



LUNGENKREBS

FORSCHEN FÜRS LEBEN

It has become a tradition for ZIWA to support cancer relief related projects through regular participation in events like the Pink Ribbon Walk in support of Breast Cancer. This year, ZIWA will donate part of the proceeds of the ZIWA Film Festival Birthday Ball to a local foundation, the "Stiftung für angewandte Krebsforschung" (Foundation for Applied Cancer Research). This foundation has been supporting lung cancer research projects at the Center for Lung and Thoracic Oncology at University Hospital of Zürich for 30 years to date (founded in 1982).

The Lung and Thoracic Oncology Center at the University Hospital of Zürich is led by Professor Walter Weder (member of the Foundation council of ETOP and past President of the European Society of Thoracic Surgeons, and sits on the Educational Committee of the International Society for the Study of Lung Cancer) and Professor Rolf Stahel (President of the European Thoracic Oncology Platform – ETOP, Editor-in-Chief of the Lung Cancer Journal and President Elect of the European Society for Medical Oncology – ESMO).

At this Center, patients with lung cancer and other malignant diseases of the thoracic cavity receive counseling and treatment on the basis of state-of-the-art knowledge and procedures. The necessary specialists (thoracic surgeons, oncologists, therapeutic radiographers, pneumologists, radiologists and pathologists) ensure close co-operation, leading to comprehensive treatment tailored to the patients' individual needs. The success of this approach is entirely due to the fact that, over recent years, the Foundation for Applied Cancer Research has been able to finance applied research in this field. Individualized therapy is one of the central points of this world-class lung cancer research, and has resulted in the Center's international reputation for ensuring the best therapy. Every year 250 – 300 people who are diagnosed with lung cancer come to the University Hospital of Zürich for treatment.

More than 3'600 people are newly diagnosed with lung cancer each year, of which two-thirds are men and one-third are women. Most patients are between 50 and 70 years old. Smoking is still by far one of the most important triggers for the malignant

tumor illness. Yet, currently a world-wide increase of lung cancer has been observed also among non-smokers.

Lung cancer is one of the most dangerous and terminal forms of cancer and is responsible for one fourth of all cancer related deaths. In the US, for example more women die of lung cancer than of breast cancer – not only among smokers. And, this trend is now also being observed in Switzerland.

Yet great progress in treatment has significantly improved the survival rate over the last years: In earlier times, every 20th patient diagnosed with lung cancer in Switzerland survived; today it is every 6th patient. Recent surveys at the University Hospital of Zürich have shown further spectacular results – out of selected patients with metastases, 38% of patients have overcome the five-year-survival rate.

The Foundation for Applied Cancer Research has set itself the goal of supporting and promoting translational research at the Center of Lung and Thoracic Oncology at the University Hospital of Zürich, which has become the major referral center for patients with malignant pleural mesothelioma (often also from exposure to asbestos) in Switzerland. All of these projects aim towards a "personalized medicine" for the benefit of the patients.

ZIWA members are kindly invited and most welcome to attend a Mini Symposium (in German) that is being organized by the Foundation for Applied Cancer Research (Stiftung für angewandte Krebsforschung) at the University Hospital of Zürich on Tuesday, 20 November at 18.00. During this

event, the Center for Lung and Thoracic Oncology will present its on-going research with results to date. You will hear testimonials of their patients as well as witness a live operation via camera from the operating room.

Prof. Dr. med. Walter Weder and Mrs. Dorothy Dittler, members of the Foundation for Applied Cancer Research, will join us at the ZIWA Film Festival Birthday Ball on Saturday, 24 November 2012 when ZIWA will donate part of the proceeds to the foundation.

You can register for the Mini Symposium either via the Foundation's Website: www.lungenkrebsstiftung.ch (available in late September) or via Email to the Secretary of the Foundation, Ms. Ursula Wegst-Busslinger, info@lungenkrebsstiftung.ch

Please mention "ZIWA" upon registering



3 day hike in the Albula valley

Tschimas da Tisch

Photos by Brigitte von Weissenfluh