We are at a critical moment in lung cancer. The disease caused an estimated 1.8 million deaths in 2018 alone, or approximately one-fifth of all deaths from cancer.1 We must urgently take action to reverse its course.

There is much at stake. New advances have created new possibilities to transform diagnosis, treatment, and the management of the disease. And yet, survival rates after a diagnosis of lung cancer have shown only modest improvement in recent years, and lag behind other types of cancer.2 Presently, only about one in five lung cancer patients are alive five years after they are diagnosed.3

The Lung Ambition Alliance seeks to change all this. Four leading organizations with deep roots in lung cancer have come together to accelerate advances in lung cancer survival and improve patient outcomes. Our goal is ambitious, to one day eliminate lung cancer as a cause of death.

What we’ll do: Doubling five-year survival by 2025
Together, we can do more and achieve more to help people with lung cancer. We are focused on:

- **Increasing screening and early diagnosis:** by raising awareness of the strong evidence for screening and addressing the barriers to early detection, with continued improvements to the ease and reliability of diagnostics technologies and contributions to a deeper understanding of disease progression
- **Delivering innovative medicine:** by enabling widespread paradigm shifts to earlier intervention when there is greater potential for a cure4,5
- **Improving quality care:** by working with advocates and policymakers to deliver projects that address the challenges most urgent to patients, by improving coordination across the multidisciplinary team of healthcare professionals and by instilling the urgency to act

How we’ll do it: Our first initiatives
Several projects are underway that map to these focus areas and complement the treatments and diagnostic solutions already available. Priority projects include:

**Advancing screening**

The Early Lung Imaging Confederation (ELIC) is a global cloud-based registry of shared CT lung images.6 ELIC could become an important resource for researchers and care teams around the world. It is designed to accelerate improvements in the detection and management of early, curative-stage lung cancer.6

**Enhancing staging**

The Staging Project is a repository of data from over 95,000 lung cancer patients worldwide.7 The information will be used to standardize international lung cancer staging guidelines and develop the 9th Edition of the Tumor, Node and Metastasis (TNM) Staging System.8

**Delivering innovative medicine**

The Major Pathologic Response project prioritizes the validation of surrogate endpoints and identification of predictive biomarkers to accelerate the delivery of innovative medicine.9 We will enable widespread shifts to earlier intervention, and place greater emphasis on early detection of relapse.

**Improving quality care**

ILC2 (Initiatives in Lung Cancer Care) will be announced later in 2019. It will invite local patient organizations around the world to develop and submit pilot projects that have the potential to improve five-year survival for lung cancer patients in their respective countries.

REFERENCES:

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By bridging between the commercial and non-profit sectors, we can bend the survival curve faster and improve outcomes. Our diverse perspectives help us identify needs more precisely, while our depth of resources amplify our impact.

The International Association for the Study of Lung Cancer (IASLC) has more than 6,500 lung cancer specialists worldwide dedicated to increasing awareness of lung cancer among scientists, clinicians, and the public. The IASLC’s mission is to increase lung cancer survival by addressing the barriers that impact screening and improving global staging methods.

AstraZeneca is committed to one day eliminating lung cancer as a cause of death. The company develops medicines for the treatment of different forms of lung cancer spanning several stages of disease, lines of therapy and modes of action. The company is known for its relentless pursuit of scientific understanding and its willingness to take considered risks where the benefit may be great for patients.

Guardant Health develops minimally invasive ways to access detailed genomic information throughout all stages of a patient’s disease. Guardant Health advocates for the expanded use of precision medicine diagnostics and treatment in the earlier stages of lung cancer, when there is a better chance of a cure.

Established in 2001, the Global Lung Cancer Coalition (GLCC) is the international voice of lung cancer patients, comprising 37 member organizations from 26 countries worldwide. GLCC seeks to increase awareness and destigmatize the disease and ensure that all patients receive comprehensive Quality Care, including access to the best available treatments and resources.

The time for change is now. It is our responsibility as members of the lung cancer community to overcome the barriers that stand in the way of optimal care. Together, we will move faster for lung cancer patients: prioritizing screening, quality care and the delivery of treatments that can be administered earlier in the course of the disease.”

We appreciate the unprecedented opportunity to work with our Lung Ambition Alliance partners in accelerating progress for lung cancer. Together, we are amassing comprehensive sets of data that will help improve screening practices, lung cancer staging and approaches all along the continuum of care.”

Lung cancer is a highly personal disease, and care approaches can vary widely around the world. By joining together with partners who have distinct but complementary areas of focus in lung cancer, we are better positioned than ever before to address the issues patients face along the lung cancer journey at the country and even individual level.”

Accelerating advances for people with lung cancer