

CLOSING THE CARE GAP AROUND THE WORLD - WORLD CANCER DAY

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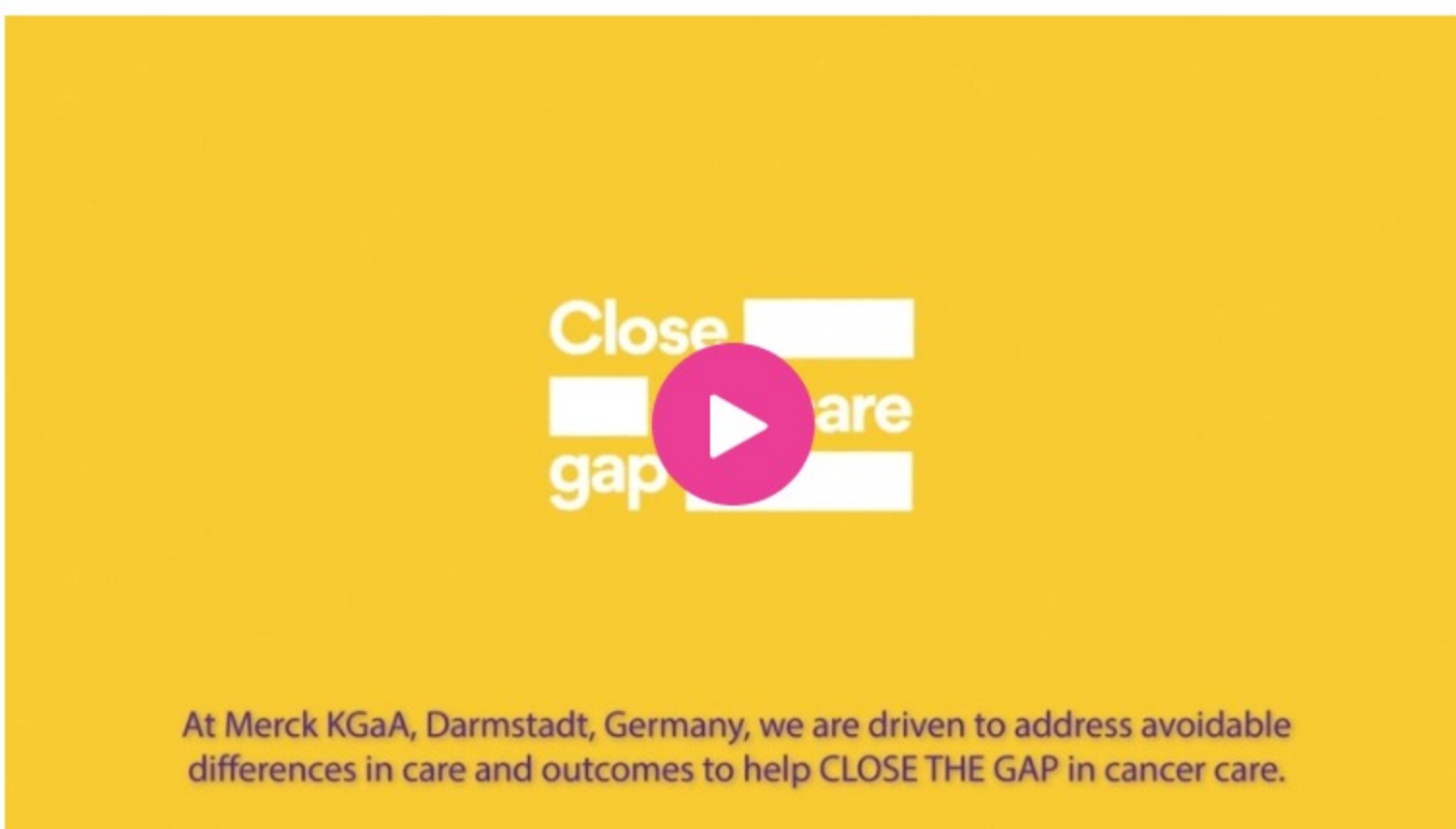


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OVERVIEW

Cancer doesn't care about where you live, what you look like, or whether you have fast access to treatment. If you have cancer: You. Have. Cancer.



At Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany, we are driven to address avoidable differences in care and outcomes to help CLOSE THE GAP in cancer care.

Cancer doesn't care. But we do.

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It's well known that cancer is highly diverse and behaves uniquely in every single patient. The shift to customized treatments continues and the urgency of the challenge propels the breakneck pace of technological advances to help find solutions and quickly. Massive amounts of data are being generated and innovative solutions are being created to develop the best possible treatments, yet sadly, cancer is still one of the leading causes of deaths worldwide.

We have a great opportunity to harness this technology and data towards solving some of the disparities in cancer care. It is the vision of the Union for International Cancer Control (UICC) that every patient should be allowed to benefit from the same standard of treatment (equality in care); yet, unless equity is provided – customized access or distribution of care (through funds, transportation, language, training, telehealth, etc), we have no chance of beating cancer. Just like a general cancer treatment cannot be applied to all patients, removing barriers to care will take creative and distinct strategies, depending on location and circumstance.

At Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany, we're working around the world to help achieve this goal by enhancing cancer education and improving patient care by making it easier to access services and treatments. Together with patient advocacy groups, medical professionals and more, we are working tirelessly every day to bring us a step closer to realizing equal access to care through innovation.



For instance, in Spain, our Patients Department created a **guide** for patients with skin cancer that was enhanced with videos in collaboration with the Spanish Group of Patients with Cancer (GEPAC). For head and neck cancer, we created the **Blue Scarves** educational campaign that illustrates the fact that patients often suffer physical consequences of cancer in visible areas of their bodies.



In Argentina, we're improving cancer care of locally advanced squamous cell carcinoma of the head and neck, in collaboration with patient groups, medical associations and institutes and scientific societies. Our goal is to raise awareness about **early diagnosis**, educate and train **multidisciplinary teams** to work together, and offer a **mobile app** that helps patients deal with consequences of treatment (e.g., voice problems).



In Italy, we collaborated with experts to produce **short awareness videos** for Colorectal Cancer Awareness month on the importance of recognizing symptoms of colorectal cancer in order to obtain early diagnosis and timely treatment. We also partnered with Urban Vision, and displayed information on **billboards** about colorectal cancer prominently in Rome and Milan.



The burden of disease is increasing significantly in India and our **Shared Value Access Initiative** aims to maximize the numbers of patients with faster access to a care center by **removing key access barriers**, and will include training, educating and screening.



And in the United Arab Emirates, we are working with the New Medical Center in Abu Dhabi to **increase colorectal cancer screening** in people over 45-50 years of age.



In China, the importance of our early access program has been demonstrated by the inclusion of one of our precision medicines, which has not been yet approved by the China National Medicine Products Administration, in the **Reimbursement Drug List** of the Lecheng Global Specialty Drug Insurance 2021 Catalog and in the Beijing Inclusive **Health Insurance plan**. This means that Chinese patients will have access to this treatment with financial support.



In addition, we're launching programs in the United Kingdom that provide patients with **early access** to some of our cancer drugs, and in the United States, we're collaborating with the American Cancer Society to **fund transportation costs**.

No patient with cancer should be denied care because of social determinants. It's time to unite and work together so that we all are empowered to close the gap in cancer care.

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