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123 QUESTIONS TO...



Thierry Lombard,
Chairman of the
Board of Fondation
Philanthropia

What is the Philanthropia Foundation?

It is an umbrella Fondation Philanthropia set up by Lombard Odier bank. Its purpose is to facilitate the implementation of its donors' philanthropic initiatives. It helps sponsors select their preferred projects to support and provides them with administrative, legal and accounting services. Since 2008, the Fondation Philanthropia Foundation has donated more than CHF37 million to some 60 organisations. Of this, CHF10 million has been specifically channelled towards the fight against cancer.

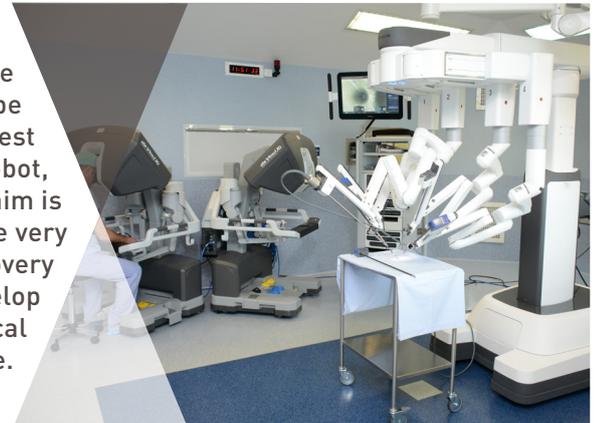
Can you tell us about the Foundation's work alongside Gustave Roussy?

The partnership between the Fondation Philanthropia and Gustave Roussy dates back to 2013. Following a rigorous selection process involving a scientific committee made up of world acclaimed researchers and financial experts, the Fondation Philanthropia selected three projects put forward by Gustave Roussy. These projects, relating to personalised medicine and support for young oncologists, represent a total investment of €5,4 million.

Why did you finance the da Vinci Xi robot?

Our initial partnership agreement signed in 2013 marked the beginning of a fruitful collaboration between our two institutions. We had already discussed the need to develop Gustave Roussy's surgical capacity. This new support illustrates how sponsors can contribute to innovation investment alongside the efforts made by government. It is important to ensure that this project not only provides access to the best care for patients of Europe's leading cancer centre, but also drives progress in terms of research and surgical training. ■

The Institute is the first facility in Europe to acquire the latest generation of surgical robot, the da Vinci Xi. The aim is to give patients the very best chances of recovery today and to develop the innovative surgical techniques of the future.



Four shorter, narrow arms, a unique tro-car, a three-dimensional, high-definition imaging system..., the performance of the da Vinci Xi surgical robot far exceeds that of its predecessors and radically increases surgeons' capabilities. For patients, the use of the robot means less bleeding, less pain, a lower risk of infection and tumour spread, shorter operating times and faster recovery than with conventional operating techniques.

The acquisition was only made possible thanks to the support of the Philanthropia Foundation, which is financing the entire purchase cost of the robot and its command consoles, as well as maintenance for the first year, i.e. a sum of €2.785 million (read opposite).

The arrival of the da Vinci Xi at Gustave Roussy will allow the Institute to develop robotic surgery in five fields: gynaecological surgery, ENT and cervico-facial surgery, visceral and hepato-pancreatic surgery, sarcoma surgery and reconstructive surgery. For example, with cervical cancer, thanks to an image magnified up to 12 times, surgeons will be better able to identify and spare the nerve fibres of patients and protect their urinary continence. For head and neck cancers, surgery via the mouth will be made easier, thereby minimising

aesthetic damage and allowing patients to start eating normally again sooner. A total of around 450 operations per year will be possible with this robot from today.

Robotics will also promote the development of outpatient surgery, the surgery of the future. And the da Vinci Xi system will also be made available for teaching purposes, to develop surgeon's skills, and research with a view to devising new surgical approaches. «*Robotic surgery is a crucial asset for teaching and training purposes as well as the development of clinical research projects in the field of cancer surgery. We are absolutely convinced about the potential of robotic cancer surgery in fields so far little explored*», adds Prof. Philippe Morice, project manager at the institute. ■

NEWS

THE FLAGSHIP OF SURGICAL ROBOTS AT GUSTAVE ROUSSY



Naima Mezaour,
manager of the
Information Systems
department (IS
Department)

« My parents wanted me to study medicine. I actually opted for a career in IT engineering but my work has always been focused on the field of medical informatics. I arrived at Gustave Roussy five years ago. It's a dynamic facility with outstanding care provision and research activities. The institute is also a pioneer in the field of IT: one of the first centres to have created a system of patient files with a unique identifier, back in the early 80s. »

Alongside the thirty or so people who work in the IS Department, she has already overseen a number of major projects, such as the computerisation of patient care records and connected prescriptions. But there's more to come. «The digital hospital is a significant component of Gustave Roussy's new strategic plan. In 2015, we're going to be launching the first version of the portal aimed at both patients and professionals. The portal will contain medical data, allow appointments to be made online, enable remote patient monitoring, etc.» An ambitious project for which Naima Mezaour knows she can count on the commitment of the various professions.

She is also tremendously enthusiastic about research: «Data relating to 600,000 patients accumulated since the 1980s: no other facility has access to data going back such a long way! Hence we're putting in place the software tools, calculation infrastructures and storage platforms required to allow us to exploit this information and the substantial volumes of data generated today by genomics.» ■

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The leading French players in the field of early-phase oncology trials gathered at Gustave Roussy to discuss the future of their activity.

What are the conditions required to ensure France continues to play a major role in early-phase oncology trials, crucial for evaluating the potential (safety and efficacy) of innovative drug substances and accelerating their availability? This question was the focus of discussions at the third round table organised by the Department of Therapeutic Innovation and Early Trials (DITEP) at Gustave Roussy on 3 November.

At the meeting, representatives from the Haute Autorité de santé (French National Authority for Health), the French Agency for the safety of medicines and healthcare products (ANSM), the French National Cancer Institute (INCa) and the pharmaceutical industry hailed the attractiveness of France, underpinned by the excellence of early-phase clinical trial centres and INCa-labelled molecular genetics platforms. But, at the same time, all participants bemoaned the excessive red tape holding back the setting up of trials as well as the growing complexity of evaluations,

hampering the emergence of a new drug development model and patient access to therapeutic innovation.

The advent of targeted therapies and, more recently, new immunotherapies, has led to a rethink in terms of the design of early-phase trials. Prof. Jean-Charles Soria, head of DITEP at Gustave Roussy explains: «we're entering an era in which drug combinations are going to become essential if we are to offer patients any significant increase in benefits». Consequently, clinical research, and early-phase trials in particular, now form an integral component of a patient's care path, although this does raise issues in terms of equal access across the country and medico-economic impact. ■

For more information
www.gustaveroussy.fr

MYHOSPIFRIENDS, THE WEBSITE THAT BRINGS PATIENTS TOGETHER



The first social network aimed specifically at people in hospital, My Hospi Friends arrived at Gustave Roussy at the start of October. Since then, all patients have been able to access the site free of charge, via their phone, PC or tablet. Once they have set up an account and a pseudonym, patients can share their passions and interests and chat to each other online. They will also find useful information about the cultural and well-being activities, aesthetic care, etc. on offer in the hospital. This tool, which works much like Facebook, will undoubtedly help take patients' minds off their illness and make them feel less isolated. ■

gustaveroussy.myhf.fr



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www.gustaveroussy.fr