Global Call to Action During Liver Cancer Awareness Month

During Liver Cancer Awareness Month, we recognize the women and men who courageously fight to survive this devastating disease and those who are dedicated to diagnose, treat, support, and develop new therapies for liver cancer patients and survivors.

In the United States this year, more than 42,000 people will be diagnosed with liver cancer and more than 31,000 people will die from this disease (American Cancer Society, 2019). The National Cancer Institute estimates that there were more than 83,000 people living with liver cancer in the United States in 2016 (National Cancer Institute, 2019). Globally, liver cancer is the second most common cause of death from cancer (World Cancer Research Fund, 2019). In 2018 worldwide, 841,000 new cases of liver cancer were diagnosed and more than 780,000 deaths reported (WHO International Agency for Research on Cancer, 2019).

The statistics are frightening and staggering, as unlike other cancer rates that have been on the decline, liver cancer rates for new liver and intrahepatic bile duct cancer cases have been rising, and rates have more than tripled since 1980. Even worse, death rates have more than doubled since 1980 despite treatment advances and promising research (American Cancer Society, 2019).

Given these increasing rates for new cases and deaths the five-year survival rate for liver cancer is only 18% (American Cancer Society, 2019). This survival rate is among the lowest for cancers in the US.

We at the Global Liver Institute are joining forces with other like-minded groups to vow to increase survival rates for liver cancer patients. This Liver Cancer Awareness Month we are setting the aggressive and attainable goal to double the five-year survival rate of liver cancer to 36% by 2030. We will work closely with GLI’s Liver Cancers Council, partners, advocates, and champions across the disease spectrum to create a roadmap that allows us to work together to reach this goal and save lives from this devastating disease.

Through our collective efforts, we pledge to increase early detection for this disease, leading to a better prognosis and chance of survival for all liver cancer patients.
Citations

