

Press Release
Villejuif, 2 April, 2013

Exporting French Excellence and Innovation in Health

Gustave Roussy and University Hospital of Sharjah (UHS) sign a joint cooperation agreement to create a dedicated breast-cancer unit in Sharjah (United Arab Emirates)

On 31 March, 2013, a first international co-operation agreement in the fight against cancer was signed by Gustave Roussy and Sharjah University Hospital (the Emirate of Sharjah, United Arab Emirates).

Signed by Professor Alexander Eggermont (Gustave Roussy) and Sultan Bin Mohammad Al-Qasimi with the French Consul General in attendance, the purpose of this agreement is to instigate and develop a multi-disciplinary "breast-cancer unit", based on the model of excellence developed by the Cancer Research Centres in France and the Comprehensive Cancer Centres in Europe.

The "Gustave Roussy" Breast-cancer Unit at Sharjah University Hospital is jointly run by the Sharjah University Hospital and Gustave Roussy. The Gustave Roussy "label" attached to the Unit ensures that it will develop according to the Institute's own exacting standards.

The goal of the « *Gustave Roussy* » *Breast-cancer treatment center* of Sharjah's University Hospital is to offer a co-ordinated patient pathway model that includes the following:

- the rapid diagnosis of a breast lesion
- the development of a treatment pathway
- Breast-cancer surgery, including oncoplastic (reconstructive and plastic surgery)
- the administration of chemotherapy, in particular in a day hospital

"This agreement is demonstrating the relevance of the international strategy developed by the Gustave Roussy institute from a few years. It is an acknowledgement of Gustave Roussy's international influence and the excellence of the care provided by its teams. It is the outcome of the long-term plan at Gustave Roussy to extend state-of-the-art treatment to international patients", underlines Professor Alexander Eggermont, Gustave Roussy's General Director.

The co-operation agreement in detail

The « Gustave Roussy » Breast-cancer treatment center will be rolled out over five years and will be supported by regular visits from a Gustave Roussy "flying" medical team specialising in mammary disease.

The rollout will occur in the following manner:

- **A quick setting-up phase**, lasting from 3 to 4 months. It will include, among other things, the training of Sharjah Hospital health staff at Gustave Roussy (a medical oncologist, a surgeon and a chemotherapy pharmacist).

- **A launch phase**, lasting from 6 to 9 months. In this phase the « *Gustave Roussy* » *Breast-cancer treatment center* will be operational. This phase will include the regular presence of a Gustave Roussy medical team at Sharjah Hospital (3 to 4 days every 6 weeks for a senior medical oncologist, a senior surgeon, two nurses including one operating-block nurse, two physicians including one expert in nuclear medicine, a radiologist and a pharmacist. The team will be led by a project manager who will be present at Sharjah full time for the first 4 to 5 months of the contract, who thereafter will focus on overall follow-up of the unit's operations). The programme also includes multi-disciplinary meetings of the oncologist, surgeon, radiotherapist and radiologist in France.
- **A growth and autonomy phase**, lasting for two years. By this stage the « *Gustave Roussy* » *Breast-cancer treatment center* will be fully functional. This phase will include upscaling the surgical activity and the administration of chemotherapy, training the Sharjah Hospital medical team in the ever more complex protocols and an advanced assessment of how the center is working.
- **A fully-functioning phase**, lasting 2 years. By this stage the Sharjah Hospital medical team will be fully trained and operational in all surgical treatment protocols and in breast-cancer medical oncology, even the most complex. The Gustave Roussy team will be present in support of the Sharjah Hospital team.

Sharjah University Hospital

Sharjah University Hospital was the first university hospital built in the United Arab Emirates. Its influence has spread throughout the region, covering the entire Persian Gulf. It was inaugurated in June, 2011 and is also a medical and research training centre. The Hospital neighbours the campus of the Sharjah Medical School. It is also an academic centre and is organised in "excellence centres" focusing on a pathology or an organ which bring together specialists at the same venue for co-ordinated and multi-disciplinary treatment.

About Sharjah University Hospital:

- 210 beds (emergency, intensive care, on-going care and a day hospital)
- 40 specialty outpatient clinics
- 6 operating blocks
- A pharmacy supplying patients with drugs day and night
- A fully equipped medical-imaging diagnostic department and a pathology laboratory with cutting-edge equipment, run by a highly qualified, experienced staff

About Gustave Roussy

Europe's leading oncology centre, Gustave Roussy is an international institute with expertise in oncology entirely dedicated to its patients. Its single venue contains 2,600 health professionals whose three main missions are care-giving, research and education. By devoting nearly 20% of its budget to research, Gustave Roussy proudly declares its determination to promote research as an innovative engine for the benefit of its patients.

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