



## IN A WORLD FREE OF CANCER: WHAT IF A UNIVERSAL TREATMENT OF CANCER WAS ACHIEVED?

Nikolaos Sevdalis<sup>1</sup> Christos Tsagkaris<sup>2</sup>  
1: Medical University of Sofia, Faculty of Medicine  
2: University of Crete, Faculty of Medicine

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### INTRODUCTION

Although cancer is a prominent cause of morbidity and lethality, a wealth of literature suggests that a universal treatment of cancer will be available in the proximal future. With a large variety of professionals devoting their careers to cancer, what if cancer ceases to be a life threatening condition, and how is this free-of-cancer world going to look like?

Materials and methods: A review of the literature was conducted. We searched PubMed and Scopus databases with keywords (cancer, universal treatment, implications). Inclusion criteria included English language, focus on mythology or history, accuracy and lack of conflict of interests. Conflicts of interest or irrelevance to the topic were the main exclusion criteria.

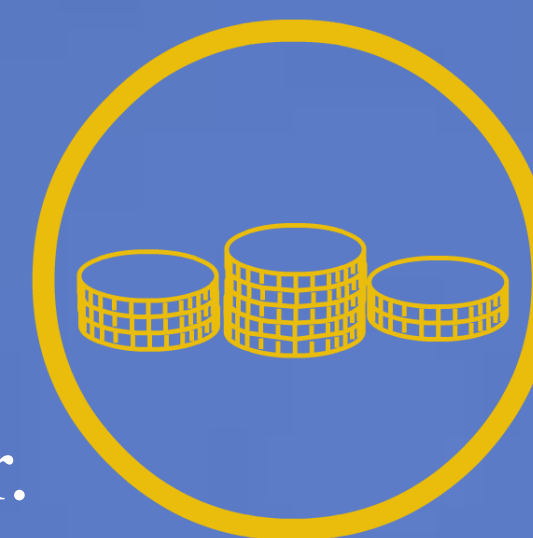


### CONSEQUENCES IN HEALTH

Life prolonged by 2-5 years on average, although possibly with substantially lower quality  
Current cancer therapy primarily addresses cancer while partially disregarding possible side effects  
Cardiovascular diseases (CVDs) (31% of deaths in 2015) will assume plague like status until specific guidelines for post-cancer patients are approved and applied.  
Since cancer is connected with aging (80% above the age of 65, 36% above the age of 75 in the UK), diseases like Dementia and Alzheimer's (which combine to be the leading cause of death for women in the UK) will further decrease life quality for post-cancer patients.

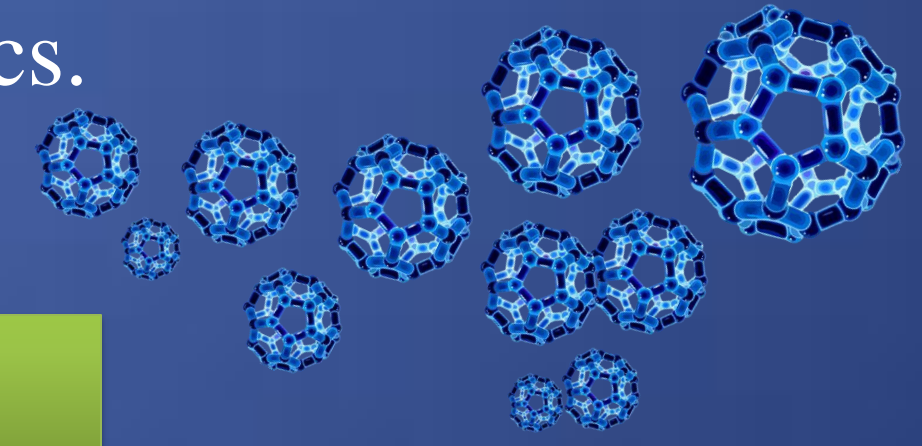
### CONSEQUENCES IN ECONOMY

As of right now more people make a living than die from cancer. A cure would free up large amounts of funds from oncological research. At the same time, insurance expenses would eventually diminish and relocated to other health issues.  
In numbers, 6.8 billion pounds have been invested in cancer research in the UK while more than 7000 people work in cancer relevant research in this country.  
Devoted clinicians would have to adjust their career; certain pharmaceutical industries would be seriously afflicted.  
On the other hand, should the money be allocated to primary care, preventive medicine, humanitarian aid and education, an increase in both quality and expectancy of life will follow.



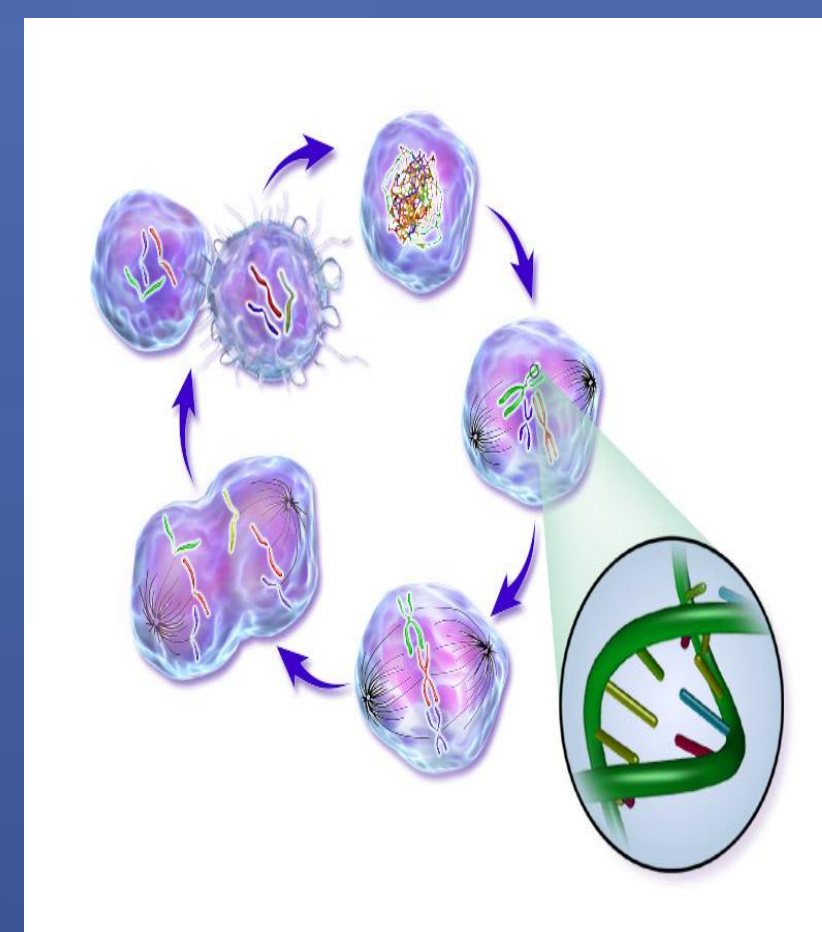
### CONSEQUENCES IN RESEARCH

Cancer is the major pillar of nowadays' research. Eliminating cancer would challenge researchers and academics to adapt and prove useful in other fields of research.  
What research would concentrate on depends mostly on which disease will reach comparable lethality and morbidity rates compared to cancer. CVDs, as well as dementia and Alzheimer's would probably demand most researchers' attention  
Immunity mechanisms, that have been studied grace to cancer, could lead to novel treatment of autoimmune diseases and more efficient antibiotics.



### DISCUSSION

While a world free of cancer is a place that most people both biomedical professionals and patients dream of, our perspective is a rather optimistic one. There are lots of parameters that could seriously affect even a discovery of this magnitude, ranging from the creator's moral views and politics, to the way the treatment is made available and to whom. Walking to death gradually in full conscience has sharpened our perception of time, quality of life, end of life care and so on. Is this perception going to be down regulated in a cancer free era?



### CONCLUSION

All in all, it has been stated that treating cancer would benefit individuals more than society in general, and dreaming of a world without problems is equal to utopia. Nevertheless, dreaming and working for a world without cancer consists is scientific and humane at the same time.



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