Though the word “cancer” is same, cancer in children is an entirely different disease as compared to cancer in adults. Its sociologic impact in terms of disruption of family life, loss of productive years of life and generation of sympathy for its victims is far greater than cancer in the adults. More importantly, if diagnosed early and treated properly, more than 80% of children with cancer can be completely cured. However, the treatment of childhood cancers is quite intense, prolonged and expensive, requiring a team of dedicated people of various specialties. Because of all this, the best outcome of this potentially life threatening disease can be achieved in a right institution - a specialized childhood cancer hospital with clean environment, good infrastructure, including staff trained in taking care of children and most importantly a centre that is sensitive to the needs of children. Tata Memorial Hospital is one of the foremost such centers in the country.

"ImPaCCT Foundation", an acronym for "Improving Paediatric Cancer Care and Treatment Foundation", was established in October 2010 to provide holistic support to each and every child coming to the hospital.
The foundation helps raise funds for the treatment of poor patients without them having to approach multiple organizations. In 2014 we have supported patients to the tune of nearly Rs. 14 crores. This has been through the various government funds, private charitable trusts and NGOs.

**ACCOMMODATION SUPPORT**
Through various NGOs working with us, the foundation arranges accommodation for the families who are coming from out of town and cannot provide for their own accommodation. Additionally, this year alone we have given the families of our pediatric patients more than Rs. 12,00,000 as accommodation reimbursement. This helps the parents to stay back in Mumbai and take treatment thus decreasing the abandonment rate.

**INFECTION PREVENTION SUPPORT**
The foundation provides hygiene kits and items for infection control to each and every child coming to the hospital. These are all put together by certain NGOs, donors and volunteers. Additionally, ImPaCCT Foundation funds the salary of an infection control nurse and physician to help prevent infection. This helps to decrease infection related complication and death and improves chances of cure.

**NUTRITION SUPPORT**
Nutrition support is provided to every child coming to the hospital by giving mid-day meals and healthy snacks. The foundation provides protein rich supplements like soya cookies and special high calorie food supplements. Almost 80,000 meals have been distributed in the year. Improved nutrition helps the children to tolerate therapy better and take treatment on time, thus helping improve outcomes.

**FINANCIAL SUPPORT**
The foundation helps organize mid-day meals and healthy snacks. The foundation provides protein rich supplements like soya cookies and special high calorie food supplements. Almost 80,000 meals have been distributed in the year. Improved nutrition helps the children to tolerate therapy better and take treatment on time, thus helping improve outcomes.

**TRANSFUSION SUPPORT**
Treatment of childhood cancers is quite intensive and requires lot of blood and platelet support. The foundation helps to organize blood and platelet donors for the patients, without which they would not be able to take intensive treatment. We initiated a campaign called “Save A Life” to make a voluntary platelet donor registry. From 2009 till July 2015, we have been able to enroll 2300 donors. From a meager 11% of voluntary donations comprising of the total need, now 71% of the requirement of platelets is being fulfilled by voluntary donors. This is a novel, highly impactful initiative and has become a model in India.

**PSYCHO-SOCIAL SUPPORT**
A dedicated pediatric psychologist helps analyze and support the psychology of the children undergoing treatment and their parents. Enhanced counseling is provided to each and every family to minimize stress and motivate them to take treatment. This has helped reduce the rate of treatment refusal/abandonment from 20% in 2009 to less than 5 percent in the past three years.

**EDUCATION SUPPORT**
Non-formal education is provided to all the children in the OPD and the ward through Mindspings Enrichment Centre. This is a pioneering step in integrating educational goals with quality healthcare.

**DATA MANAGERS/MEDICAL SOCIAL WORKERS**
Non-formal education is provided to all the children in the OPD and the ward through Mindspings Enrichment Centre. This is a pioneering step in integrating educational goals with quality healthcare.

**FUTURE PLANS**
- Infrastructure of 2000 beds for cancer patients.
- New cancer treatment center.
- Psycho-social support to patients.

**FUNDRAISING STRATEGY**
- Corporate sponsorship:
  - Support from Multinational companies
  - Support from Indian business houses
  - Sponsorship from various individual donors
- Other initiatives of ImPaCCT Foundation
  - 1. Birthdays: The foundation also organizes birthdays of every child taking treatment at the hospital. This is to give children happy memories of the hospital when they go back home after getting cured. We celebrated six birthdays in this year.
  - 2. Workshops: Foundation organizes Art therapy/Craft/Music/Dance workshops to help the children forget about their disease issues and to heal them better.
  - 3. HOPE: The foundation organizes “HOPE”, the celebration of “Victory over Cancer” which is the biggest Paediatric annual event of the hospital in December every year to welcome the New Year together.
  - 4. Parent Support Group Meetings: The Foundation organizes non-formal meetings with all the parents every month to educate them on Cancer and also to address all their queries. The children are kept entertained separately during this period so that the parents can focus on the meetings.
  - 5. Bereavement Support: In spite of our best efforts there are a few children every year who lose their battles to Cancer. “Bereavement”, is a period of grief, for the loss of a loved one. The foundation supports the families to make sure that the child lost, is given last rites according to the wishes of their parents. We have supported Rs 2 lakhs towards this cause this year.
  - 6. Support Staff: The foundation also enhances delivery of cancer care by supporting salaries of social workers, dieticians, infection control officers, pharmacists and nurses for giving better quality care to children.