

BACKGROUND: A BRIEF HISTORY OF CANCER CONTROL IN TURKEY

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In Turkey, cancer control practices started in 1947 with the establishment of the Turkish Cancer Research and Control Institution as a civil initiative

Following this attempt, the construction of the Ahmet Andıçen Oncology Hospital was started in 1955 in Ankara. In 1962, this hospital was handed over to the Ministry for operation. Until that date, cancer treatment had been performed by general treatment establishments and cancer patients had been given care among other patients.

Soon, in 1967, the Etimesgut Oncology Hospital was inaugurated by the Ministry in Ankara.

The first official cancer control perspective starts with the establishment of a Department for cancer control in Primary Health Services in 1962.

In 1970, the Department under the General Directorate of Primary Health Services under our Ministry was transformed into the Department of Cancer Control in order to regulate the protective and therapeutic services in relation to cancer control, to implement, execute and inspect the work schedules of facilities related to hospitals.

In 1970, the week of 1-7 April was accepted as “**Cancer Week**” and activities in relation to this week has been continuing since that year.

For the first time in Turkey, official In-Service Training Courses were delivered between 1972 and 1976. Again during the same years, public educations were delivered and the Cancer Control Council was established.

As a very important development, in 1982, cancer was included in the list of notifiable diseases. After 1983, cancer control was started to be conducted by an independent Department established at the level of General Directorate under our Ministry.

For the first time in 1983, cancer surgery and medical services were started to be delivered as a separate field of expertise. In 1988, the Cancer Control Advisory Board was established and in 1989, Turkey became a member of the International Union against Cancer. For the purpose of obtaining realistic cancer data, Cancer Registry and Incidence Project studies were initiated in 1992. Cancer registry, initiated on the basis of the population, attained a new meaning with the inauguration of the İzmir Cancer Registry Center, and, again in order to conduct a real population-based cancer screening, studies for the Project on Centers for Early Diagnosis and Screening of Cancer were launched in 1996.

Directors and department heads who conducted managerial tasks in cancer units in Turkey;

Ministry of Health Cancer Control Directors 1970-1983

- Dr. Muharrem Tuncay
1970-1978
- Dr. Sadık Güngör
1978-1980
- Dr. Lütfi Köseliođlu
1980-1981
- Dr. Ertuđrul Aker
1981-1981
- Dr. İsmail Őendilek
1981-1982
- Prof. Dr. Erdođan IŐıkman
1982-1983

Chairmen of the Cancer Control Department 1983-2001

- Assoc. Prof. Dr. Ulya Ertem
1983-1985
- Assoc. Prof. Dr. Korkut Akođuz
1985-1989
- Operator Dr. Ali Fikri Ayhan
1989-1992
- Prof. Dr. Nazmi Bilir
1992-1993
- Specialist Dr. Cemil KuŐođlu
1993-1994
- Operator Dr. Latif Atasever
1994-1999
- Specialist Dr. Erol AfŐın
1999-2000
- Dr. Emire Őzen
2000-2001
- Prof. Dr. A. Murat Tuncer
2001-

