

Children's Oncology Group: What We Learned In The Merger Process

Gregory H. Reaman, MD

Professor of Pediatrics

The George Washington University

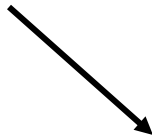
School of Medicine and Health Sciences

Children's Oncology Group

Children's Oncology Group

POG

PEDIATRIC
ONCOLOGY
GROUP

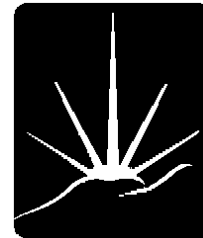


**Children's
Oncology
Group**

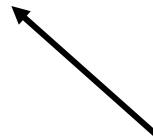
National
Wilms'
Tumor
Study
Group



INTERGROUP
Rhabdomyosarcoma
STUDY GROUP



CCG



- ◆ Children's Cancer Group
- ◆ Pediatric Oncology Group
- ◆ National Wilms' Tumor Study Group
- ◆ Intergroup Rhabdomyosarcoma Study Group

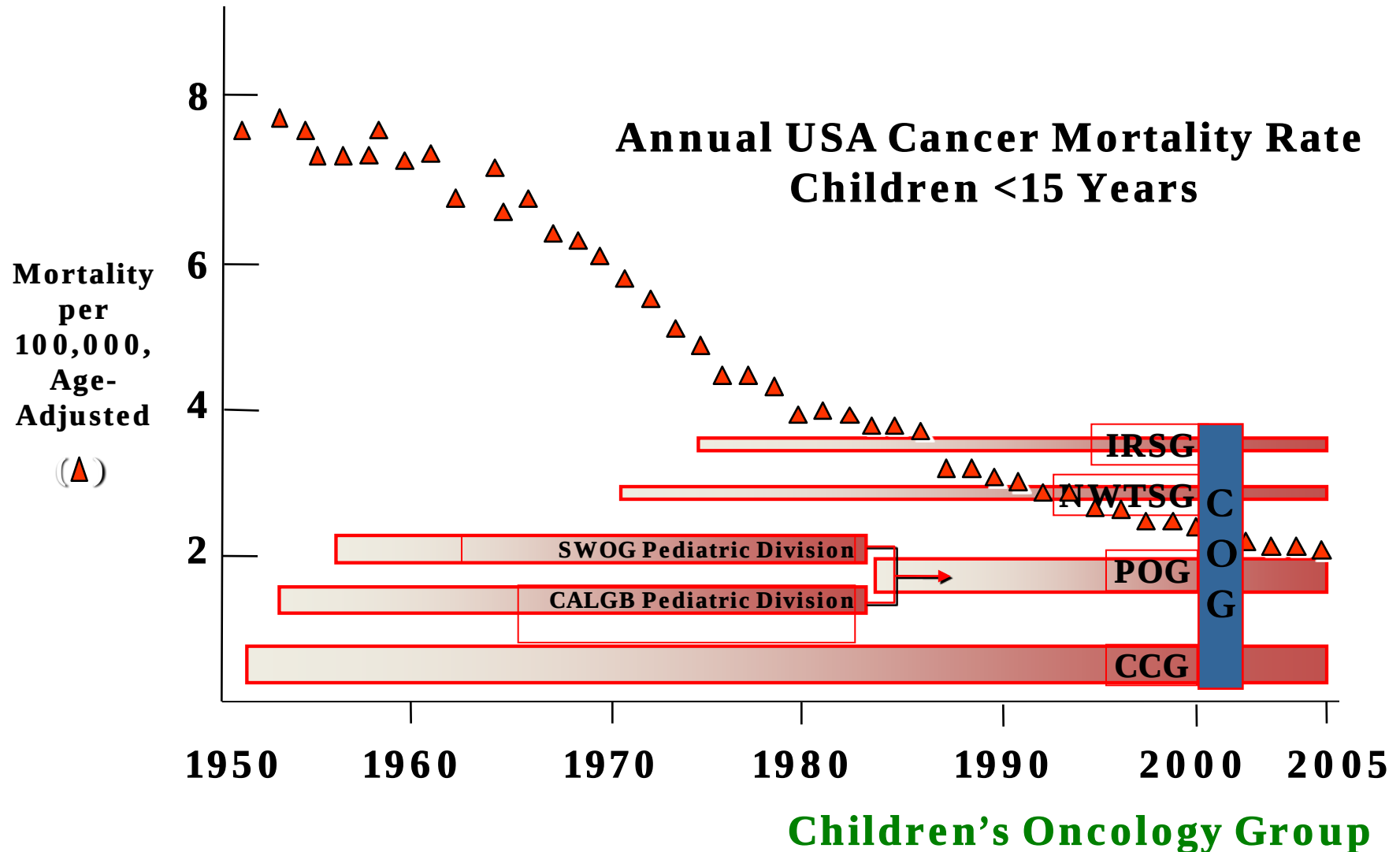
Children's Oncology Group

COG

- ◆ **Why? Because we had to!**
- ◆ **No NCI mandate**
- ◆ **A result of the “Intergroup” process**
- ◆ **Scientific agenda required consolidation: study population considerations**
- ◆ **Recognized needless duplication**
- ◆ **Multi-discipline/ multi-disease**

Children's Oncology Group

The National Childhood Cancer Mortality Rate and the Pediatric Cooperative Groups



Immediate Challenges / Considerations

- ◆ **Timeline: Planning/ Transition/ Implementation**
- ◆ **Continue open studies/ plan new initiatives: Role of a “Transition Team”**
- ◆ **Membership: Individual/ Discipline/ Institutional**
- ◆ **Funding: Financial planning and funds distribution**
- ◆ **Administrative consolidation**
- ◆ **SDC consolidation**

Organizational Challenges and Accomplishments

- ◆ Both administrative and scientific
- ◆ Adopt and ratify a new Constitution
- ◆ Redefine institutional and individual membership and complete certification (230 sites)
- ◆ Transfer responsibility of two U-01 and three U-10 awards and implement redistribution of funds
- ◆ Consolidate administrative and regulatory activities within a single group Operations Center
- ◆ Maintain legacy study conduct (80(III), 22(II), 7(I)) and initiate new group initiatives

Children's Oncology Group

Challenges and Accomplishments

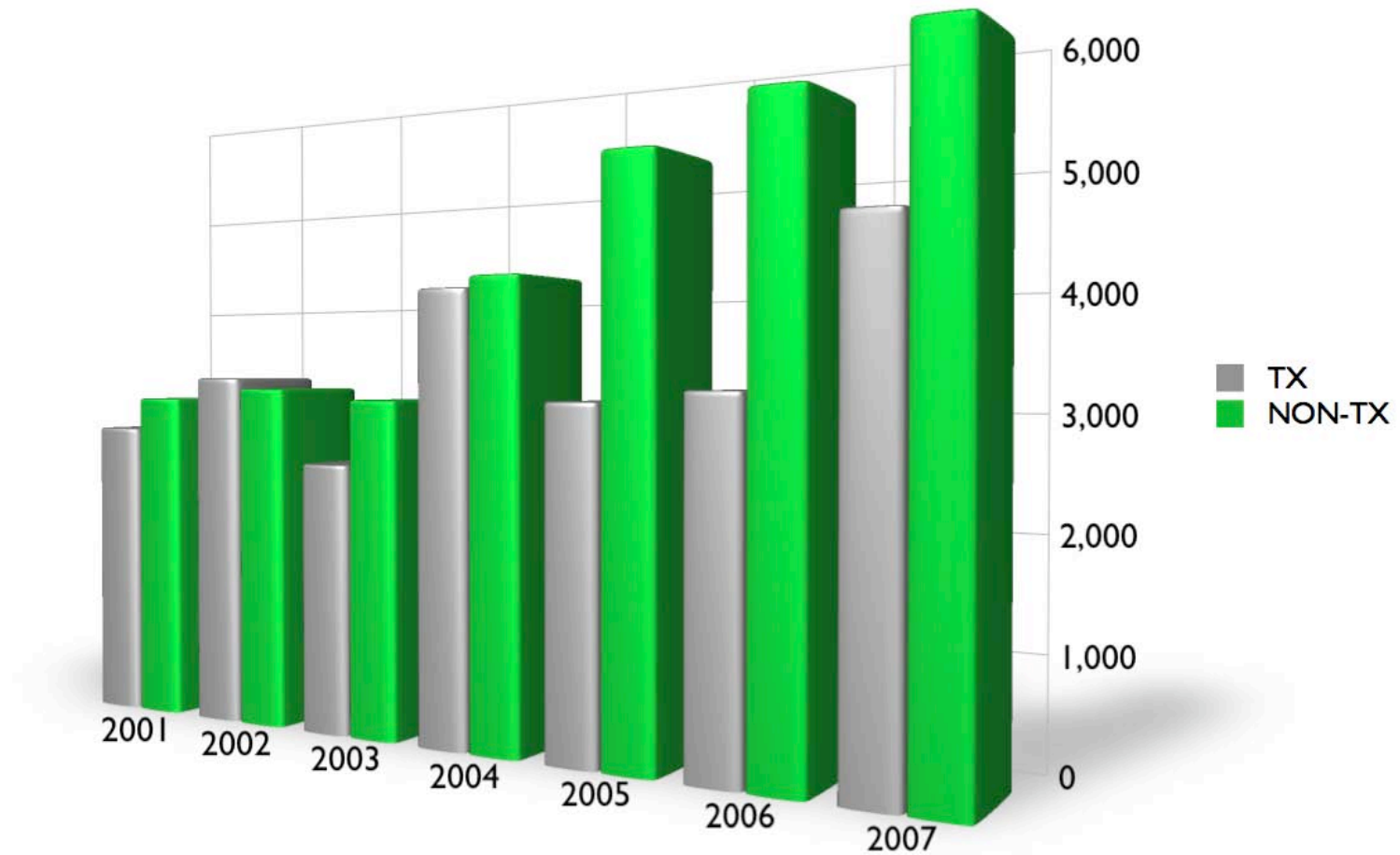
- ◆ Consolidate data management operations and responsibilities in a single Research Data Center
- ◆ Develop a Distributed Statistics Department
- ◆ Develop and implement plans/ systems for transfer of data sets and management of legacy studies
- ◆ Expand web-based Remote Data Entry (RDE) to accommodate legacy and future study development
– increased functionality: RDE1 → eRDEs
- ◆ Competitive U-10 applications 2002, 2007

Children's Oncology Group

- ◆ **Largest childhood cancer research organization in the world**
- ◆ **Encompasses > 200 pediatric cancer programs in North America, Australia, New Zealand, Switzerland, and the Netherlands**
- ◆ **Multidisciplinary Research Enterprise**
- ◆ **Biopathology Center: National Resource for Pediatric Cancer Specimen Banking**
- ◆ **Centralized Reference and Resource Laboratories for Biology and Classification Studies**
- ◆ **Centralized Review Centers**
- ◆ **Established a national childhood cancer registry for its North American sites - CCRN**

Children's Oncology Group

Accrual 2001-2007



Children's Oncology Group

Accomplishments

Organizational & Administrative

- ◆ PedCIRB – needs survey implementation and affiliation
- ◆ EURAMOS study – development of CTEP guidelines for International trials
- ◆ “NIH Roadmap” – COG and PBMTTC/ BMT-CTN
 - Interoperable infrastructure
- ◆ Pilot and implementation of Childhood Cancer Research Network (CCRN)
- ◆ Clinical trials in RB and other rare tumors
- ◆ Sole source for Industry collaboration

Children's Oncology Group

Accomplishments

Clinical: Practice - Changing

- ◆ **Clinical and biologic risk-based classification: ALL, AML, NBL**
- ◆ **Cytogenetic predictors of outcome: ALL, AML, NBL, Wilms'**
- ◆ **Prognostic significance of MRD: ALL, AML, NBL, NHL**
- ◆ **Refinements in risk-adjusted therapy approaches**
- ◆ **Long-term follow-up guidelines**

Accomplishments

Translational Science

- ◆ Gene expression microarrays and cancer signatures-
diagnosis and prognosis
- ◆ Gene polymorphisms and association with outcome
- ◆ Proof of principle: functional imaging (PET) as biomarker
in pediatrics
- ◆ Intra/ extramural NCI collaboration TCGA
 - TARGET (Therapeutically Applicable Research to
Generate Effective Treatments) initiative
- ◆ CTD² (Cancer Target Discovery and Development
Network)

Children's Oncology Group