OPTIMISING COLLABORATIONS TO FOSTER INNOVATION

R&D UNICANCER, the leading French academic clinical research organisation in oncology
UNICANCER is one of the largest cancer care and research organisations in Europe. Established in 1994, R&D UNICANCER is UNICANCER’s mutualised clinical and translational research entity. With 150 employees, this integrated structure can rely on 20 French Comprehensive Cancer Centres (FCCCs) grouped together in UNICANCER and located throughout the French territory. R&D UNICANCER works with most public and private hospitals involved in cancer treatment in France, as well as with more than 100 hospitals across Europe and the main international cooperative groups involved in cancer research. R&D UNICANCER is accredited by the Ministry of Health and is eligible for public grants.

Our research priorities

**FACILITATE PATIENT ACCESS TO INNOVATION FOR A BETTER CARE**
- Develop innovative research into targeted therapies and immunotherapy programmes
- Give patients an early access to new therapies thanks to our early phase centres of excellence

**PROMOTE CLINICAL RESEARCH IN AREAS NEGLECTED BY THE PHARMACEUTICAL INDUSTRY**
- Rare cancers, paediatric & elderly populations, surgery, radiotherapy, supportive care

**ENCOURAGE TRANSLATIONAL RESEARCH AND INCREASE CANCER KNOWLEDGE IN ORDER TO DEVELOP FUTURE THERAPEUTIC WEAPONS**
- Biological samples are collected in every clinical trial, with open access for research

**OPTIMISE THERAPEUTIC STRATEGIES**
- Design studies to adapt treatments and therapeutic sequences according to prognostic criteria

**BETTER UNDERSTAND THE DIFFERENT STANDARDS OF TREATMENT, THE MECHANISMS OF TREATMENT RESPONSE, TOXICITIES AND RESISTANCE**
- Generate large prospective or retrospective epidemiological cohorts

What R&D UNICANCER can bring to your organisation

**FCCCs**
A unique national network of 20 FCCCs, which are private not-for-profit hospitals dedicated to fighting cancer through a threefold mission: care, research and education.

**Technical platforms**
Access to state-of-the-art technical platforms within the FCCCs, fully equipped for molecular screening, translational research, bioinformatics, etc.

**Expert Groups**
Internationally recognised scientific and medical expertise provided by cooperative groups of top-level clinicians and scientists, all oriented towards research excellence and innovation for the benefit of the patients.

**Biobank & Data centre**
A centralised biobank and an FDA compliant centralised data centre.

**ESME**
A department devoted to Real World Data research in Epidemiological Strategy and Medical Economics.

**A unique network**
A powerful network of scientific collaborations with other cancer cooperative groups at national and international level, as well as with stakeholders from the public and private sectors. R&D UNICANCER hosts the French liaison office of the European Organisation for Research and Treatment of Cancer (EORTC).

**Clinical operations**
An in-house clinical operations department of highly skilled and dedicated teams allowing for customised partnerships: R&D UNICANCER can act as full sponsor or preferred partner in collaborative researches.

**MATWIN**
A unit for maturation & accelerating translation with Industry.
UNICANCER EXPERT GROUPS

UNICANCER tumour groups

All UNICANCER tumour groups share common goals:
  > to evaluate existing and new therapeutic strategies
  > to improve patient prognosis and quality of life through personalised treatments
  > to develop innovative approaches to cancer treatment
  > to identify predictors of treatment response, resistance and toxicity.

To achieve these goals, the UNICANCER tumour groups develop strategic clinical research programs with a strong translational component that relies upon a systematic centralised banking of biological samples. These clinical studies involve the FCCCs’ units and platforms as well as a large number of public and private hospitals in France. All UNICANCER tumour groups are moving towards international clinical trials thanks to various partnerships with other cooperative groups and strong collaborations with industry.

French Breast Cancer Intergroup (UCBG)*

President: Dr Suzette DELALOGE, Gustave Roussy, Villejuif
Collaborations
French / EU level: INCa / GENMED / European academic groups (UK NCRN, SAKK, GBG) / European intergroups (BIG, EORTC)
International level: SWOG, MCCRC
Strategic priorities: Subtypes with poor prognosis / biology-driven strategies of therapeutic de-escalation / long-term follow-up data

Genitourinary Group (GETUG)*

President: Prof. Stéphane CULINE, Saint-Louis Hospital, Paris
Collaborations
French / EU level: AFU / CeRePP / GERICO / AF SOS / EORTC / PEACE (Prostate Consortium in Europe) / EBMT
International level: Various key hospitals leaders in the genitourinary field
Strategic priorities: biobanking / proof of concept studies / therapeutic strategies evaluation / real-life data / medical economics

Gastrointestinal Group (UCGI)

President: Dr David MALKA, Gustave Roussy, Paris
Collaborations
French / EU level: FFCD & GERCOR within the PRODIGE intergroup / EORTC
International level: NCI of Canada / Canadian Cancer Trials Group
Strategic priorities: translational research / innovative studies / improvement of therapeutic strategies in adjuvant and metastatic setting

Sarcoma Group*

President: Prof. Jean-Yves BLAY, Léon Bérard Centre, Lyon
Collaborations
French / EU level: INCa / GS F-GET O French Sarcoma Group / Go-AJA / INTERSARC / EORTC / EuroEwing consortium / Patient Advocacy Groups
International level: Various key hospitals leaders in the genitourinary field
Strategic priorities: improvement of initial management of sarcomas and rare connective tissue tumours / biobanking / translational research

Head & Neck Group (UCH&N)

President: Prof. Joël GUIGAY, Antoine Lacassagne Centre, Nice
Collaborations
French / EU level: GORTEC, GETTEC, GERCOR within the head & neck intergroup / EORTC
Strategic priorities: early-phase studies / rare cancers / biology-driven medicine

LEXICON
AF SOS: French Association of Supportive care in cancer
AFU: French Association of Urology
BIG: Breast International Group
CeRePP: Research group on prostate cancer and urologic tumours
EBMT: European Society for Blood and Marrow Transplantation
EORTC: European Organisation for Research and Treatment of Cancer
FFCD: French group of Digestive Oncology
GBG: German Breast Group
GENMED: Laboratory of Excellence in MEDical GENomics
GERCOR: Multidisciplinary Cooperative Group in Oncology
GETTEC: French Head & Neck cancer Study Group
GORTEC: Cooperative Group of Radiation therapy for head and neck cancer
Go-AJA: Adolescents and Young Adults onco-haematology Group
INCa: French National Cancer Institute
INTERSARC: French network of Cooperative Groups in the field of sarcoma
MCCRC: Mayo Clinic Cancer Research Consortium
SAKK: Swiss Group for Clinical Cancer Research
SWOG: SouthWest Oncology Group
UK NCRN: UK National Cancer Research Network

* INCa accredited-group
UNICANCER expert groups are multidisciplinary groups focused on developing and steering innovative clinical studies. Their goals are to optimise treatment strategies and to contribute to scientific education and dissemination in their field, through participation in conferences and publications. The French National Cancer Institute (INCa) has granted its quality label to four R&D UNICANCER expert groups, thus acknowledging their operating capability and excellence.

UNICANCER cross-pathology groups

**Oncogeriatrics Group (GERICO)**

The **UNICANCER Oncogeriatrics Group** forms, together with the UCOG oncogeriatric coordination units, the DIALOG intergroup, which is accredited by INCa. It brings together oncologists, geriatricians, radiotherapists, surgeons, biostatisticians and pharmacologists, all working towards promoting clinical research and innovation in oncogeriatry and tailoring clinical trials for the elderly population by adapting methodological approaches and rationalising diagnostics and treatments.

**President:** Dr Étienne BRAIN, Curie Institute – René Huguenin Hospital, Saint-Cloud

**Personalised Medicine Programme**

The **UNICANCER Personalised Medicine Programme** develops multidrug predictors to enable the selection of the most effective treatments for individual patients. This multidisciplinary group of experts in biology-driven medicine develops programmes aimed at: proof of concept for personalised treatments, identification of predictors of sensitivity or resistance to therapy, identification of biomarkers of relapse or extreme responses and validation of therapeutic decision algorithms based on biological tests. Cross-pathology trials are developed in close collaboration with several tumour-specific groups in France.

**President:** Prof. Fabrice ANDRÉ, Gustave Roussy, Villejuif

**Early Phase Group (GEP)**

The **UNICANCER Early Phase Group** has become an important player in France, acknowledged by academic and industrial partners for the quality of its phase I and phase II trials. It is committed to providing patients with early access to innovative treatments by designing increasingly complex trials according to the latest methodologies and research developed in the area of precision medicine.

**President:** Dr Thomas BACHELOT, Léon Bérard Centre, Lyon

**Supportive Care Intergroup**

The **UNICANCER-AFSOS Supportive Care Intergroup** has set itself the ambitious goal to design and conduct high-standards clinical programmes using the most up-to-date and optimal methodology available, including the evaluation of quality of life and, whenever possible, a cost-efficiency analysis. Building a bridge with humanities and social sciences has also become key to this group.

**President:** Prof. Ivan KRAKOWSKI, Bergonié Institute, Bordeaux

**Translational Research and Development in Radiation Oncology (UNITRADIAD)**

The **UNICANCER Translational Research and Development in Radiation Oncology Group**'s goal is to promote innovative and strategic radiotherapy research programmes, and to develop collaborative networks. Its experts work on numerous topics such as brachytherapy, imaging, modelling and radiomics, radiobiology and radiopotentiation, ionising radiation, quality assurance and methodology.

**President:** Prof. David AZRIA, Montpellier Cancer Institute, Montpellier

**Immuno-Oncology Group**

Established in 2016, the **UNICANCER Immuno-Oncology Group** embodies UNICANCER’s strong desire to be a major player in cancer immunotherapy research. Bringing together renowned researchers and clinicians from the areas of immunology and oncology, this group offers a framework for cross-fertilisation and a dozen clinical and translational studies involving immune checkpoint inhibitors are already underway.

**President:** Prof. Frédérique Penault-Llorca, Jean Perrin Centre, Clermont-Ferrand
SHAPING FUTURE RESEARCH: R&D UNICANCER FLAGSHIP PROGRAMS

CANTO
This large prospective cohort study aims to quantify and predict treatment-related chronic toxicities, and to evaluate psychological, social and economic impact of these toxicities in patients with non-metastatic breast cancer. Over 10,000 women have been included since 2012.

SAFIR
These “umbrella” studies assess the efficacy of high-throughput genome analysis as a therapeutic decision tool for patients with metastatic breast cancer or metastatic non-small cell lung cancer.

AcSé
These “basket” studies, led by UNICANCER under the auspices of the French NCI (INCa), provide secure access to innovative, targeted therapies (crizotinib and vemurafenib, so far) for patients (including children) with tumours harbouring the corresponding molecular signature. A new AcSé programme has just started, enabling the treatment of patients with rare cancers with anti-PD-1 immunotherapies, namely nivolumab and pembrolizumab.

ESME
Launched in 2014, ESME is the first French independent academic “real life” database in oncology, centralising all longitudinal data available in routine practice. Its aim is to describe the use of cancer treatments and assess available therapeutic strategies. Two initial programmes are ongoing in breast and ovarian cancers.

EXPRESS
This cohort study, started in 2016, aims to identify genetic characteristics unique to patients presenting an unexpected and exceptional response to targeted therapies approved in France. The response of 264 patients with diverse solid tumours will be analysed in separate multidrug cohorts according to tumour type.

FRENCH COMPREHENSIVE CANCER CENTRES (FCCCS)*

19,000 employees
and more than 135,000 patients hospitalised each year – mainly with solid tumours

17%
of the patients treated in the FCCCs are included in a clinical trial, vs 8.5% of cancer patients in France as a whole

PLATFORMS AND RESEARCH UNITS OF EXCELLENCE*

19
FCCCs are INCa-certified Molecular biology platforms

7
FCCCs are INCa-certified integrated cancerology research sites (SIRIC) out of 8 in France

12
FCCCs are INCa-certified early-phase clinical trial Centres (CLIP²), out of 16 in France

R&D UNICANCER SPONSORED RESEARCH*

76
ongoing clinical trials

250
investigator sites involved in 2015, including 100 located in 12 other European countries

5400
patients included in 2016 (5,000 in 2014 and 2015)

* 2016 figures
We are your academic partner of choice in oncology research

R&D unicancer is a mutualised research organisation, unique in france, dedicated to increasing knowledge about cancer and its response to treatment, to optimising therapeutic strategies and to accelerating patient access to innovative treatments.

To serve this goal, our ambition is to develop customised and mutually beneficial partnerships with public and private stakeholders involved in oncology research both in France and internationally, and to create new networks structured around innovation.

We believe that our technical extensive network of experts and scientific collaborations, our research portfolio, our technical platform, as well as our integrated structure and our independence conferred by the private though non-commercial status, put R&D UNICANCER in the best position to address your research challenges.

About UNICANCER

UNICANCER groups together the 20 French Comprehensive Cancer Centres (FCCCs) which are private, not-for-profit hospitals located across French territory.

FCCCs are dedicated to fighting cancer through a threefold mission of patient care, research and education. They contribute to the public hospital service in accordance with statutory fees, with no additional charge.

For more information, please visit our website: http://www.unicancer.fr/en

About our charity partners

We are in close long-term partnerships based on shared research areas with the French League Against Cancer and the ARC Foundation, two not-for-profit organisations that subsidise cancer research.

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