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International Clinical Trials Day... Paving the way for future healthcare solutions

May 20, 2023 - Today marks International Clinical Trials Day, a day that highlights the crucial role of clinical research in improving existing healthcare and developing new treatments. In Belgium, breast cancer is the most common form of cancer among women. Belgium also has one of the highest incidence rates of breast cancer in Europe among women. This diagnosis has a significant impact not only on the lives of 1 in 8 women and 1 in 800 men but also on their families. Therefore, it is of great importance to develop better treatments and therapies through clinical trials.

The Breast International Group (BIG) is the largest academic network worldwide dedicated to finding better treatments and cures for breast cancer. The clinical trials set up or supported by BIG aim to find answers to questions that are important to patients and may not always be addressed by the pharmaceutical sector.

On this day, BIG would like to express gratitude to scientists, doctors, nurses, laboratory technicians, patients, and the many others who contribute to these studies (link to Gwen's video?). Participating in a clinical trial can shape the future of healthcare and contribute to a world where effective treatments and cures are possible for every patient.

You can watch Sabrina's testimonial about how she fulfilled her desire to have children through her participation in the [POSITIVE](#) clinical trial: <https://youtu.be/5tGfWvnXzCc>. "Receiving a breast cancer diagnosis is tough, but not living is far worse. Thanks to the POSITIVE study, I didn't have to give up on my dream of having children. Today, I have two beautiful, healthy kids, the greatest blessing in my life!" says Sabrina.

- [BIG Factsheet EN](#)
- [BIG boilerplate](#)

The Breast International Group (BIG) is an international not-for-profit organisation for academic breast cancer research groups from around the world, based in Brussels, Belgium. Global collaboration is crucial to make significant advances in breast cancer research, reduce unnecessary duplication of effort, share data, contribute to the faster development of better treatments, and increase the likelihood of cures for patients. Therefore, BIG facilitates breast cancer research at international level, by stimulating cooperation between its members and other academic networks, and collaborating with, but working independently from, the pharmaceutical industry. In 1999, BIG was founded by Dr Martine Piccart and Dr Aron Goldhirsch with the aim to address fragmentation in European breast cancer research. Research groups from other parts of the world rapidly expressed interest in joining BIG and, two decades later, BIG represents a network of about 60 like-minded research groups from around the world. These entities are tied to several thousand specialised hospitals, research centres and world-class breast cancer experts across approximately 70 countries on 6 continents. More than 30 clinical trials are run or are under development under the BIG umbrella at any one time. BIG also works closely with the US National Cancer Institute (NCI) and the National Clinical Trials Network (NCTN), so that together they act as a strong integrating force in the breast cancer research arena. BIG's research is supported in part by its philanthropy unit, known as BIG against breast cancer. This denomination is used to interact with the general public and donors, and to raise funds for BIG's purely academic breast cancer trials and research programmes. For more information, visit www.BIGagainstbreastcancer.org

Questions can be directed to:

Katrien Van Impe and Valerie Van der Veeken: Communications@bigagainstbc.org