

# Perspectives from the New COG Group Chair

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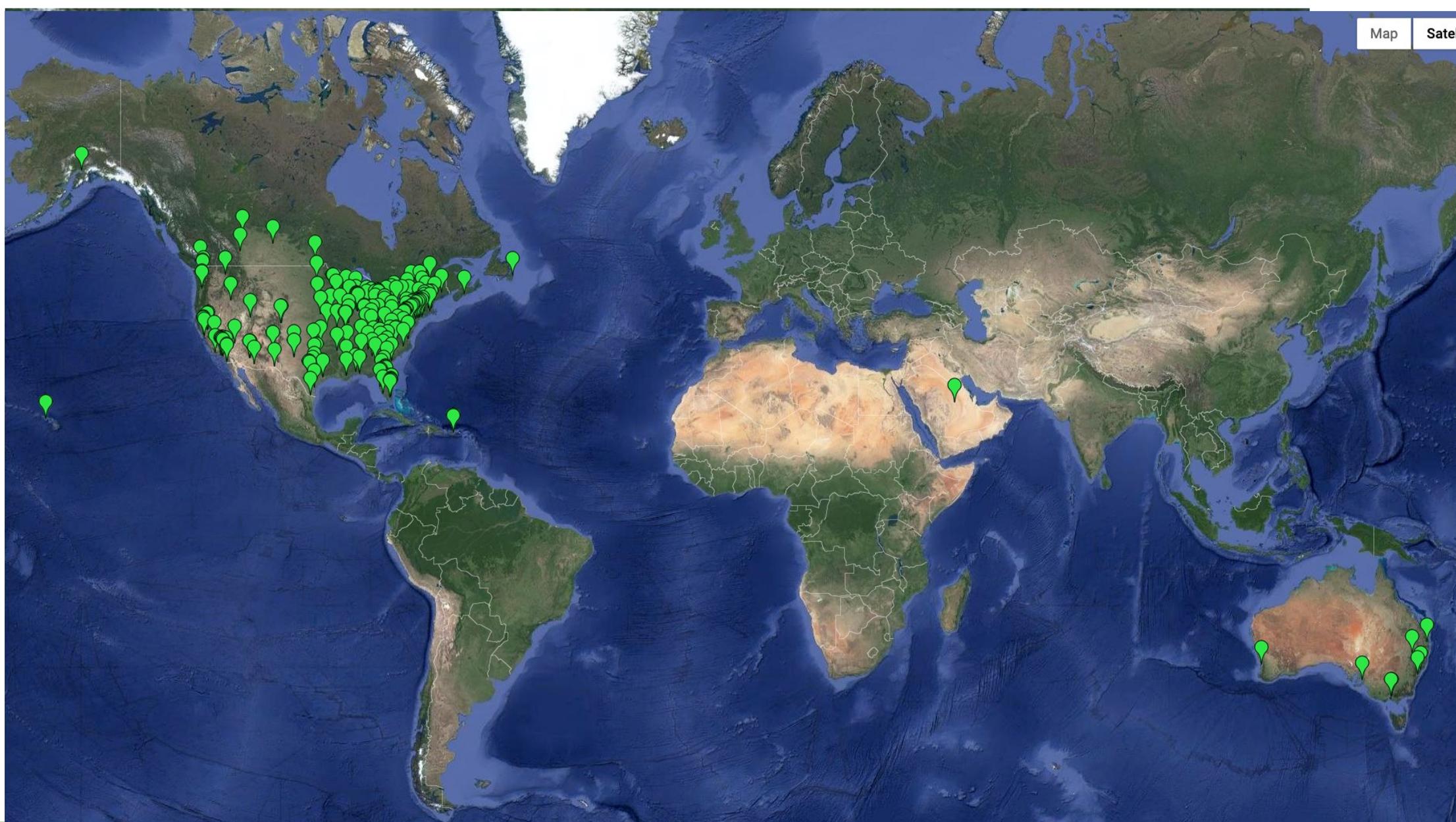
**CHILDREN'S  
ONCOLOGY  
GROUP**

**CAC2 Virtual Annual Summit**

**July 17, 2020**

# What I will discuss

- COG Group Chair election and role
- My background in oncology
- Opportunities and challenges for COG
- Impact of COVID-19 on COG



# COG Group Chair

- Chief Executive Officer for COG
- Principal Investigator for COG grants
- Responsible for overall leadership:
  - Scientific
  - Administrative
  - Fiscal

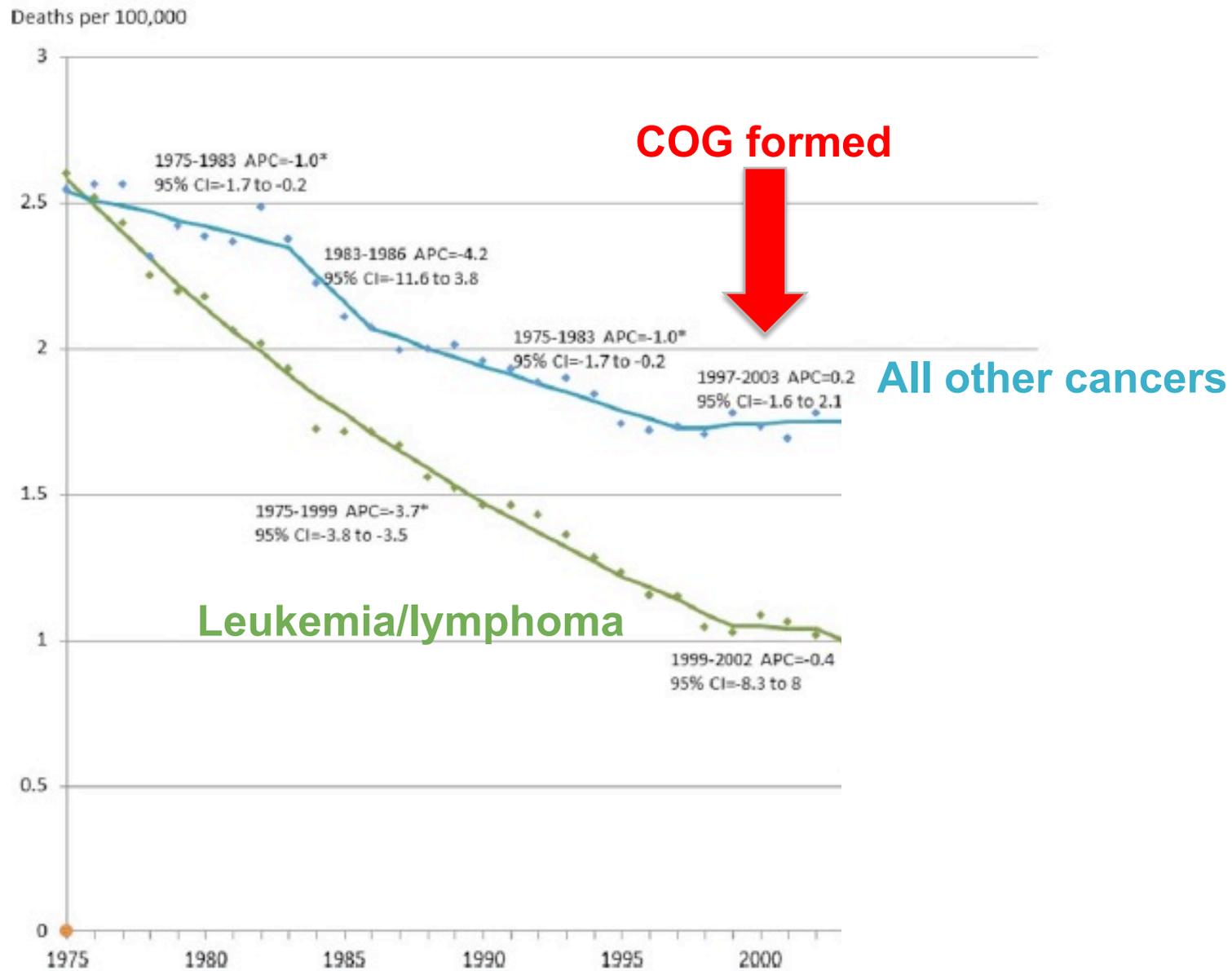
# COG Group Chair

- Elected to 5 year term; can be re-elected once
- Each institution gets one vote
- Voting in November 2019
- Chair-elect: July-December 2020
- Start as Chair: January 2021

# What happened

- Assumed role in March 2020, 9+ months earlier than planned
- Then, a pandemic hit...

***Why did I want to be COG Group Chair?***



**COG is still essential  
to improve outcomes  
in pediatric cancer**

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# Institutional administrative experience

- 30 years in Seattle (residency and beyond)
- Clinical focus on bone, soft tissue sarcomas
- Associate Division Chief, 2007-2017
- Division Chief, 2017-2020
- COG Institutional PI, 2003-2020

# COG experience

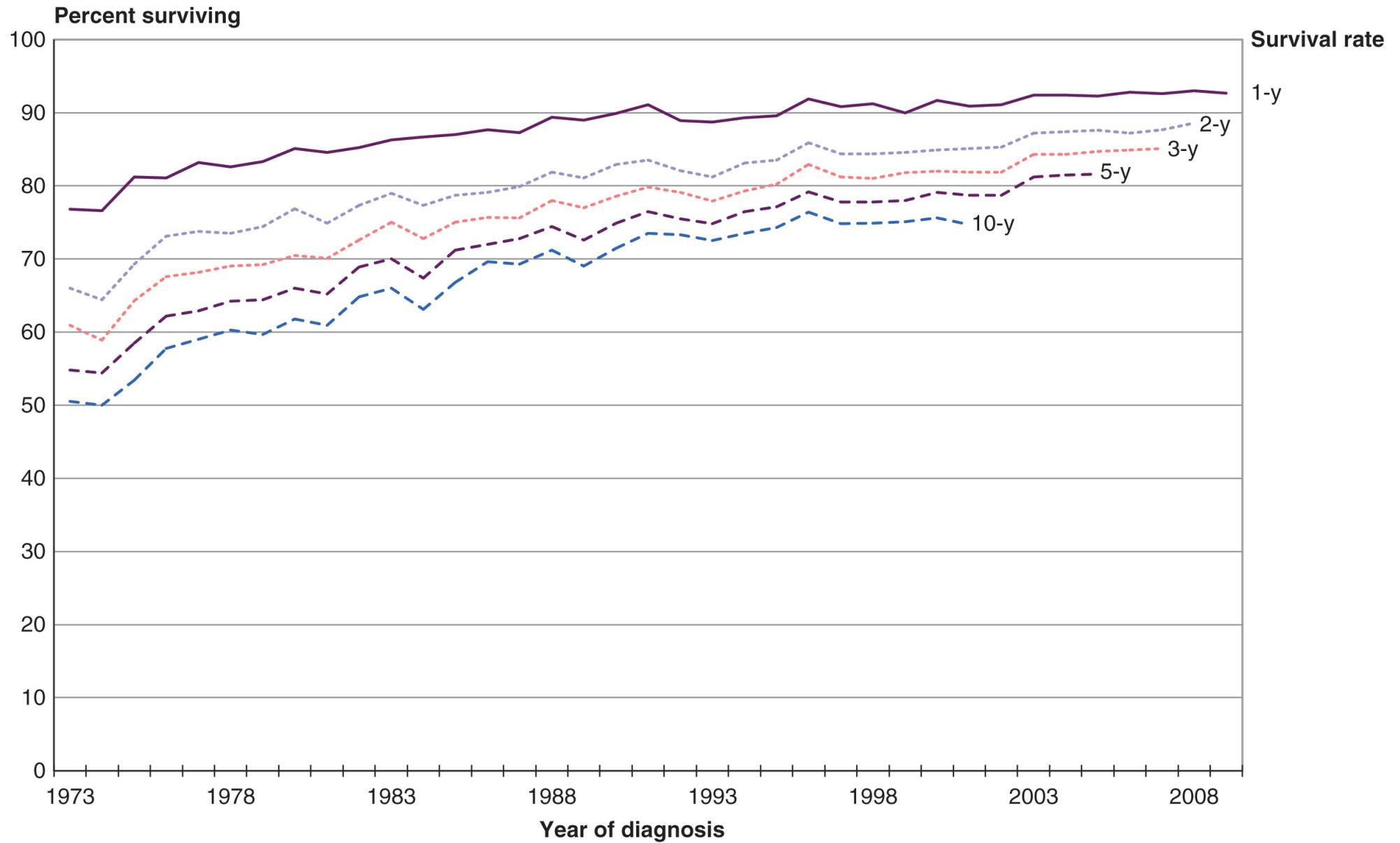
- Clinical trial leadership:
  - Vice-chair: two phase II, one phase III
  - Chair: one phase II, two phase III
- Soft Tissue Sarcoma Disease Committee leadership:
  - Vice-chair, 2005-2008
  - Chair, 2008-2020
- Voting Body Steering Committee, 2004-2015
- Executive Committee, 2012-2020

# International oncology experience

- Inter-cooperative group clinical trial:
  - EuroEWING99 (COG study chair, AEWS0331)
- Collaborative research:
  - Soft tissue sarcoma workshops
  - INSTRuCT data consortium
- Senior clinical trial oversight:
  - Chair, Euro Ewing External Advisory Board since 2014
  - Chair, Frontline and Relapse in RhabdoMyoSarcoma Study (FaR-RMS) Data Monitoring Committee since 2019

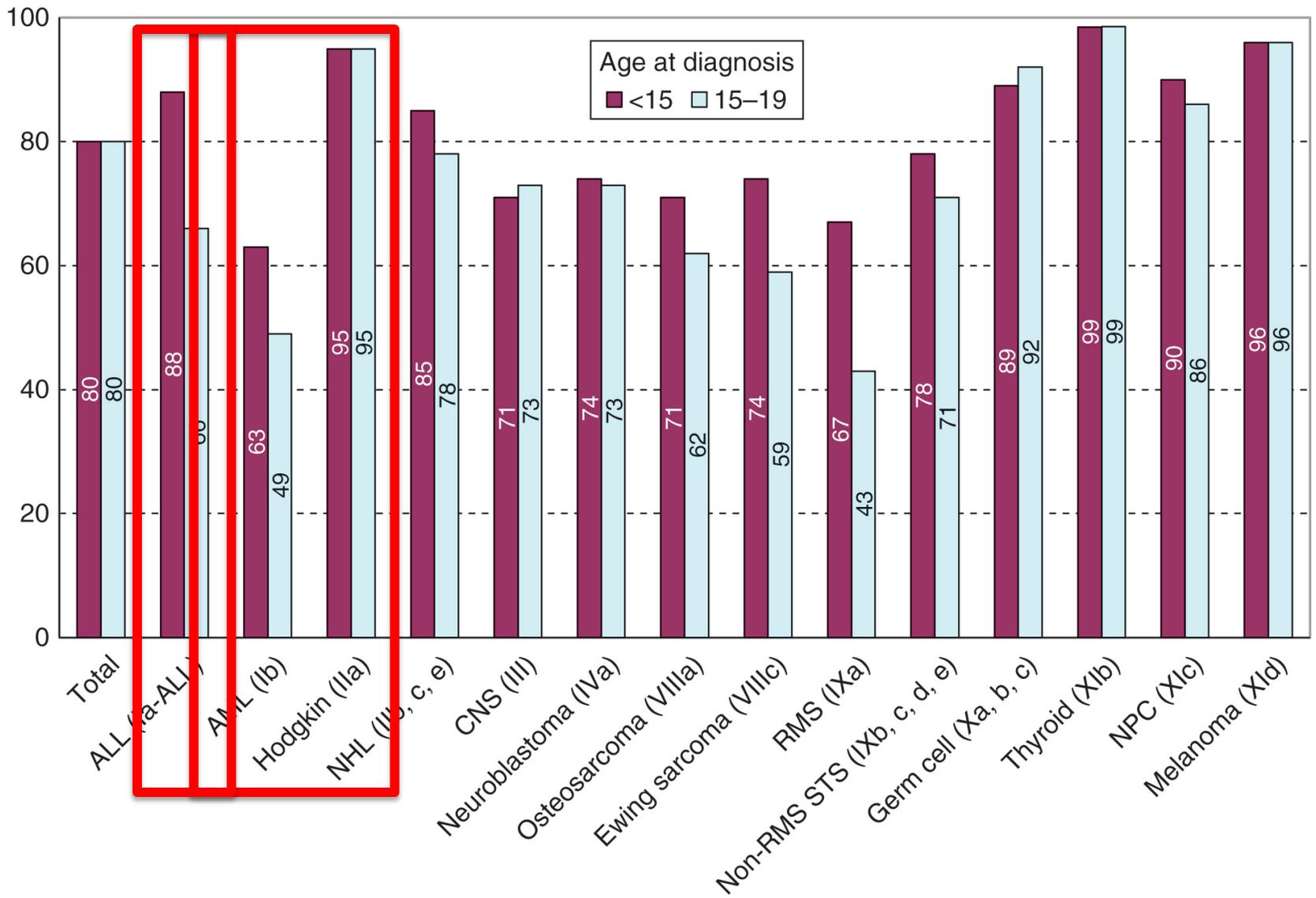
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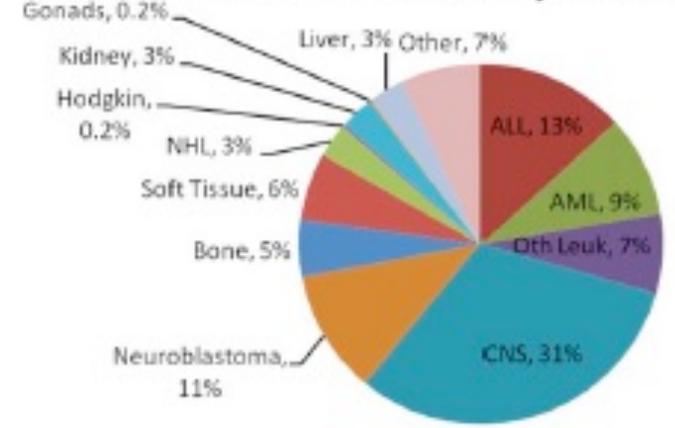


**The era of phase III studies  
for all diseases and no gaps  
between studies is over  
(and was over 10 years ago)**

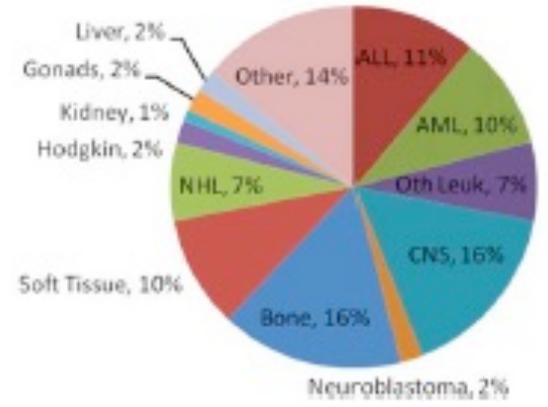
### 5-Year survival percentage



### <15 Year Mortality 2007-2010



### 15-19 Year Mortality 2007-2010



# Phase II/III clinical trial priorities

- Inferior outcome:
  - Metastatic sarcomas
- High annual mortality:
  - ALL
- High late effects burden despite favorable EFS:
  - Hodgkin lymphoma
- “Targets of opportunity”:
  - Larotrectinib for *NTRK*-gene fused tumors

# Non-chemotherapy study priorities

- Randomized surgical or radiation questions
- Biomarker confirmation or risk adjustment
- Genomic analysis:
  - Epidemiology
  - Toxicity association
- Symptom management interventional studies:
  - Acute side effects on therapy
  - Prevention of late effects
- Social determinants of outcome:
  - Medication adherence

# Challenges facing COG in 2020

- Financial constraints
- Access to new agents
- Biologic studies without clinical trials
- Speed to conduct clinical trials
- Statistical productivity
- Data sharing, particularly high-dimensional data

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# Financial Constraints

- Federal grants will remain our largest funding source
  - Continue to compete for supplements
  - Work with advocates for additional appropriations
- Partially- or fully-funded industry studies
- Philanthropic support

# Biologic studies without clinical trials

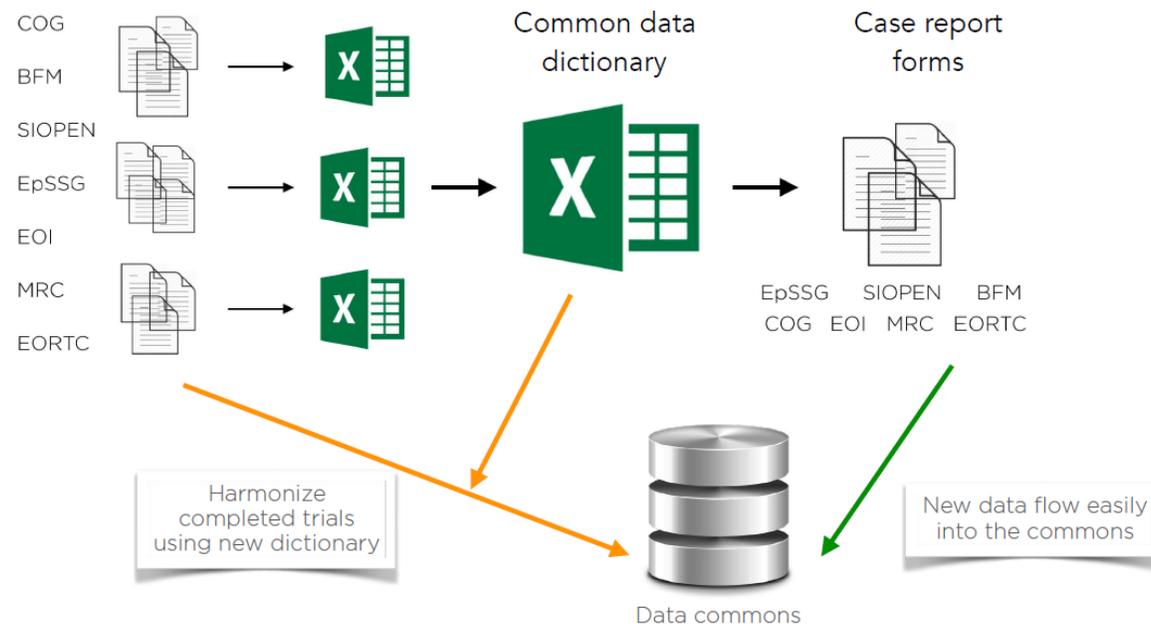
- COG Biospecimen Bank is an unequaled resource
- Project EveryChild (est. 2015) as banking method
- Must determine how well APEC14B1 is working
  - Need to compare enrollment to registry data
  - How complete are clinical data?
  - Inventory of germline material, tumor tissue
  - Can we increase utility of specimens?

# Speed to conduct clinical trials

- Nimbleness of COG to design studies
- Alignment of COG, NCTN steering committees review
- Long study duration, particularly for molecular cohorts
  - Increase enrollment through other NCTN groups
  - Increase international collaboration

# Data sharing, particularly high-dimension

- Disease committees collect data in silos
  - Common pediatric cancer data standards are needed
- Critical for international combined analyses



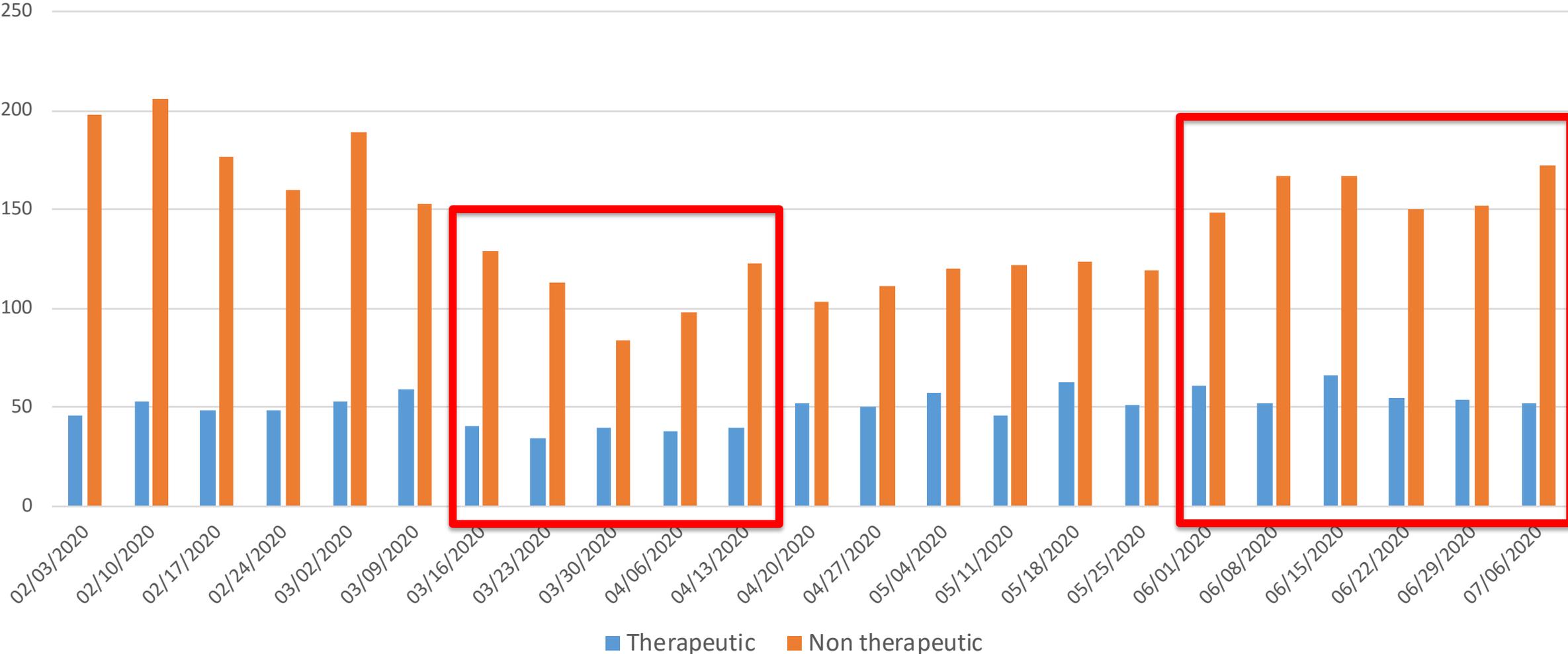
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- Disease committees collect data in silos
  - Common pediatric cancer data standards are needed
- Critical for international combined analyses
- Need strategy for integration with genomic, imaging data
  - Childhood Cancer Data Initiative
  - Pediatric Cancer Data Commons Consortium

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# COG weekly enrollments February-July 2020: Therapeutic vs Non-therapeutic



# COVID-19 Research Efforts

- **NCCAPS (NCI COVID-19 in Cancer Patients Study)**
  - 2000 patient natural history study
  - Pediatric patients to be added soon
- **NIH Severe COVID-19 GWAS:**
  - 40,000 patients, with and without cancer
  - Genetic associations with illness severity
  - COG will participate

# Challenges facing COG in 2020

- Financial constraints
- Access to new agents
- Biologic studies without clinical trials
- Speed to conduct clinical trials
- Statistical productivity
- Data sharing, particularly high-dimensional data
- ***And, a global pandemic...***



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