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123 QUESTIONS FOR...



Prof. Gilles Vassal,
Clinical Research
Director at Gustave
Roussy and President
of the European
Society of Paediatric
Oncology

How far has research in the field of childhood cancers come?

The Imagine for Margo association organised a seminar at the French Senate on 14 February with a number of other parent associations in attendance. The observation made is that research is not progressing as fast as we need it to, largely because it is difficult to gain access to drugs developed for the treatment of adult cancers...

What are the priority areas ?

We have to conduct clinical trials and focus on fundamental research to speed up access to therapeutic innovations: every day, in France, more than one child or teenager dies of cancer. We have to improve our exploration of long-term treatment toxicity: more than one third of adults who have recovered from a childhood cancer experience severe after-effects.

What is Gustave Roussy's contribution ?

Our molecular research programme, Moscato, launched in 2011, began with the creation of a paediatric cohort so that children who had suffered a recurrence of their cancer could have a molecular portrait of their tumour drawn up and be given access to the targeted treatments available. Today, our MAPPYACTS project, which extends our approach to a national and European scale, will be financed within the context of the hospital clinical research programme.

Agnès Buzyn, Director of the French National cancer Institute (Inca), also announced that Gustave Roussy is one of six mixed Early Phase Clinical Trial Centres, i.e. centres accredited to conduct early-phase trials in both adults and children. Finally, we are putting the finishing touches to the long-term follow-up research programme for the next ten years. ■

THE PAEDIATRICS DEPARTMENT GETS A FACELIFT THANKS TO DONORS

The Department of Childhood and Teenage Cancerology has been given a makeover to reflect new approaches to the care of young patients. A large-scale project made possible thanks to an extraordinary wave of generosity.



«This project is the result of a collective vision of patient care. We wanted a facility adapted to the treatments, the children, their families and the medical and nursing personnel.»

The working group spent a year designing the premises to reflect these needs rather than the reverse», explains Dr Dominique Valteau-Couanet, Head of the Department of Childhood and Teenage Cancerology.

At the end of 2014, following the long reflection process and three years of building work, the brand new premises - entirely redesigned and renovated - were inaugurated by the French Minister of Health, Marisol Touraine.

A wave of solidarity

It was the generosity of donors that provided close to half of the €3,238,000 required for the work, with more than 1,000 people, associations, foundations, companies and sponsors responding to Gustave Roussy's *«poussons les murs»* («pushing the boundaries») appeal.

«It is extremely difficult for a hospital to carry out building work on a major scale. But the donors fully understood the stakes for the young patients and their families. What's more, many of them asked work colleagues, friends and family to contribute to the project», enthuses Francine Trocmé,

the Institute's Sponsorship Manager.

«The donations had a direct impact on the progress of the work but they also undoubtedly acted as a lever in terms of mobilising other sources of funding.»

The day hospital's capacity has been increased to allow more children to come in for treatment before returning home to their families in the evening.

The parent's hotel has also been redesigned and set up at the heart of the hospital.

Treatment areas have been brought together, and a communal activity area has also been created.

This area comprises a school, an art workshop, a psychomotricity workshop and the offices of several volunteer associations, who are extremely active in the department.

Light floods into the rooms, with coloured balloons throughout guiding users to their destination: red for consultations, yellow for activity workshops, purple for neuropsychology, etc.

The department is thus equipped to *«meet the cancerology needs of the 21st century»*, concludes Dr Dominique Valteau-Couanet ■

ACTU



Apprenticeship tax: a weapon in the fight against cancer

Patrice Cougnaud
CEO, Yves Cougnaud S.A.

«In allocating a share of its apprenticeship tax to Gustave Roussy, our company is contributing in its own way to a fight that concerns us all, namely, the fight against cancer.» Patrice Cougnaud sums up the commitment and philosophy of Yves Cougnaud, the industrial construction specialists, in a single sentence.

«A family company, founded by my father in the 1970s... the company, now managed by his four sons, employs 1,300 people», he describes.

«We worked with Gustave Roussy on the construction of its new molecular medicine building. The project has shown us just how important it is for ordinary people to support research work aimed at tackling the disease. The decision to contribute to the fight via our apprenticeship tax was an easy one to make, with some of the tax paid to the institute and its School of cancer Sciences.»

Each year, more than 1,100 companies make similar donations, representing €1.3 million collected by the Institute in 2014.

However, a reform is set to reduce the amount of apprenticeship tax collected by the Institute this year by 58%.

Antoine Crouan, Executive Director of the School of cancer Sciences, is keen to reiterate that «any company can pay its apprenticeship tax to Gustave Roussy, be they suppliers, donors or companies with no previous connections to the centre. And the School of Cancer Sciences is happy to open its doors to companies wishing to come and see the centre's work for themselves.» ■

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114, rue Édouard-Vaillant 94805 Villejuif Cedex.
Contact: lalettre@gustaveroussy.fr
Texts: Becom!
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SIMULATION, A TRAINING TOOL

In April, Gustave Roussy's anaesthesia-intensive care and radiology teams will attend a highly original and innovative training course hosted within the LabForSims simulation platform at the Paris-Sud Faculty of Medicine.

In concrete terms, they will have to deal with an emergency situation simulated on a «life-like» baby dummy.

Dr Antonia Blanié is one of LabForSims' educational and scientific managers: «the dummy looks like a child and contains IT and electronic components to simulate breathing, a pulse, blood pressure, etc.

We can programme the dummy to simulate a range of emergency paediatric events and see how the medical and paramedical teams take decisions and work together».

The purpose is to analyse and improve care quality and safety.

«Simulation is increasingly used in France to train future professionals as well as those already in practice, doctors as well as paramedics», explains Bertrand Bech, the laboratory's Technical and Administrative Manager. For Gustave Roussy, recourse to this form of training is a first at LabForSims, but certainly not the last.

The laboratory offers a broad range of simulation tools enabling users to practice specific techniques, deal with challenging human scenarios and fine-tune teamwork, as a function of needs. ■

• To find out more : www.medicine.u-psud.fr/fr/labfor-sims.html

«YOU DON'T NEED TO OWN A CHÂTEAU TO MAKE A BEQUEST FOR THE FIGHT AGAINST CANCER»

DON PAR TESTAMENT

PAS BESOIN D'AVOIR UN CHÂTEAU POUR FAIRE UN LEGS CONTRE LE CANCER

Quel que soit le montant de votre legs à Gustave Roussy, vous contribuerez personnellement à soutenir :

- notre mission de soins : guérir plus de malades atteints du cancer (47 000 patients suivis chaque année dont 11 470 nouveaux patients).
- la recherche innovante de Gustave Roussy, 1^{er} Centre de Lutte contre le Cancer en Europe (31 équipes de recherche, 250 chercheurs, 1 200 publications scientifiques internationales).

Que l'objet de votre legs porte sur tout ou partie de vos biens, mobiliers ou immobiliers, soyez assurés que nous saurons à cœur d'être à la hauteur de votre générosité.

Pour toute question, contactez notre spécialiste Marianne Capozano au 01 42 11 62 10 ou par e-mail : marianne.capozano@gustaveroussy.fr

GUSTAVE ROUSSY
CENTRE DE LUTTE CONTRE LE CANCER
114, rue Édouard-Vaillant • 94805 Villejuif Cedex

Van Gogh's Noon: Rest from Work has made way for the chateau de Chambord! The world-famous chateau serves as the new visual counterpoint to the central message of Gustave Roussy's campaign to encourage people to leave money to the Institute: there is no such thing as a small donation. Stocks, shares, property, etc.: all assets, regardless of value, contribute to the development of the innovative research conducted at Europe's leading cancer centre.

Every year, bequests amounting to several millions of Euros are used to purchase new cutting-edge equipment, improve the Institute's facilities and make further inroads in the battle against the disease. ■



To find out more:
www.dons-gustaveroussy.fr/legs