of cervical cancer, is licenced.
2010’s - CANSA history

• CANSA strives to keep the fight against cancer a top priority with policy makers.
• The association promotes correct food labelling on products, especially of trans fatty acids based on scientific findings.
• CANSA calls on the public and Government to protect children against harmful chemicals such as BPA in toys and baby bottles.
• Three new health themes are introduced: Men's Health, Women's Health & Youth Health.
• CANSA adapted its vision and message to that of ‘Imagine a World Without Cancer’.
2010’s - CANSA history

- CANSA’s Tough Living with Cancer (TLC) is introduced, with the main aim of raising awareness of childhood cancers and providing tangible care and support to youth and families affected by cancer.
- Lodges are opened for parents / guardians whose children are undergoing cancer treatment in Pretoria, Durban and Polokwane plus support rooms in Kimberley and Port Elizabeth.
- CANSA joins the online community on Facebook, Twitter, Youtube, Pinterest, Instagram and LinkedIn, as well as upgrading its website www.cansa.org.za to be mobile friendly.
- CANSA participates and drives national cancer advocacy initiatives and services as a member of the Cancer Alliance and founder of the South African Non-communicable Diseases Alliance.
2010’s - CANSA history

• In 2013, organised by the UICC and hosted by CANSA, United Nations (UN) officials, Ministries of Health and leading international decision makers came together for the first time in Africa to discuss the growing global cancer burden at the 2013 World Cancer Leaders’ Summit (WCLS) in Cape Town.

• In 2015 CANSA honoured Professor Michael Kew with a Lifetime Achievement Award to recognise his contribution, knowledge and understanding of primary liver cancer. Thanks to his work, a link between Hepatitis B and liver cancer was discovered, followed by a vaccine that is saving lives. CANSA is proud to have been a funder of Prof Kew’s research for over 30 years.
2010’s - Cancer history

• 2010 - A new bowel cancer screening technique, known as a bowel scope, which could save thousands of lives, is rolled out.
• 2011 - Scientists make progress in deciphering the molecular signature of prostate cancer and find a new accelerator gene that drives the growth of breast cancer.
• 2012 - Cancer Research UK scientists discover that breast cancer is in fact 10 separate diseases.
• 2013 - Research reveals 80 new genetic variations that increase the risk of breast, ovarian and prostate cancers.
• 2014 - UK death rates for breast, bowel, lung and prostate cancer combined are down by almost a third in 20 years. And the World Health Organisation’s International Agency for Research on Cancer has now identified more than 100 chemical, physical and biological carcinogens.
2016
CANSA CELEBRATES 85 YEARS
OF SERVING PEOPLE AFFECTED BY CANCER AND
THE SOUTH AFRICAN PUBLIC
• We’ll ensure that CANSA continues to lead the fight against cancer in South Africa, and to uphold our proposed mission and purpose we have set out to achieve.
• Our mission continues to be the preferred non-profit organisation that enables research, educates the public and provides support to all people affected by cancer.
2016 - beyond

CANSA has accomplished many feats over the last 85 years, which include breakthroughs in cancer research regarding risk reduction, one-of-a-kind care, support and education programmes across South Africa.

We currently offer our support service to 64 300 beneficiaries monthly. None of this is possible without the financial contribution of the South African public and your support.

CANSA continues to be a leader in the cancer field, and we’re constantly lobbying for new actions and laws which contribute to creating a world without cancer.
Video Messages: Celebrating CANSA’s 85th Anniversary