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## 123 QUESTIONS TO...



**Charles Guépratte,**  
Deputy General Director  
of Gustave Roussy

*The Institute's 2014 activity report  
has just been published.*

*What message can we take from this?*

It highlights the will of Gustave Roussy to place innovation at the heart of a human, scientific, technological and services revolution, to the benefit of patients. The Institute also finishes the year with a better balance sheet than expected, which demonstrates the soundness of our strategic orientations.

*Focusing on innovation often requires  
major investments...*

Indeed, Gustave Roussy notably improved its radiotherapy treatment offer, renovated its Child and Adolescent Oncology Department, and acquired a latest generation da Vinci surgical robot. And for these major projects, it was able to count on the generosity of civil society, and notably via the Philanthropia Foundation, its biggest private sponsor, of many large sponsors, of the associations and communities that support us, and naturally its foundation, the Gustave Roussy Research Foundation.

*How does the Institute manage  
financially?*

It ends the year almost balanced: -1.3 million euros, which is well below the projected deficit of € 4.9m and represents only 0.4% of its overall revenues, which amount to € 313,846m. This result was possible thanks to an increase in the hospitalisation activity: 11,300 new patients were treated in 2014, which is up 3.1% in relation to 2013. Gustave Roussy also saw its related revenues increase, notably through the treatment of foreign and paying patients, which confirms the development of the international attractiveness of the Institute. ■

## NEWS

### ROBOTIC SURGERY: A GLOBAL FIRST IN ORL



After digestive surgery and gynaecology, it is the turn of ORL to benefit from the advantages of the da Vinci Xi robot acquired by Gustave Roussy at the end of 2014, thanks to the support of the Philanthropia Foundation.

On 27 May, Dr Philippe Gorphe, surgeon at Gustave Roussy, removed a tumour of the pharynx from a patient using the da Vinci Xi robot. *"It was the first time in the world that a robot of this generation undertook an otorhinolaryngology (ORL) operation"*, emphasised the doctor.

The reference treatment of these tumours requires surgery to remove the tumour and the lymph nodes of the neck, then radiotherapy to eliminate the residual cells and avoid recurrences. But the procedure is "degraded": the surgeon must open the neck or the jaw to access the tumour. This requires several weeks of tracheotomy and artificial feeding, before the patient can breathe and eat normally. And the procedure leaves significant side effects: scars, pain, difficulties in elocution, risk of infection, etc.

The flexible arms of the da Vinci make it possible to introduce a camera and instruments through the mouth. *"The robot is not autonomous. It is a tool guided by the surgeon robot"*, specified Dr Gorphe. Sat at a workstation in the operating theatre, he controls and views the movements of the robot, in three dimensions and in high definition. The procedure is

thus faster and its post-operative course simpler. The patient has no visible scar and can often breathe and eat normally from the day after the operation.

Philippe Gorphe has been practising robotic surgery for several years and has attended several training courses. During this procedure, he was assisted by Dr Dana Hartl, also an ORL surgeon at Gustave Roussy, a training officer of the company Intuitive, the manufacturer of the robot, and an experienced supervisor. This first was conducted within the framework of a clinical study: *"we have to validate these procedures on an oncological level, i.e. verify that they make it possible to remove the whole of the tumour and, in the longer term and over a sufficient number of patients, that they offer a global survival rate without recurrence at least equivalent to the traditional techniques"*, detailed the surgeon.

Now this first patient is well and has returned home. Very soon a new patient will be operated with robotic surgery for a tumour located at the root of the tongue. A dozen ORL procedures should take place by the end of 2015. ■

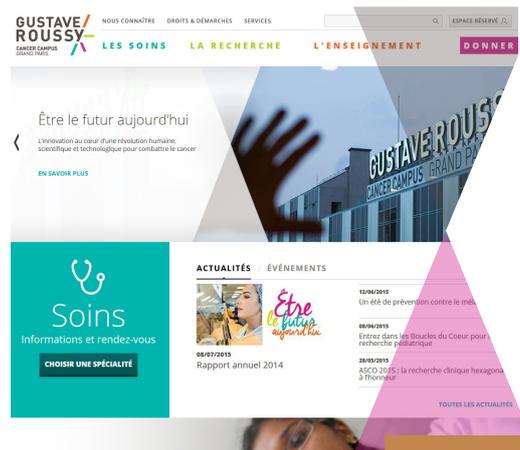


## A DUO OF WOMEN AT THE FOREFRONT OF THE FIGHT AGAINST MELANOMA

Dr Caroline Robert, head of the Gustave Roussy dermatology department, and Dr Christine Mateus, her deputy, provide winning complementarity at the head of this department, pioneer in the treatment of melanoma in France and in Europe. Caroline Robert is totally committed to the research for new cancer treatments. Head of the department since 2005, she also directs a research team, with Dr Stephan Vagner, within an Inserm laboratory. She has set up an effective team, at the intersection of clinical practice, clinical research and more fundamental research. The optimisation of treatments is at the heart of this effective organisation which has enabled the team to be a leader in the development of new treatments for metastatic melanoma, in immunotherapy and in personalised medicine. They have made it possible to significantly increase the life expectancy of the patients. Still on the bridge between two international conferences, she continues to see patients and is working to raise funds for research; and patients are going to wear the colours of the Together Against Melanoma community to the top of Kilimanjaro! She will be appointed professor in the coming weeks.

Christine Mateus devotes more time to consultations, and plays a major role in clinical research and in the development of innovative treatments. A dermatologist first, she also has experience in oncology. She has been at Gustave Roussy since 2006, and she notes that, when she began, "there was no treatment against advanced melanoma, while today we have a very extensive therapeutic arsenal and we really hope to be able to cure these patients. I also came to oncology for this: there is something with patients that bonds us from the first consultation. They entrust us with their lives. We all have the same enemy, which is this disease. We are all in the same fight, the same war, together." ■

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## THE WEBSITE GETS A FACELIFT

Uncluttered design, restructured information, enhanced contents and more online services, the new Gustave Roussy website signals the digital transformation underway at the Institute.

Treatment, Research and Teaching: the three fundamental missions of Gustave Roussy are reflected in the new structure of its website. "The objective is to meet the need for information and respond to the worries of each of our audiences through the website. As a priority the patients and their relatives, but also health professionals, researchers, students, donors, the general public", described Christine Lascombe, Director of Communication of the Institute.

The new website was devised in collaboration with patients in order to best meet their needs, help them better understand their disease and their treatment. New services are now offered to them, such as the request

for second medical opinion, online payment or appointment making. Soon they will even be able to create a customised space on the website. Donors also benefit from a dedicated space. Innovating on a technical level, the new website automatically adapts to the support on which it is displayed, in order to offer the same ease of reading on computer, tablet or smartphone, and it is now connected to other digital channels, notably social networks (Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, Youtube) in order to encourage sharing and discussion on the fight against cancer at Gustave Roussy. ■

## SCIENTIFIC PUBLICATIONS: THE NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL RENOWN OF THE INSTITUTE IS STRENGTHENING



The publication of articles in international scientific reviews testifies to the dynamism of the research conducted at Gustave Roussy. The number of these publications has been stable for two years, with 1,149 articles published in 2014 in 380 different reviews. From a qualitative standpoint, the impact factor of these reviews reflects the quality

of the publications through the interest they stimulate in the readers. And here again the Institute is maintaining its good results, with 14.5% of publications in the most prestigious titles: The Lancet, The Lancet Oncology, Nature, Nature Genetics, The New England Journal of Medicine... And the Institute also publishes 11% of its articles in French reviews, a sign of its major role in the distribution of knowledge within the French-speaking medical and scientific community. ■