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123 QUESTIONS TO...



Professor Éric Solary,
Research Director
at Gustave Roussy

Gustave Roussy is going to create a pre-clinical research building. What exactly is this?

Such a facility is becoming essential in order to study new treatments in vivo, develop experimental models prior to human trials, and provide exchanges between clinical and biological research. This 5,000 m² building will require an investment of 45 million euros. Its opening is planned for 2018.

What are the other research projects at the Institute?

We are instigating a discussion process to structure ourselves as a Research Centre, bringing together all research teams of the site. This would give our research greater visibility, and would facilitate scientific exchanges and cross-disciplinary work and the sharing of resources.

Furthermore, in order to reinforce interactions between care and research, Gustave Roussy is now going to create research practitioner posts, whose working time will be divided annually between clinical work and research, facilitating the integration of clinicians into the research laboratories.

The Institute is developing its relations with the Paris-Sud University, future Paris-Saclay University. What does this mean?

We are a university hospital and our Cancer Sciences School has now become the Department of Oncology of the Faculty of Medicine. Our close links with the university also enable us to admit doctoral students and research professors, and generally to make Gustave Roussy an attractive and dynamic structure within its territory. ■

With its Europe unit, Gustave Roussy aims to significantly increase the share of European financing in the overall research budget, and also the number of European projects conducted at the Institute.



While the Cancer Core Europe consortium, initiated by Gustave Roussy and bringing together six European centres of excellence in combating cancer, is entering its active phase, the Europe unit, responsible for supporting research projects, is accelerating its development. This strategy notably aims to enable the teams of the Institute to seize the opportunities offered by the Horizon 2020 European programme for research and innovation.

New strike force

"It is essential to bring about coordinated research strengths in Europe", stresses Professor Fabien Calvo, scientific director of Cancer Core Europe. An idea that led to the creation of this consortium last July: "This platform draws on the specificities and complementarities of each institution", explained Professor Calvo. Their respective expert fields – genomics in Heidelberg and Stockholm, state-of-the-art imaging in Cambridge, early clinical trials in Gustave Roussy and Amsterdam, etc. – will thus be pooled. Advances in personalised medicine research now depend on the capacity to collate and interpret a considerable quantity of information. The databases of each of the centres will also be shared and "ultimately, the consortium will open up to other centres", indicated Professor Calvo.

He is also going to take responsibility for

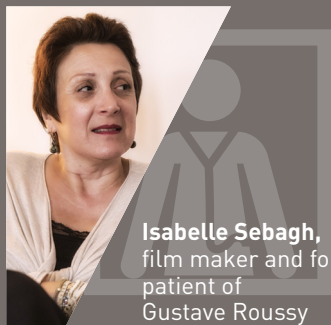
the Europe unit, which is developing within the Research Department. By the summer, a person responsible for reinforcing the presence of Gustave Roussy in European fundamental and translational research projects will thus be recruited in support of the current Europe Programmes team.

In ensuring active monitoring of the promising subjects, in raising awareness of



researchers, and in supporting them in writing projects and setting up financial applications, Gustave Roussy is driving the construction of a European space for oncology research, and making the reinforcement of its partnerships with the countries of the Union a priority. ■

¹ Gustave Roussy (Villejuif, France), Cambridge Cancer Centre (Cambridge, UK), Karolinska Institutet – KI (Stockholm, Sweden), Netherlands Cancer Institute – NKI (Amsterdam, Netherlands), Vall d'Hebron Institute of Oncology – VHIO (Barcelona, Spain), German Cancer Research Center – DKFZ et le National Center for Tumor Diseases – NCT (Heidelberg, Germany)



Isabelle Sebagh,
film maker and former
patient of
Gustave Roussy

From the lion, determination, from the ostrich, poor reflexes.

Aged 55 and with breast cancer behind her, Isabelle Sebagh has experienced the duality that often lives with women facing the disease.

"In spite of an at-risk history, I refused to have mammograms until I could no longer deny the evidence. But it was already late!" Late, but fortunately not too late: Isabelle was treated at Gustave Roussy and discovered there *"a humanised welcome, with kindness and understanding, totally opposite to the idea of "slaughterhouse" that I had of it."*

Surprised by the lack of knowledge of the cancer treatment structures, the self-taught film maker then used her experience and a grant from the Centre National du Cinéma (CNC) to produce a 7-minute short film, *La lionne ou l'autruche*, and a televised spot raising awareness of breast cancer screening and the importance of donation.

And since the future is smiling on her again, Isabelle is not intending to rest there and is now seeking to produce *Une rose in October*. *"A television film about the path of a woman suffering from breast cancer, with all that this can change in her life. A means of going further into the matter of mobilisation, but also better learning about supportive therapies such as homeopathy, hypnosis, etc."* Their lack of promotion has also encouraged her to create *Harmonisons la guérison*, a dedicated endowment fund. ■

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114, rue Édouard-Vaillant 94805 Villejuif Cedex.

Contact : lalettre@gustaveroussy.fr

Texts : Becom!

Conception/réalisation : Département de
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FINANCING OF RESEARCH: ALL RESOURCES ARE VALUABLE

The research budget at Gustave Roussy, around 70 million euros, comes from multiple sources. Its maintenance, even increase, is a constant battle.

While part of the research budget is internal to the Institute, the majority comes from external financing. Inserm, CNRS and Paris-Sud University notably finance the laboratories and the salaries of the researchers. But these administrative appropriations are tending to reduce, while the research requires ever more resources in the research units and in the platforms working for them: animal house, genomics, bioinformatics, etc.

Gustave Roussy therefore actively participates in calls for tenders organised by public agencies, such as the National Research Agency (ANR) and the National Cancer Institute (INCa), or by charity organisations such as the ARC Foundation and the League Against Cancer. Each call for tenders won demonstrates the ability

of Gustave Roussy to attract this external financing "on merit", and constitutes recognition of the quality of the teams and the works conducted at the Institute.

The Institute also appeals directly to the generosity of its donors, notably through the Gustave Roussy Foundation; it can also count on the support of its partner associations.

But more and more biomedical research is requiring large scale projects that are the subject of academic and industrial partnerships via European financing. This is why Gustave Roussy is strengthening its "Europe unit" (see News) in order to develop its relations internationally. ■

THE QUALITY POLICY OF GUSTAVE ROUSSY WINS



Encouraging improvement in quality to the benefit of patients: such is the objective of the governmental programme Financial Incentive for Quality Improvement (IFAQ). Its first experimentation phase has just awarded a prize to Gustave Roussy. A distinction based on the analysis of nationally devised indicators, and which celebrates the quality of the pain management, the keeping of patient records, and the prevention

of nosocomial infections (contracted in hospital), etc., at the Institute.

The prize will make it possible to further develop the quality policy, via the recruitment of a quality engineer dedicated to accreditation procedures and an internal call for tenders promoting innovative quality procedures. ■



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