Welcome to the quarterly newsletter for collaborators, colleagues, and supporters of the Pediatric Cancer Data Commons (PCDC). This newsletter’s purpose is to highlight opportunities to improve outcomes for children everywhere. We have seen remarkable advancements in the treatment of pediatric cancers, and your work every day to fight this disease is incomparable. The PCDC is a collaborative effort of researchers, clinicians, and patients dedicated to advancing pediatric cancer research and care.

Collaborators and supporters like you are essential to the PCDC’s mission. Your contributions enable us to pool data, resources, and expertise to accelerate research and improve patient outcomes. We believe that by working together, we can make a significant impact on the lives of children diagnosed with cancer.

Here at the University of Chicago, we are entering an academic year that looks unlike any we have seen before. As our team continues to work remotely, we are finding new ways to connect and work together (like our bowtie-themed virtual happy hour, pictured below).

We are grateful to our sponsors and donors for making our work possible. Our thanks to the National Cancer Institute and the US Department of Health and Human Services for their support.

Our Executive Committee and work groups continue to meet regularly and make progress. The Executive Committee met to discuss progress of subcommittees and research efforts. The Data commons progress as of September 2020. Learn more about these milestones here.

PCDC momentum continues to grow. We are excited to be officially incorporating two new pediatric cancer disease groups into the PCDC Consortium, bringing our current total to nine. Our team is working with leading researchers and clinicians to integrate these groups into the PCDC.

The PCDC and IDIPGR teams continue to develop a DIPG data dictionary. The first data dictionary meeting was held in September. The team will be reaching out to additional collaborators soon.

A new publication was accepted to Trends in Cancer for a project focusing on chronic lymphocytic leukemia. The team will be reaching out to additional collaborators soon.

We are entering a new era of the PCDC with new patients and studies being added to the commons. Data were added to the commons, increasing the number of patients to 21,813.

A Memorandum of Understanding is under review to create this consortium, named INTERACT. The committee is working to finalize and sign a Memorandum of Understanding to create a joint consortium for Ewing sarcoma and osteosarcoma, represented by the Bone Tumors (HIBiSCus) group.

An international meeting was held in September to make progress on a Memorandum of Understanding to create this consortium, named HiBiSCus. Representatives from North American, European, and Japanese cooperative groups were present.

The first AML Executive Committee meeting was held in September 2020 with representatives from North American, European, and Japanese cooperative groups. The team will be reaching out to additional collaborators soon.

We have provided funding for the next three years of our work. The PCDC has been awarded a contract with the US Department of the Interior to further develop the PCDC common data model and integrate it into the National Cancer Research Data Commons.

The Virtual Childhood Cancer Lecture Series continues to bring influential speakers to our community. Our director Sam Volchenboum presented a talk for the Alex’s Lemonade Stand Foundation. Ebru Ermis and Sam Kaskovich have also contributed talks to the series.

We are hiring! The PCDC is seeking a Full Stack Developer, Semantic Engineer, Research Data Manager, and more. Check out our website for more information.

A new concept to our community: conceptual data model harmonization. The PCDC Data Model Harmonization Workstream has provided important information, resources, and tutorials for nodes, continues.

Community Development Workstream: This group launched a quarterly newsletter to keep CCDH collaborators up to date on progress. Work on the CCDH web portal, which will provide important information, resources, and tutorials for nodes, continues.

The National Cancer Institute has launched its website for the Cancer Research Data Commons Initiative and Trends. Learn more about the latest research using INRG data. Register an account on the INSTRuCT Data Commons.

Visit our website for more information or contact us to get involved with the PCDC! We are always looking for passionate individuals to join our community and contribute to the fight against pediatric cancer.

Thanks for reading!