



# Alleanza contro il cancro

## ACC's INTERNATIONAL DIMENSION

Alliance Against Cancer (Alleanza Contro il Cancro - ACC) was established in 2002 with the task of promoting an active collaboration among Italian Cancer Institutes/Associations through the exchange of information, knowledge, data, scientific results and human resources, and to respond in an appropriate and harmonised way to the building of the Italian and European Area for Cancer Research. With about 2000 beds and 4000 scientists working on different topics related to cancer research, ACC promotes new approaches in prevention, early diagnosis, treatment, rehabilitation and the international dimension of Italian cancer research.

In 2007, ACC established an ad-hoc **Focal Point International Affairs office** in order to create the conditions for the development of cooperation initiatives among research centres and companies, by establishing formal links with its counterpart institutions in other countries as well as with existing or planned European projects in the field of cancer.

*The Focal Point works in close connection with the **National Institute of Health (Istituto Superiore di Sanità – ISS)**, co-chairing the ACC International Programme, to identify and promote the best synergies among national programmes and international actions.*

**Most of the International activities are jointly developed with the ISS and an International Affairs Coordination Team, which operates to devise and implement them.**



## MESSAGE FROM THE ACC PRESIDENT

The “Lisbon Strategy” aims at making the European Union the most dynamic and competitive knowledge-based economy, with the building of the European Research Area (ERA) representing one of its fundamental elements. The 7th Framework Programme, specifically conceived to support the creation of the ERA, is a unique opportunity, also for Italy, and it is mandatory to support the harmonisation process if we want Italy to take a proactive role in the building of the ERA. The recent research progress has led to an accumulation of knowledge on the molecular mechanisms responsible for cancer and to novel perspectives of medical intervention. However, the impressive new information stemmed from the results of basic research has not yet met the expectations of patients in terms of clinical applications and benefit for public health. While competition remains a driving force for the discovery process, strong initiatives based on an integrated and managed approach as well as on national and international collaboration are essential for a relevant advance in translational medicine. ACC’s goal is to stimulate a dialogue between ministries and research institutions to allow the Country to play an active role in the European research policies and initiatives with the final aim of:

**better supporting and harmonising cancer research, promoting the transfer of results into clinical practice and ensuring equal care to cancer patients across Italy thus reducing health migrations**



**Enrico Garaci**

*President of Alleanza Contro il Cancro  
President of Istituto Superiore di Sanità*



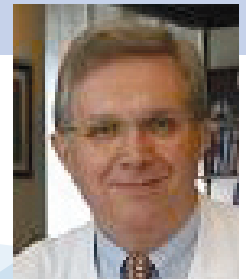
## MESSAGE FROM THE SCIENTIFIC SECRETARY

Translational research is ACC’s core objective in the fight against cancer, from prevention to early detection and treatment. ACC’s international programme aims at promoting shared initiatives involving a wide range of stakeholders and decision-makers – cancer centres, patients’ organisations, the pharmaceutical industry and governmental authorities at national and international level to reach the critical mass needed to reduce fragmentation and aspire to exploitable results in every field of oncology. Targeted actions aimed at transferring the extraordinary wealth of acquired knowledge on the nature of cancer into new drug discoveries and more efficient prevention and treatment options are among the key objectives of the Network. Alleanza Contro il Cancro is strongly committed to specific EU initiatives, such as the setting up of an ERANET on Translational Cancer Research, aiming at the reduction of overlaps existing in the funding of translational cancer research in the different Member States.



**Marco A. Pierotti**

*Alleanza Contro il Cancro Scientific Secretary  
Fondazione Istituto Nazionale Tumori Scientific Director*



**ACC is a continuously growing and developing network presently regrouping 26 members across Italy dynamically working in crosscut expertise projects, which are mainly organised within the special Italian Cancer Programme supported by the Italian Ministry of Health with a view to also promote its opening to international cooperation.**

**ACC acts in line with its Statute by pursuing the following goals:**

***strengthening translational research  
creating networks of facilities  
improving communication to reduce disparities***

**with the aim of:**

- agreeing on a common message of Country Policy to be supported and spread abroad and maintaining a common Italian position at international level in order to strengthen the transfer of expertise towards transnational programmes, while increasing the attractiveness of our centres of excellence to both industry and researchers;
- promoting mobility - both incoming and outgoing - to the benefit of younger generations, knowledge sharing, exchange of young and skilled scientists, and integrating research infrastructures into a network;
- drawing from the experience of other research and care institutions operating abroad, so as to favour in-country innovation;
- providing a formal interface with the Italian Ministry of Health, the Ministry of University and Research, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Trade and Industry and the Ministry of International Trade in order to fully benefit from the opportunities provided by the national policies for research, innovation, competitiveness and employment;
- consolidating the presence of Italian oncology in the internationalisation process in order to encourage further knowledge, support translational research, bring ACC and industry closer together, promote the export of skills towards third countries and invest in new generations to further strengthen the scientific excellence of Italian oncology;
- coping with the challenges emerging from research fragmentation and the increasing globalisation of science and technology;
- coordinating research programmes in line with the European strategy defined in the European Commission's Green Paper "The European Research Area: New Perspectives".

## **PROMOTION OF INCOMING, OUTGOING AND REINTEGRATION MOBILITY**

### **Reasons and Objectives**

In light of the growing complexity of cancer research, ISS and ACC are committed to enhancing the Italian participation in the building of the European Research Area where continuous education must be given highest priority. Italy encounters difficulties to retain many of its most talented scientists and to provide an environment capable of attracting experienced scientists trained abroad. To partially overcome this strongly felt problem and to promote translational cancer research, ISS and ACC are setting up a three year international mobility scheme called Training through Research Application Italian iNitiative (TRAIN). This will consist of a total of 51 outgoing, incoming and reintegration fellowships, with the support of the PEOPLE Programme, within the Marie Curie COFUND Action "Co-Funding of Regional, National and International Programmes". TRAIN is regulated by Art.1 of Law No. 138 of 26 May 2006 "Joint national network and international cooperation initiatives" of the Italian Ministry of Health. It is addressed to post-doc scientists or scientists having at least four years of FTE research experience who wish to improve their training, by spending one year abroad. Part of the scheme is targeted at experienced Italian scientists having carried out at least three years of research in a Third Country and interested in returning to Italy. This mobility scheme is also open to non-Italian and non-residing experienced scientists wishing to spend one year in Italy. Therefore, this mobility scheme covers the whole scientific community. Each application will be anonymously evaluated by an international panel of independent experts randomly chosen and fulfilling selection criteria based on topic-related keywords, gender and different nationalities. The first call will be launched in 2010, with two other calls expected for 2010 and 2011 for a total of 51/year/man grants.

## **EUROCARE5 ON THE OPTIMISATION OF THE USE OF CANCER REGISTRIES FOR CANCER RESEARCH PURPOSES**

### **Reasons and Objectives**

EUROCARE (EUROpean CANcer REgistry-based study on survival and CARE of cancer patients) is a cancer epidemiology research project on survival and care of European cancer patients. The project is based on collaboration established in 1989 between the Istituto Nazionale Tumori (Milan, Italy), the Istituto Superiore di Sanità (Rome, Italy) and a large number of population-based cancer registries across Europe. The activity, initially supported by the European Union, is presently financed by the Italian Alliance Against

Cancer (ACC) and the Italian Foundation Compagnia di San Paolo. Thanks to a steadily growing number of participating registries, this study has provided regular and increasingly comprehensive publications on cancer patient survival in Europe. EUROCARE has collected and analysed survival data on patients diagnosed from 1978 to 1984 (EUROCARE-1), from 1985 to 1989 (EUROCARE-2), from 1990 to 1994 (EUROCARE-3) and from 1988 to 2002 (EUROCARE-4), while survival of patients diagnosed in more recent years will be made available by the forthcoming EUROCARE-5. The EUROCARE database, which now includes data on more than 13 millions of cancer diagnoses provided by 93 population-based cancer registries in 23 European countries, is a unique and valuable resource for analysing and comparing cancer outcomes not only across European countries and regions, but also over time, gathering a large and valuable database on outcomes for rare tumours. Population-based information on cancer patients' survival is indispensable for effective cancer control, and survival comparisons can provide information on the effectiveness of health care systems. The mission of EUROCARE is sustained by ACC to serve the public by collecting state-wide data on cancer surveillance and control, by conducting research into the causes of inequalities in survival and cure and by communicating results to the public. The results of EUROCARE have had a direct impact on cancer plans in the UK and Denmark, as a consequence of their lower survival rates, and in Italy, with the aim of reducing the disadvantage of cancer patients in the South of the country.

## **PARTICIPATION IN THE EUROPEAN INFRASTRUCTURE "EUROPEAN BIO-BANKING AND BIOMOLECULAR RESOURCES" (BBMRI)**

### **Reasons and Objectives**

A large number of research biobanks operates across Europe but the system for collecting and using the material varies significantly from country to country. In 2008, the Biobanking and Biomolecular Resources Research Infrastructure (BBMRI) was set up, with an initial budget of € 5 million to improve coordination between European biobanks.

The BBMRI is one of 44 initiatives funded by the European Strategic Forum on Research Infrastructures (ESFRI), supported by the EU's Seventh Framework Programme (FP7). The European infrastructure being proposed is the network of existing and developing biobanking and bio-molecular resources. Its preparatory phase was initially envisaged as lasting two years, but has been extended to April 2010.

ACC is participating in the preparatory and development phase

of the European biobanking infrastructure as part of the priorities of the whole International Cancer Plan and strategy supported by Programme 4, Article 3 of the Ministerial Decree dated July 21st 2006. The creation of a coordinated European infrastructure has the purpose of promoting prevention studies and trials for common and rare diseases. The network should compensate for the fragmentation and underuse of the existing banks with reference, in particular, to the collection of blood, frozen tissue, cell and DNA samples, and centres of molecular resources. The use of Biobanks for research and treatment purposes could be increased, if they were combined with data stored in other European banks. The OECD has already provided national governments with guidelines to support an accreditation process of both existing and developing banks.

In May 2009, the European Council adopted a Regulation to treat this type of research infrastructure in the same manner as international organisations for taxation purposes (EurActiv 03/06/09). The so-called European Research Infrastructure Consortia (ERIC) will benefit from a VAT exemption as well as reduced administrative costs. Elevating the biobank initiative to ERIC status will mean starting with a small group of the most advanced Member States, with others joining later. The BBMRI consortium has already registered over 50 participating biobanks as well as more than 200 associate members from the EU, Norway, Iceland, Switzerland, Turkey and Israel, but not all of these will be part of the ERIC. ACC's efforts are directed towards supporting the Italian participation in the ERIC for the coordination of European Biobanks and Biomolecular resource repositories also to promote the Italian Network of cancer biobanks "RIBBO" as European model.

### **PARTICIPATION IN THE "EUROPEAN CLINICAL RESEARCH INFRASTRUCTURE NETWORK" (ECRIN)**

#### **Reasons and Objectives**

The development of European infrastructures, as recommended by ESFRI, includes an infrastructure for clinical trials and biotherapies. The recent creation of clinical research centres/clinical trial unit networks was aimed at meeting the growing need to support therapeutic innovation with adequate infrastructures. The development of new drugs and treatments requires access to wide patient populations and the cooperation among support facilities for patient recruitment in clinical trials, data management, quality assurance, monitoring, and the management of ethical and regulatory issues. At European level there is an urgent need to harmonise rules and criteria to carry out biotherapy-based clinical

trials and to increase the possibility to perform multi-centred clinical research. In particular, with reference to advanced cell-based medical products, it is necessary to facilitate access to laboratories capable of preparing these new drugs in compliance with cGMP (current Good Manufacturing Practice) as required by European directives. The development of a Pan-European infrastructure for clinical trials and biotherapies was therefore deemed necessary in order to overcome the current fragmentation in the organisation and to improve efficiency in clinical research. This infrastructure shall:

i) link the existing national clinical research centres/clinical trial unit networks; ii) improve or create new facilities for the evaluation of innovative bio-drugs; iii) implement professional data management centres, thus allowing for high-quality data management through the European Union; iv) establish links with patient associations and registries, and with disease-specific researcher networks in order to encourage patient recruitment.

Within this framework, the link between the European infrastructure and the "Italian network for clinical trials and GMP facilities for tumour biotherapy" is therefore appropriate. In particular, there is a clear need to adequately participate in this developing European infrastructure, thus catching up with other European countries, which have already identified their national networks represented by recognised legal entities that have already joined and have been formally accepted in the ECRIN programme. This will act as a model and initial core for the creation of the European infrastructure.

### **PARTICIPATION IN THE "EUROPEAN ADVANCED TRANSLATIONAL RESEARCH INFRASTRUCTURE IN MEDICINE" (EATRIS)**

#### **Reasons and Objectives**

ESFRI has included the creation of the EATRIS infrastructure in the recommendations for the Biomedical and Life Sciences area in order to fill the gap currently existing in the translation of basic research findings into new treatments and medical products, despite the enormous progress of knowledge in the biomedical field and the increasing investments of the pharmaceutical industry in research and development activities. The translation of laboratory results into clinical applications for prevention, diagnosis and treatment is an important challenge for modern biomedical sciences, which requires not only considerable know-how, but also an infrastructure dedicated to research and development capable of involving and integrating basic and clinical researchers, on the one hand, and industrial partners, on the other. EATRIS shall therefore represent this European infrastructure for translational research in the

following disease areas: cardiovascular diseases, cancer, metabolic disorders, neurological and infectious diseases. This infrastructure will consist of a network of facilities distributed around Europe, each being equipped with cutting-edge technologies for translational research, which will be dedicated among others to in vitro and in vivo validation of therapeutic agents and approaches, and to the identification of innovative diagnostic procedures. The facilities working within EATRIS will closely interact with the “Infrastructure for Clinical Trials and Biotherapy”, the “European Biobanking and Biomolecular Resources Infrastructure” and the “Bioinformatics Infrastructure for Europe”. In this context, it is therefore appropriate to link EATRIS with the National Cancer Networks developed in Programme 2 of the Ministerial Decree dated July 21st, 2006. With reference to the Italian participation, ACC is part of a national consortium representing the Italian partners as a whole within EATRIS.

## **PARTICIPATION IN THE EUROPEAN ERA-NET CoCanCPG PROJECT AND THE ROLE OF THE “State of ART in Oncology” PROJECT**

### **Reasons and Objectives**

The participation of representatives from Alliance Against Cancer (ACC) and the Italian Health Institute (ISS) in the ERA-Net project for the drafting of European guidelines for cancer is necessary in order to play an active role in the outlining of European guidelines and, if possible, to contribute to the drafting and regular updating of their Italian version.

The Italian participation is based on the START programme, which has already been accepted as a formal tool for the Members of the Organisation of European Cancer Institutes (OECI). The ISS is a natural partner, being recognised by the Italian Ministry of Health as the body responsible for implementing and maintaining the guidelines at a national level. Within the OECI Guidelines WG, START is an evidence-based, state of the art instrument on cancer treatment, created to support oncologists and physicians in their everyday oncology practice. START works according to a consistent methodology, whereby each START chapter results from a definite, internal collaborative process. First, a draft version is assembled by one of the START Editors, possibly on the basis of selected contributions from multidisciplinary Authors. Then, one or more European experts in the field act as internal Reviewer/s for the chapter. The chapter is eventually put online, and published in Critical Reviews in Oncology and Haematology. About 30% of START Contributors are already Members of the OECI, and more than 25% are ACC Members.

## **PARTICIPATION IN THE ACCREDITATION OF EUROPEAN COMPREHENSIVE CANCER CENTRES PROJECT**

### **Reasons and Objectives**

A European project financed by the Organisation of European Cancer Institutes (OECI) and the Wallenberg Foundation is under way to define consensual quality standards and criteria for European oncology and to develop a tool for professionals enabling the internal and external (accreditation of EU cancer centres) assessment of the institutions' performances.

Launched in 2002 and after two rounds of pilot projects which provided insightful feedback on the improvement and development of the current accreditation system, the OECI Accreditation Programme fosters policies aimed at the identification of those facilities where an accelerated development of innovative treatments or high quality clinical research is feasible.

An Italian ad-hoc working group on accreditation, composed by experts from ACC members, is currently being set up.

The Italian contribution to the European Accreditation project is fundamental to reach the following goals:

- launching the evaluation process necessary for the accreditation of the Institutes or, at least, for the recognition of their condition of “excellence” in relation to other entities operating nationally
  - carrying out tests on the demonstration tool
  - training auditors
  - participating in all the development phases of the European project.
- The process itself could also be useful to establish common criteria for the evaluation of IRCCSs (Scientific Research Institutes for Hospitalisation and Health Care) by the Research Directorate-General of the Italian Ministry of Health.

## **SUPPORT TO EMERGING INITIATIVES CONCORD PROJECT**

### **Reasons and Objectives**

The CONCORD study provides survival estimates for 1.9 million adults (aged 15-99 years) diagnosed with a first, primary, invasive cancer of the breast (women), colon-rectum, or prostate during 1990-94 and followed up to 1999, by use of individual tumour records from 101 population-based cancer registries in 31 countries in five continents.

CONCORD is the first worldwide analysis of cancer survival, with standard quality-control procedures and identical analytic methods for all datasets. The global variation in cancer survival studied in the CONCORD project was very wide. Five-year relative survival for breast, colorectal, and prostate cancer was generally higher

in North America, Australia, Japan, and northern, western, and southern Europe, and lower in Algeria, Brazil, and eastern Europe. Until now, direct comparisons of cancer survival between high-income and low-income countries have not generally been available. The information provided here might therefore be a useful source of information for the public health plan for cancer.

The findings should eventually facilitate joint assessment of international trends in incidence, survival, and mortality as indicators of cancer control. ACC, together with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (Atlanta, GA, USA), Department of Health (London, UK) and the Cancer Research UK (London, UK), is aiming to contribute to better study the reason for the survival differences observed.

### **EUROCANCERCOMS**

#### **Reasons and Objectives**

The lack of efficient communication among cancer health professionals, patients and policy makers remains a significant barrier to collaboration in the EU (EUROCAN PLUS Report to the European Parliament, 2008). Information overload and a very fragmented, exhaustive array of resources, networks and knowledge providers are seriously hindering the translation and application of research findings in Europe. With the constant explosion of data we can expect to face increasingly challenging times for reliable and effective scientific communication.

The EU needs to establish an integrated model for a Europe-wide cancer information and policy exchange portal that will provide a functional exchange system for accurate information and intelligence, catering to the needs of health professionals, patients and policy makers. Such a model could subsequently be applied to other areas of healthcare.

To address this, a consortium will conduct an inventory of all existing information tools, their faults and flaws and requirements for the future. This will include the collation of current regulatory requirements, issues with open access to data, constraints of impact factors, flaws in the peer review mechanisms, problems of provision of strategic intelligence on cancer research for policy makers, including those in Pharma, and obstacles to patient access to reliable and timely information on cancer. These surveys of scientists, clinicians and patients will be continually evaluated by a Scientific Committee, which will guide the direction and tempo of those partners involved in developing potential solutions. For instance, a review of new technologies to aid the dissemination of information will be completed by the consortium, which will also

establish a state of the art communications system to connect all those involved in translation of basic cancer research into clinically testable hypotheses, public health prevention, patient management strategies, patient information and support activities. All activities will be subject to approval of an Independent Ethical Committee review. The proposed project will have two co-ordinators, one representing societies of professionals, and the other, tasked with providing solutions to improve the systems. Ecaner.eu will be the test-bed for the project, and will display the resulting final deliverable at one stop shop for those involved in cancer research and care throughout Europe. ACC will participate in the project through the EUROCANCERCOMS partner OEI and will support the task of communication with patients with the involvement of the Italian Federation of Oncological Voluntary Associations (FAVO) and the CIGNO Web project.

### **NANOCANCER**

#### **Reasons and Objectives**

Recent years have witnessed an unprecedented rapid growth in the area of biological sciences, with the explosion of nanosciences greatly benefiting from such development. Nanotechnologies offer a paradigm-changing opportunity to study normal and cancer cells and to interact with them in real time and at the molecular scale.

Manipulation of the chemico-physical properties at these scales gives researchers the ability to build and use nanoparticles for different purposes, such as drug delivery vectors, image contrast agents vectors, diagnostic tools.

There is increasing optimism that nanotechnologies applied to medicine will bring significant advances in cancer diagnostics and therapy, but many challenges still have to be overcome. Even though some applications in tumor targeting, drug carriers, imaging and early detection have already been developed and tested, nanotechnology, like all powerful technologies, can raise safety and ethical issues if used irresponsibly.

Nanotechnologies are clearly multidisciplinary and build on the expertise of numerous scientific fields, ranging from physics to colloidal chemistry, from molecular biology to membrane biophysics, from medicine to cell physiology, although experts from all these disciplines are not easily found in the cancer community. ACC together with the Organisation of European Cancer Institutes has launched a debate on nanoapplication in cancer research and care. A European Informal Group interested in this topic is working on a EU application aiming at the development of innovative multidisciplinary approaches for the design, synthesis and evaluation of nanotools and nano-particle-based carriers for the detection, diagnosis and

treatment of various cancers based on targeted, controlled delivery of ions, DNA, siRNA therapeutic peptides and other non-conventional drugs. These nanoparticles will be delivered directly to the tumour cells using two distinct approaches:

- Active delivery (by functionalising the nanoparticle surface with antibodies against specific tumour antigens).
- Passive delivery (by using the EPR effect: a property by which certain sizes of molecules - ranging 150-200 nm - tend to accumulate in tumour tissue much more than they do in normal tissues).

### ERANET ON TRASLATIONAL CANCER RESEARCH

#### Reasons and Objectives

Within the EURO-CAN project funded within the 6th framework programme of the European Commission, major national funding organisations from more than 20 European countries considered different options for future European coordination activities in cancer research. The group concluded that the most promising approach is the implementation of an ERA-Net on Translational Cancer Research (including prevention and public health). The relevance of Translational Cancer Research has been demonstrated by many discussions led in different working groups of Eurocan+Plus. In essence, what is most needed in European cancer research is the integration of the entire research continuum: from basic, preclinical and clinical research to the implementation and evaluation of interventions in prevention diagnosis, prognosis, treatment and care. This is the process of translation (including prevention and public health) that needs to be accelerated within Europe.

The support of translational cancer research in individual EU Member States is fragmented and often duplicative. The proposed ERA-NET on Translational Cancer Research is based on the collaboration among EU Member States aiming at linking programmes in the field of translational cancer research. By concentrating valuable financial resources, the ERANET will provide sufficient critical (financial and scientific) mass for tackling large-scale problems to improve translational cancer research and will conduct an in-depth survey of existing and planned funding programmes in the participating Member States. The mutual knowledge of the strategies and priorities of the different national funding programmes (and/or research projects) funded in different countries will be the first step towards the development and implementation of future coordinated activities. Joint transnational calls will be launched in order to fill the most urgent gaps in European translational cancer research. In addition, support to activities and programmes for training of multi-disciplinary translational cancer research teams will be

implemented.

The envisaged ERA-Net on Translational Cancer Research is complementary to the aims of the already existing ERA-Net CoCanCPG (clinical practice guidelines) or those of EUROCOURSE, the ERA-Net on the coordination of cancer registries, and a practical connection with the main European cancer-related initiatives and infrastructure is expected.

### FURTHER INTERNATIONALLY ORIENTED ACTIVITIES

#### Organisation of European Cancer Institutes/Alleanza Contro il Cancro Special Agreement on the Coordination of the OEI Secretariat/Liaison Office

Starting from July 2009 the Focal Point International Affairs has been entrusted by Alleanza Contro il Cancro with the management of the OEI Coordinating Secretariat and Liaison Office. This formal recognition reflects the confidence and trust bestowed on the Focal Point's service efficiency and management capability in further stimulating the international activities of ACC's Members.

The Italian Cancer community, which is OEI's major contributor in terms of membership (15 out of 67 members), is now one step closer to the OEI mission and is called to increase its efforts in strengthening the growth of the Organisation and its role within the European health scenario.

Established in 1977 to promote greater cooperation among European cancer centres and institutes in the field of cancer collaborative research, the Organisation of European Cancer Institutes is a continuously growing and developing network, presently regrouping 67 cancer centres across Europe. In keeping with the ongoing European developments, in 2005 the Organisation was remodelled into Organisation of European Cancer Institutes - European Economic Interest Grouping "OEI-EEIG" and in May 2008 ACC's Scientific Secretary, dr. Marco Pierotti, was elected President.

Given its large network of centres, the Organisation has an impressive size in terms of bed capacity, treated patients, research and medical staff, and participates in the majority of cutting-edge European clinical trials. This huge potential can be fully exploited by acting in synergy with the key players in Europe's health care sector, such as ECCO, ESMO, EORTC, and Patients' Associations, which are the only ones capable of addressing the public's real needs.

By gathering around a table most of the European Cancer Centres' Directors, OEI is in an ideal position to put forward new preclinical and clinical research proposals and rapidly implement them with a coordinated effort. This is the necessary precondition for the creation of translational cancer research platforms capable of both promoting excellence and attracting SMEs and big pharmas.

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# Alleanza contro il cancro

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  - **IDI Istituto Dermatopatico dell'Immacolata a carattere scientifico, ROME**  
www.idi.it
  - **ISS Istituto Superiore di Sanità, ROME**  
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www.italiansarcomagroup.org
- **ISPO Istituto per lo Studio e la Prevenzione Oncologica, FLORENCE**  
www.cspo.it
- **IRST Istituto Scientifico Romagnolo per lo Studio e la Cura dei Tumori, FORLI'**  
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- **FEDCP Federazione Cure Palliative, MILAN**  
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- **AIOM Associazione Italiana di Oncologia Medica, MILAN**  
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# Alleanza contro il cancro *the Italian cancer network*



The long experience gained by Alliance Against Cancer and its members on large international cancer research programmes in the field of experimental and applied cancer research and related disciplines makes it the natural contact point for the Italian participation in the building of the European coordination actions for the reduction of the existing fragmentation

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