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Dear Friends,

At CanKids…KidsCan, we have always believed that every child with cancer deserves more than treatment. They deserve access to care, financial protection, dignity, information, a voice in decisions that affect them, and the opportunity not only to survive, but to thrive.

Over the last two decades, our work has evolved from supporting individual children and families to helping strengthen the systems that shape outcomes for thousands more. We have learned that while care saves lives, research transforms systems.

It is in this spirit that we are pleased to share the June 2026 special edition of *The Aware Consumer*, dedicated to **Patient Rights, Clinical Research and Patient Partnership in Healthcare**.

This special edition is particularly significant for us because it showcases the work of the **Pediatric Cancer Research Institute (PCRI)**, the research, innovation and evidence-generation arm of CanKids. PCRI was established to promote, support and undertake ethical, patient-centred research that improves outcomes for children and families affected by cancer and other life-threatening illnesses.

CanKids recognised early in its journey that improving survival would require more than delivering services. It would require generating evidence, understanding barriers to care, measuring outcomes, strengthening health systems, and ensuring that the lived experiences of patients and families help shape healthcare policy, programmes and research priorities.

The establishment of PCRI and its recognition as a **SIRO (Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation) certified institution** reflect this forward-looking commitment. Few patient advocacy organisations invest in building research capacity. CanKids chose to do so because we believe that sustainable improvements in access, equity and survival must be driven by evidence, innovation and continuous learning.

At PCRI, we believe that research should not be conducted merely *on* patients, but increasingly *with* patients. Through our independent Ethics Committee, survivor-led and patient-centred research initiatives, patient and caregiver engagement, and programmes such as **PACER (Patient Advocates for Clinical Research)**, we seek to ensure that the patient voice is heard not only at the bedside, but also in study design, research implementation, policy development and healthcare innovation.

Research is also an integral part of the CanKids **7S Mandala of Care**, where *Sanshodhan* (Research) serves as a critical pillar supporting better outcomes for children and families. As we work towards our 2030 goals of: 100% Access to Care,100% Financial Protection, 60%+ Survival for Every Child with Cancer research helps us understand who is reaching care, who is being left behind, what interventions improve outcomes, and how systems can be strengthened to reduce inequities. It forms an essential part of our Childhood Cancer Equity and Survival Cascade, helping transform data into action and evidence into better outcomes.

Just as data, research and implementation science helped transform outcomes in HIV, tuberculosis and maternal-child health globally, we believe patient-centred research can accelerate progress towards equitable childhood cancer outcomes in India. Research is not the end goal; it is the engine that helps move systems towards better access, better quality of care and better survival.

PCRI also represents a unique partnership between patient advocacy, clinical expertise, research excellence and technology-enabled innovation. By bringing together CanKids' extensive patient and family network with scientific, digital and implementation expertise, PCRI seeks to generate evidence that is not only scientifically rigorous but also meaningful and actionable for patients, providers, researchers and policymakers.
This special edition has been developed in collaboration with the **Patient Safety and Access Initiative Foundation (PSAIF)**, better known to many Indians through the pioneering **Jago Grahak Movement** led by Prof. Bejon Kumar Misra. Together, we seek to strengthen awareness of patient rights, ethical research, informed consent and meaningful patient participation in healthcare decision-making.

The issue brings together the perspectives of clinicians, researchers, regulators, policymakers, patient advocates, survivors and caregivers around a shared belief: that healthcare innovation is strongest when science listens to the people it seeks to serve. It highlights a fundamental shift in healthcare—from seeing patients as passive recipients of care to recognising them as informed partners in research, policy and system design.

As one of our valued supporters, you have been an integral part of this journey. Your trust has enabled CanKids not only to support individual children and families, but also to build systems, partnerships and knowledge that can improve outcomes for thousands more across India.
We hope you enjoy reading this special edition and gain a deeper understanding of the vital role patients and caregivers play in shaping the future of healthcare and clinical research. More importantly, we hope it reaffirms what we have always believed: that when compassion, science and community come together, transformational change becomes possible.

Thank you for standing with CanKids, PCRI and every child and family striving for a future where access, equity and survival are not aspirations, but realities.

Warm regards,

Poonam Bagai

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Founder, PCRI (Pediatric Cancer Research Institute)
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