

## Press release

# Cancer Core Europe: a consortium to address the cancer care – cancer research continuum challenge

**Gustave Roussy Cancer Campus Grand Paris (Villejuif – France), Cambridge Cancer Centre (Cambridge, United Kingdom), Karolinska Institutet – KI (Stockholm, Sweden), Netherlands Cancer Institute – NKI (Amsterdam, The Netherlands), Vall d’Hebron Institute of Oncology – VHIO (Barcelona, Spain) and the German Cancer Research Center – DKFZ and its National Center for Tumor Diseases – NCT (Heidelberg, Germany) announce the creation of Cancer Core Europe: a consortium to address the cancer care – cancer research continuum challenge.**

The optimal treatment of cancer remains one of the major medical challenges globally due to the high diversity in the spectrum of mutations in individual cancer patients. To tackle this issue, cancer programmes must be better integrated and performed at a large scale. European cancer research is therefore in need of a transformative initiative whereby a consortium of comprehensive cancer centers of excellence will work collectively **in order to carry out joint translational and clinical research in cancer treatment and care.**

To deliver on this objective, Gustave Roussy Cancer Campus Grand Paris (Villejuif – France), Cambridge Cancer Centre (Cambridge, United Kingdom), Karolinska Institutet – KI (Stockholm, Sweden), Netherlands Cancer Institute – NKI (Amsterdam, The Netherlands), Vall d’Hebron Institute of Oncology – VHIO (Barcelona, Spain) and the German Cancer Research Center – DKFZ and its National Center for Tumor Diseases – NCT (Heidelberg, Germany) have jointly decided to create **Cancer Core Europe.**

**As a working consortium, Cancer Core Europe will be a great translational platform to make the bridge "bench-to-bedside and bedside-to-bench" also for conducting next-generation clinical trials focused on proof-of-concept, companion predictive and resistance monitoring biomarkers.**

Abstract on <http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.ejca.2014.07.025>

## The creation of a virtual single “e-hospital”

The prerequisites for joint translational and clinical research programs are very demanding. These require a powerful translational platform that integrates all patient files using a common software platform that federates the databases from each of the centers; inter-compatible clinical molecular profiling laboratories with a robust underlying computational biology pipeline; standardized functional and molecular imaging; commonly agreed SOPs for liquid and tissue biopsy procurement, storage and processing, for molecular diagnostics, “omics”, functional genetics, immune-monitoring; a culture of data collection and storage that facilitates complete longitudinal data sets.

## **A critical mass of activity for the successful integration of all cancer care information, clinical research and outcome research**

Given the excellent track records of the six participants in these areas, Cancer Core Europe will be able to support the full spectrum of research required to address the cancer research – cancer care continuum. Cancer Core Europe also constitutes a unique environment for the training of up-and-coming talents in innovative translational and clinical oncology.

Yearly within the Cancer Core Europe consortium around 60.000 newly diagnosed cancer patients are seen, 300.000 cancer treatments are delivered and about 1.000.000 outpatient visits are performed. More than 1.500 clinical trials are being conducted at these six cancer centers annually. Together with the strengths in basic and translational cancer research, this represents a unique critical mass of activity that once successfully harmonized as one operational clinical research structure will represent and harness a major force in European cancer research.

*"This initiative brings together outstanding cancer centres across Europe in a visionary way. Our understanding of cancer is increasing faster than ever before, and over the next decade or so I believe that this will lead to a revolution in how physicians treat patients. This network will lead that revolution."* – **Dr. Patrick Maxwell, Regius Professor of Physic and Head of the School of Clinical Medicine, University of Cambridge.**

*"The development of Cancer Core Europe is exciting. The understanding of the science that drives cancer growth is leading to rapid and significant changes in how we need to approach the diagnosis, monitoring and treatment of patients with cancer. If we are to be successful in bringing revolutionary new treatment regimens to patients quickly it will require this kind of collaboration across cancer centres. AZ Oncology looks forward to also collaborating with Cancer Core Europe to help deliver this revolutionary vision."* – **Susan Galbraith, Head of Oncology, Astra Zeneca.**

The consortium agreement of Cancer Core Europe was signed in July 2014, in Paris, by Alexander Eggermont (Gustave Roussy), Carlos Caldas (Cambridge Cancer Centre), Ulrik Ringborg (Karolinska Institutet), René Medema (Netherlands Cancer Institute), Josep Taberner (Vall d'Hebron Institute of Oncology), Otmar Wiestler (DKFZ-NCT).

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### **Discover more about the six Cancer Core Europe consortium partners:**

- . Gustave Roussy: [www.gustaveroussy.fr](http://www.gustaveroussy.fr)
- . Cambridge Cancer Centre: [www.cambridgecancercentre.org.uk](http://www.cambridgecancercentre.org.uk)
- . Karolinska Institutet: [www.ki.se](http://www.ki.se)
- . Netherlands Cancer Institute: [www.nki.nl](http://www.nki.nl)
- . Vall d'Hebron Institute of Oncology: [www.vhio.net](http://www.vhio.net)
- . DKFZ-NCT: [www.dkfz.de](http://www.dkfz.de)

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