**UK-US alliance launched to boost early cancer detection rates**

An international alliance, consisting of UK and US scientists, has been launched with a financial backing of over £55m to develop new strategies and technologies to boost detection of cancers at the early stage.

The International Alliance for Cancer Early Detection (ACED) is a partnership between Cancer Research UK, Canary Center at Stanford University, the University of Cambridge, the OHSU Knight Cancer Institute, UCL and the University of Manchester.

Researchers believe that the advancements in technologies will help in diagnosing cancers at an early stage.

UK statistics indicate that five-year survival for six kinds of cancer is more than three times higher if these are diagnosed at the first stage itself as the tumour tends to be small and localised, as against stage four, when the tumour tends to be larger and would have spread to surrounding tissues.

Of the £55m funding, Cancer Research UK will provide £40m over the next five years, while Stanford University and the OHSU Knight Cancer Institute will each inject $10m.

The alliance aims to work on research areas to improve imaging technology and robotics which would help in identifying pre-cancerous cells and early tumours.

It will also look at developing less invasive and simpler detection techniques such as blood, breath and urine tests to identify patients standing at a higher risk of certain kinds of cancers.

The alliance aims to gain an increased understanding of how the environment surrounding a tumour influences its development, and look for the early signals in the surrounding tissue as this is expected to be helpful in diagnosing those hard to reach tumours.

It will leverage the potential of artificial intelligence to identify signs of cancer that otherwise go undetected.

Cancer Research chief executive UK Michelle Mitchell said: “Now is the time to be ambitious and develop effective new ways to detect cancer earlier. It’s an area of research where we have the potential to completely change the future of cancer treatment, turning it into a manageable and beatable disease for more people.”

“Real progress in early detection can’t be achieved by a single organisation. Benefits for patients will only be realised if early cancer detection leaders from around the world come together. No more siloes, no more missed opportunities; let us tackle this problem together and beat cancer.”

<https://www.cancerresearchuk.org/about-us/cancer-news/press-release/2019-10-21-international-alliance-sets-bold-research-ambition-to-detect-the-almost-undetectable>