

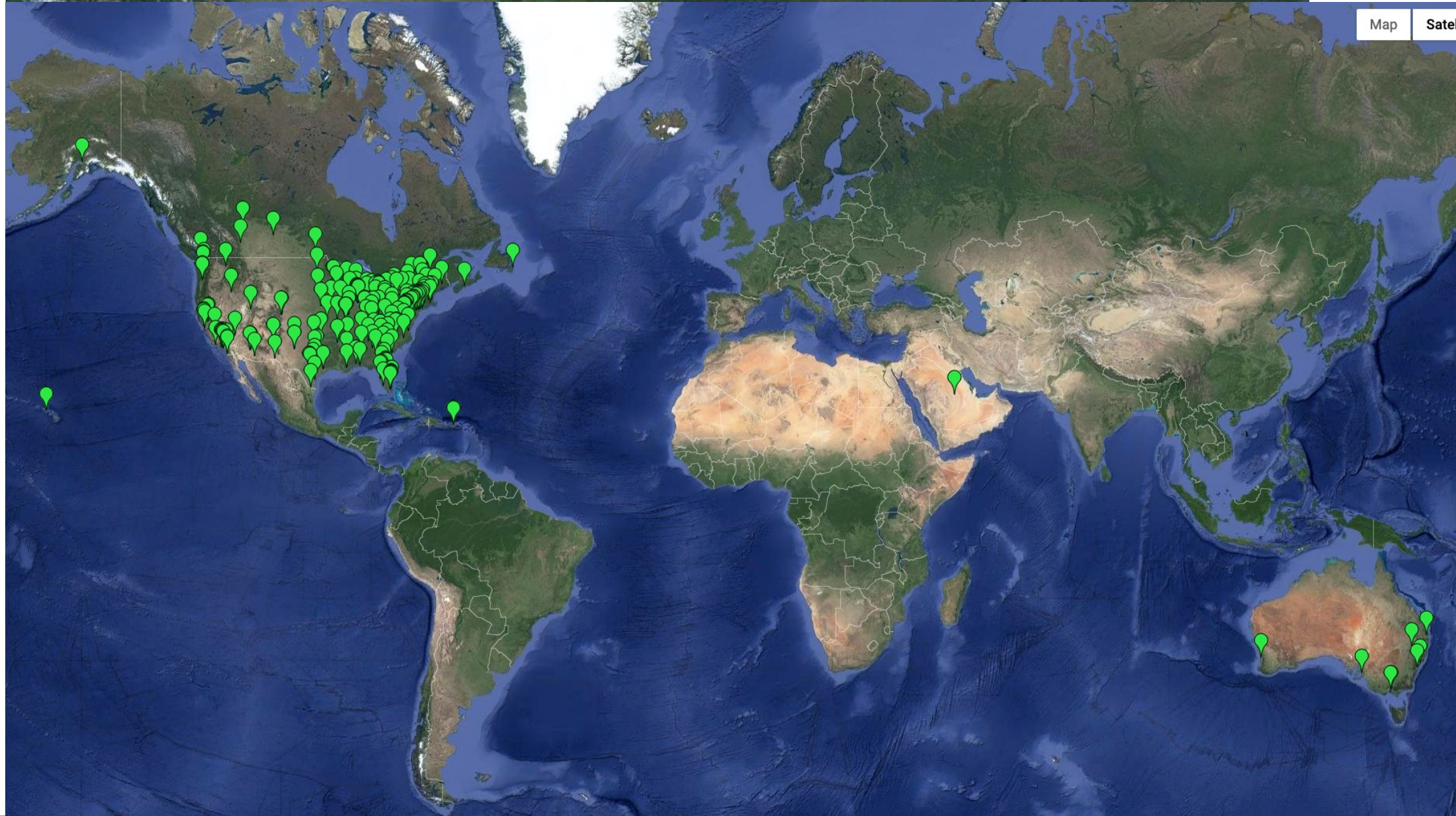
Perspectives from the New COG Group Chair

Douglas S. Hawkins, MD

**Seattle Children's Hospital, University of Washington,
Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center**

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

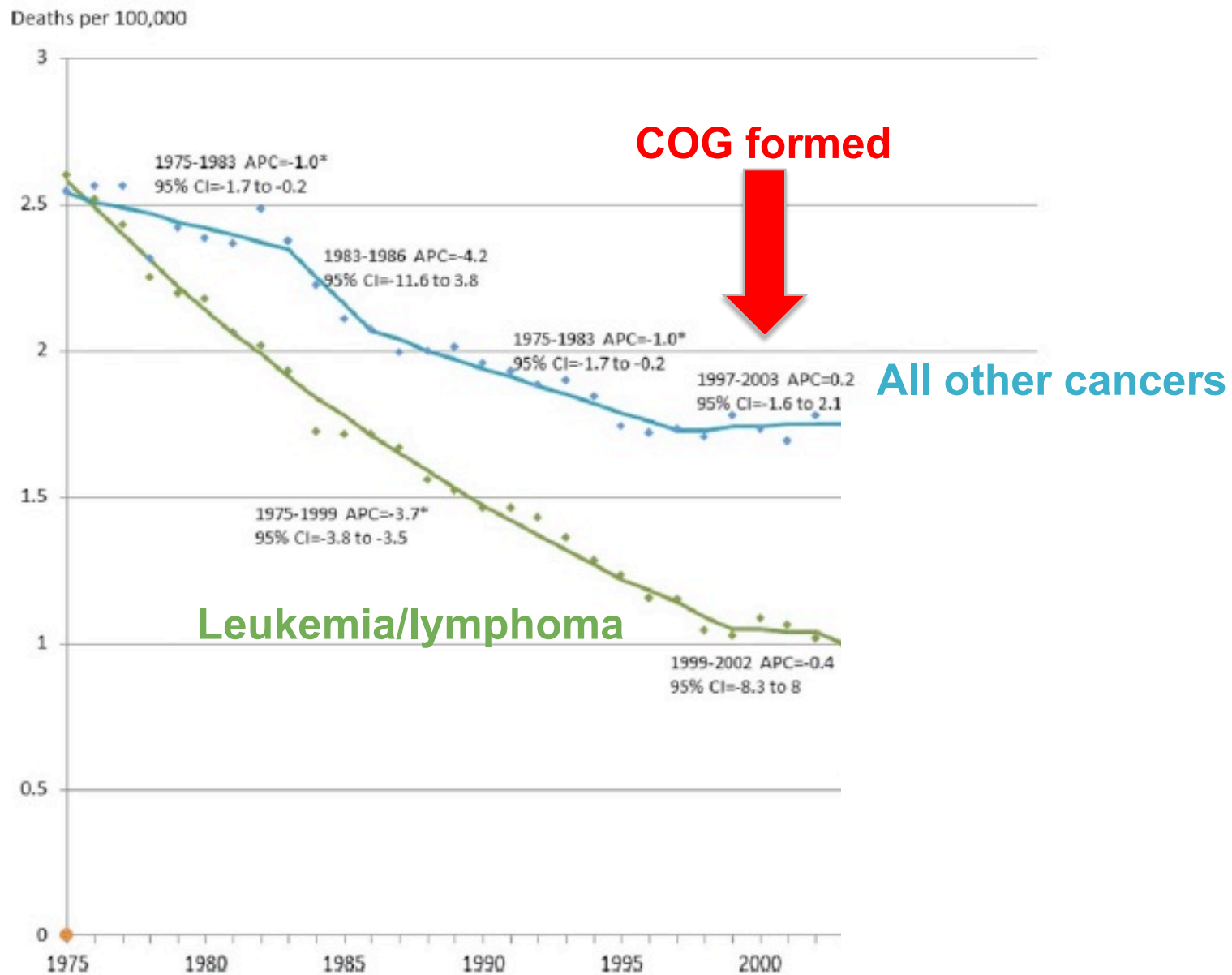
COG Group Chair

- 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

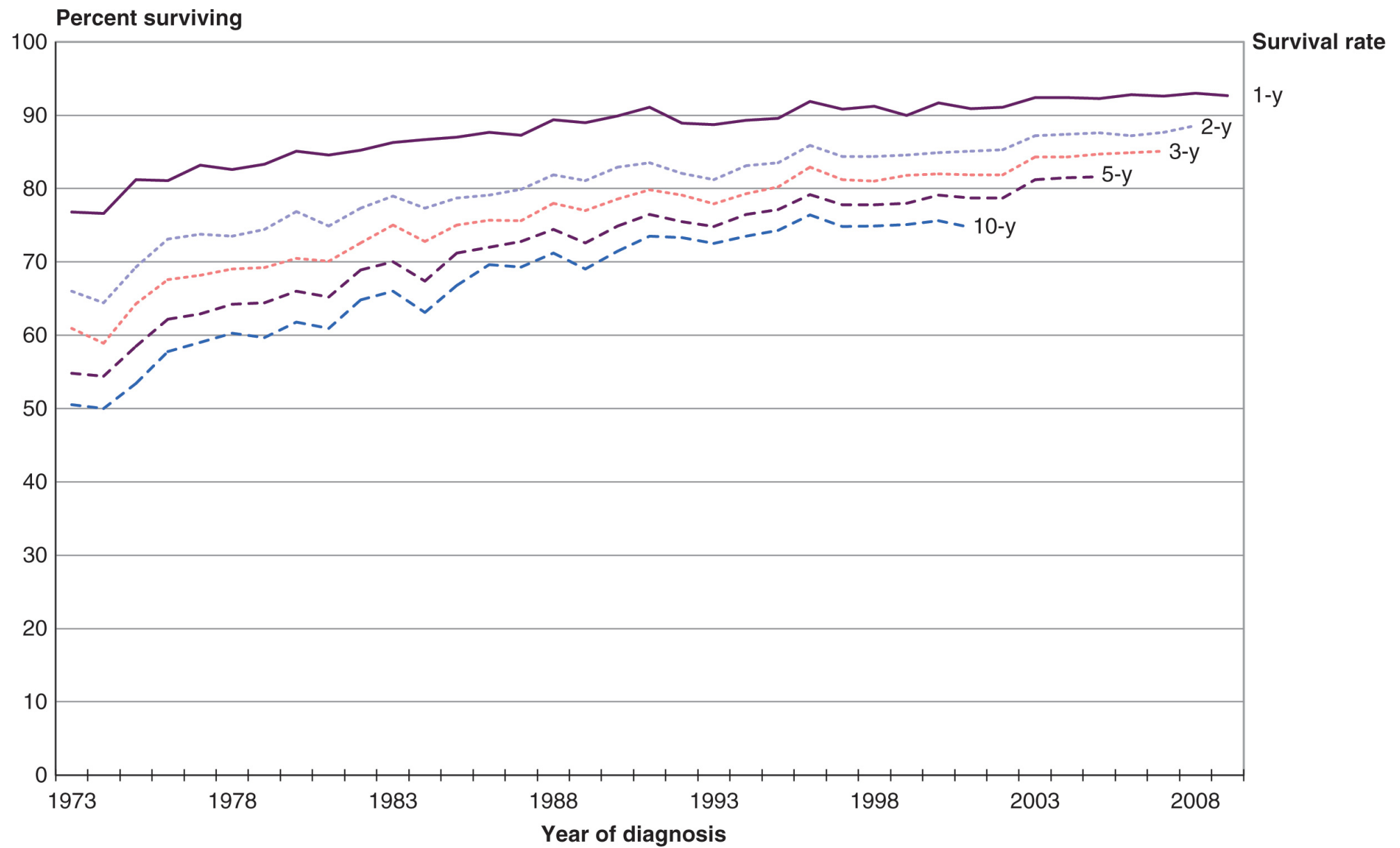
- Clinical trial leadership:
 - Vice-chair: two phase II, one phase III
 - Chair: one phase II, two phase III
- Soft Tissue Sarcoma Disease Committee leadership:
 - Vice-chair, 2005-2008
 - Chair, 2008-2020
- Voting Body Steering Committee, 2004-2015
- Executive Committee, 2012-2020

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

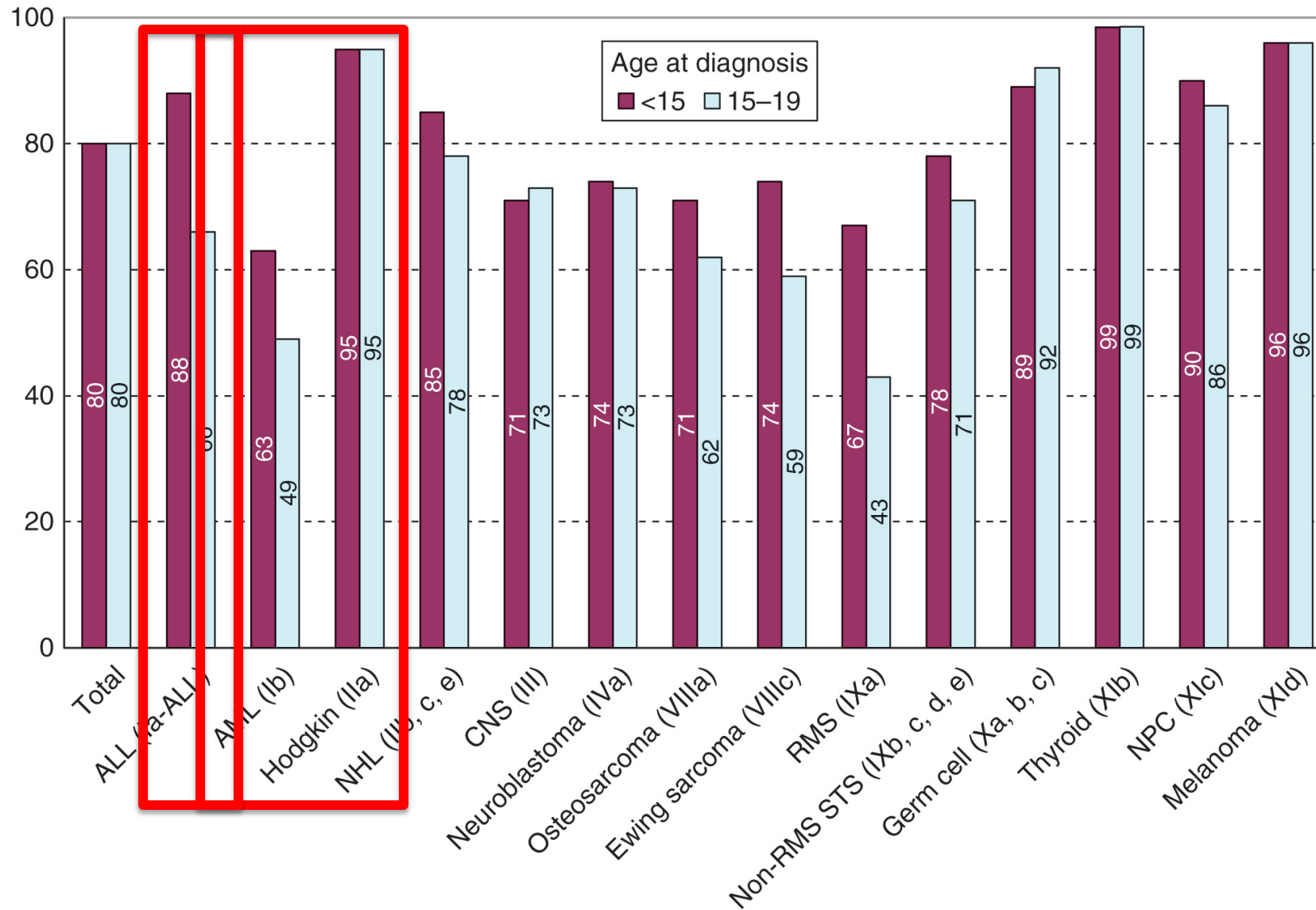
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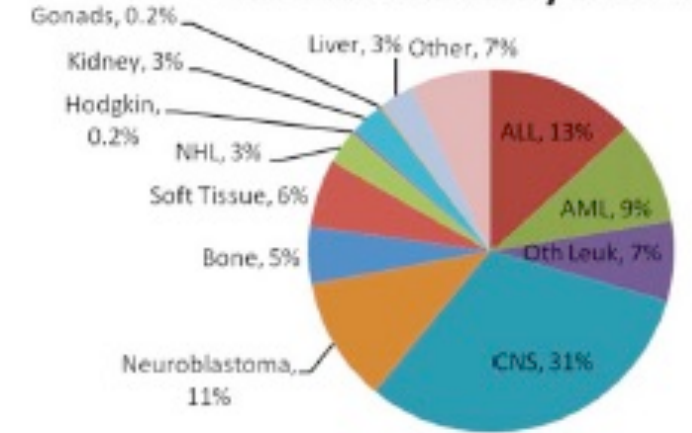


**The era of phase III studies
for all diseases and no gaps
between studies is over
(and was over 10 years ago)**

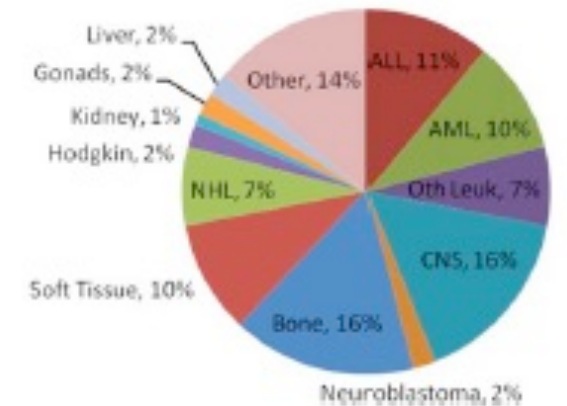
5-Year survival percentage



<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

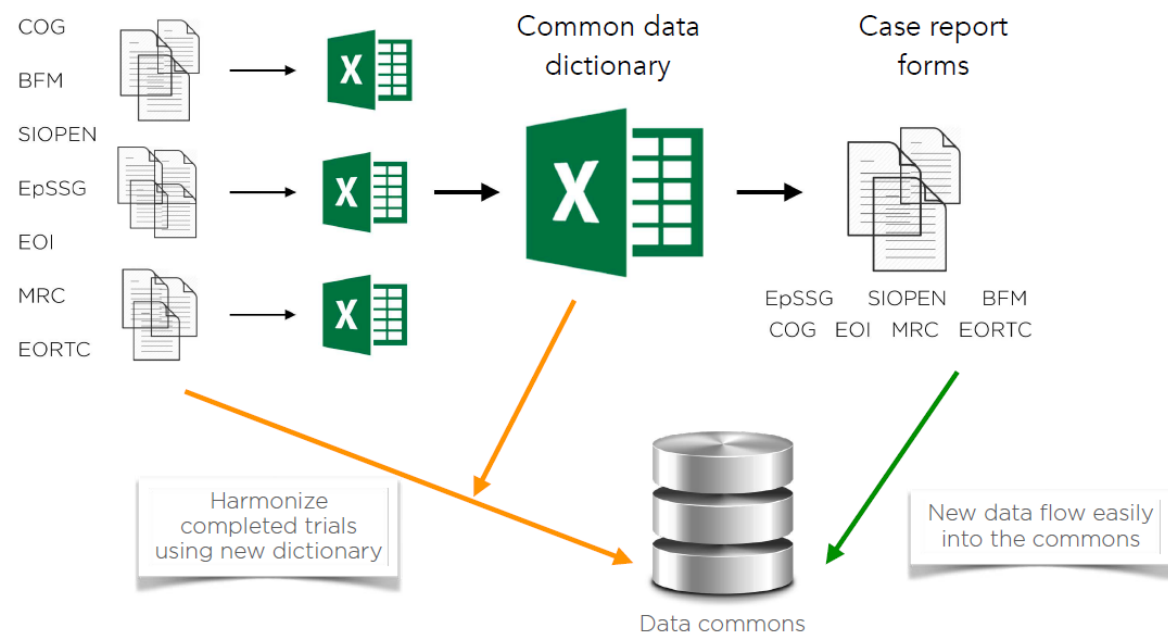
- COG Biospecimen Bank is an unequalled resource
- Project EveryChild (est. 2015) as banking method
- Must determine how well APEC14B1 is working
 - Need to compare enrollment to registry data
 - How complete are clinical data?
 - Inventory of germline material, tumor tissue
 - Can we increase utility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



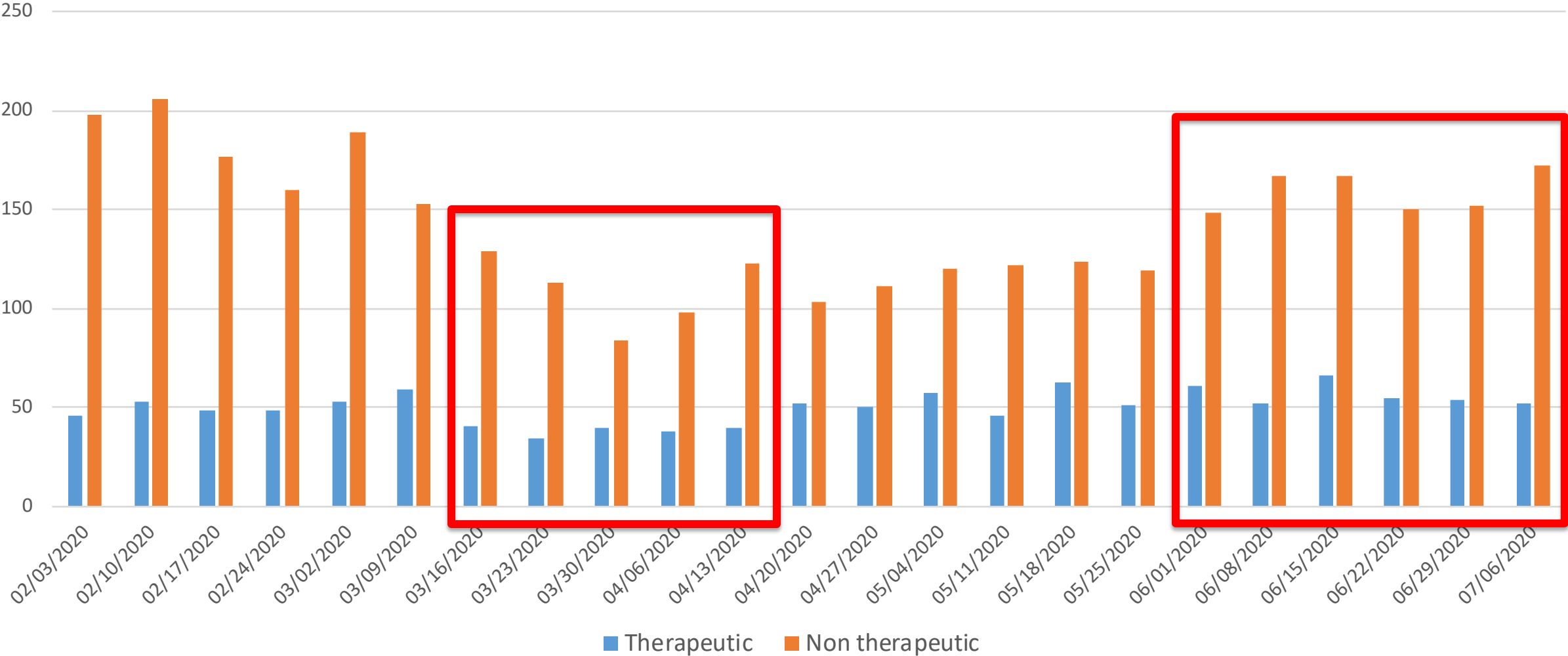
Data sharing, particularly high-dimension

- 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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