



# MULTIDISCIPLINARY TEAM IN MONZA HOSPITAL

by psycho-social and pedagogical team\*

The hospital school of "Istituto Comprensivo Salvo d'Acquisto" has been in San Gerardo Hospital of Monza since 1988.

At present the hospital school of Monza includes a primary school, a secondary school and a high school.

The activity of hospital school teachers is not isolated but it is part of a project which intends to take care of the hospitalized child in a global way, concentrating on the needs of the child and his/ her family. This involves the school and the hospital in a system of relationships called "therapeutic alliance".

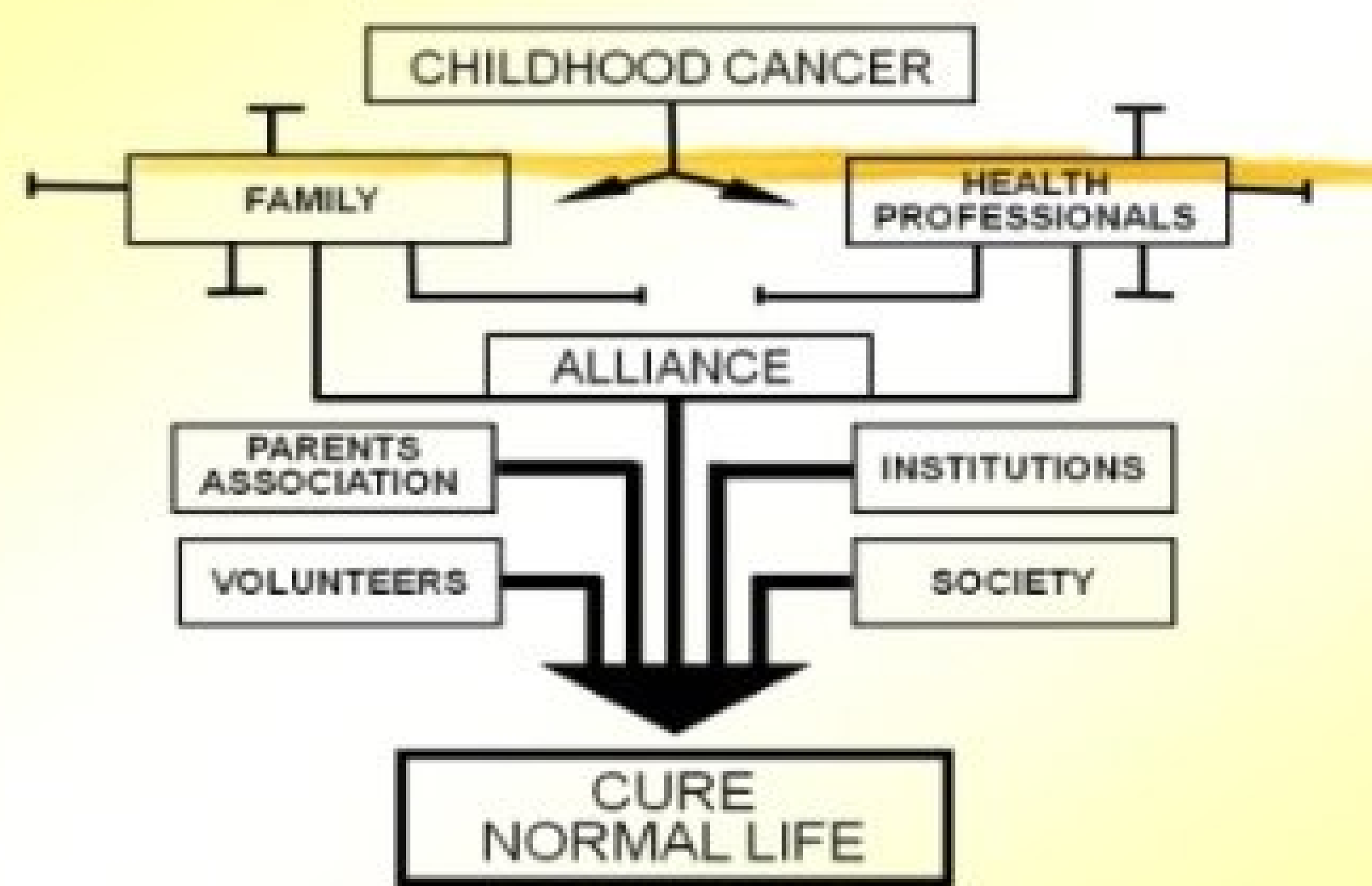
Teachers work together in close cooperation within the team of health operators involved in the "global project" supporting the sick child (doctors, nursing staff, social worker, psychologist, play worker and pedagogue). All operators have to be aware of the healthy, social, psychological and educational situation of the child and the adolescent in order to follow common targets and reach shared results.

## INSTRUMENTS FOR TEAM WORK

-Personal file to record contacts and agreements with the student's school and other subjects involved in the treatment of the "student-patient".

-A letter signed by the pediatric hospital department's director is sent to the school the student comes from to inform about the presence of a Hospital; this letter can guarantee the continuity of educational course.

-Adherence form to the hospital school service, which allows contacts with the student's school.



## METHODS

-Weekly equipe meeting to look over cases and organizing matters

-Entry and current training for new teachers.

-Annual meeting with the headteacher and the pediatric department to check the results

working together with the whole equipe. The play worker organizes play times for children in hospital aged 0 to 6 in particular,

### Play worker

The doctor gives weekly medical updating regarding patients and is available for instructive meetings for new teachers. He/she goes to meet the patient's class when the child goes back to school .

### Pediatric hematologist

### Social worker

The social worker coordinates the ideas and efforts of the psycho-social equipe, she is the point of reference for the hospital school, the children's hospital, Maria Letizia Verga Committee and Monza town hall. She points out special needs to teachers and animators. She organizes updating and keeps constant relationship with the school coordinator.

### school teachers

Teachers have to reach didactic and educational objectives, which are of primary importance to recover patient and school relationship.

### Pedagogist

The pedagogist cooperates in the organization of specific didactic projects for special needs and researches

### School coordinator

The teachers' coordinator in hospital is the reference point for the school director and keeps in contact with the several professional people involved.

### Psychologist

The psychologist shares the child's and parents' situation and background with the equipe, offers teachers a help to face difficult situations and gives possible updating regarding psychological themes.

## Weak points

- Difficulty in communicating with several professional because their different training and approach
- Difficulty in finding place and time to share information about the child
- Risk of interfering with and encroaching on the other professional roles

## Advantages of multi-discipline team

- It allows information exchange among different professionals and optimizes their jobs
- It supports the single's efforts and hard work, enables professional enrichment and prevents discomfort and possible burn out
- It allows synergy of interventions and supports children and their families

## CONCLUSION

In our experience this operating model is useful to teachers because it allows them effective acting and helps health care operators to have a global view of patient's situation. As a consequence this interaction supports the different experts to face hard and emotionally difficult situations. The implementation of this model requires a strong commitment by school and hospital, in terms of economic and human resources.