Saving lives by moving breast cancer research forward
Breast cancer can affect each and every one of us, it not only impacts the patients but also their loved ones.

**BREAST CANCER**

± 2.3 million* people diagnosed in 2020

Breast cancer affects 1 in 8 women

Breast cancer affects 1 in 800 men

currently, breast cancer is the most frequently diagnosed cancer in women, with Belgium having the highest incidence rate.

* Globocan 2020
The Breast International Group (BIG) is a not for profit international organisation that represents the largest network of academic research groups dedicated to breast cancer.

BIG was founded in 1999 by two world-renowned oncologists, Dr. Martine Piccart (Belgium) and Dr. Aron Goldhirsch (Switzerland), with the aim to facilitate and accelerate breast cancer research. The research conducted by BIG leads to the development of better treatments that benefit patients worldwide.
For over 20 years, more than 100,000 patients have participated in BIG studies.

About 30 clinical trials and research programmes are conducted under the BIG umbrella at any one time.

By working together, BIG research groups avoid the unnecessary duplication of efforts and resources, and waste of time. They share their findings and knowledge and make faster progress against the disease.

BIG is supported by its philanthropic branch, BIG against breast cancer, which raises vital funds for clinical trials and research programmes that have no commercial interest and are not sponsored by the pharmaceutical industry, but address essential questions for patients and society. For example, "How does breast cancer spread to other organs to form metastases, and how can we stop it? Can treatment duration be reduced or can a treatment be completely avoided without increasing the risk of cancer recurrence?"

Together we will find cures for breast cancer through global research and collaboration.
OUR RESEARCH HAS A REAL IMPACT ON PATIENTS’ LIVES

For over 20 years, the clinical studies conducted by BIG have been considered to be landmark, introducing particularly innovative designs, contributing to significant breakthroughs, or paving the way towards more personalised treatment of breast cancer.

**POSITIVE**

**Breast cancer is no longer a reason to postpone pregnancy**

In late 2022, this study showed that young women with breast cancer can temporarily interrupt their endocrine treatment in order to conceive a child without increasing the risk of cancer recurrence in the short term.

**OLYMPIA**

**Risk of death reduced by 32% in patients with hereditary breast cancer**

Patients with high-risk, HER2-negative early-stage breast cancer who carry BRCA1 or BRCA2 genetic mutations in their genes could see the risk of death from their breast cancer cut by about 32% when treated with olaparib.
DCIS
Towards more personalised radiotherapy
After breast-conserving surgery, higher radiation doses to the part of the breast where ductal carcinoma in situ (DCIS) was found, in addition to radiotherapy to the whole breast, significantly reduced the risk of recurrence in higher-risk patients. Radiotherapy could also be safely shortened.

SOFT & TEXT
Reduction in recurrence rates by 34%
Relapse rates could be cut by 34% thanks to a new treatment option combining exemestane with ovarian function suppression for young women with breast cancer.

MINDACT
Many patients can be spared chemotherapy
Many patients with node-negative or 1-to-3 node positive early breast cancer can be spared chemotherapy and its side effects, when the Mammaprint® test is used in addition to conventional testing. Updated results of the study confirmed this, especially for postmenopausal women.

HERA
A revolutionary targeted treatment for HER2-positive breast cancers
This study contributed to the development of a targeted treatment using the drug trastuzumab, aimed at treating HER2-positive breast cancer (which accounts for 15 to 20% of cases). This revolutionary treatment has transformed a cancer that was once considered highly aggressive into a cancer that can be more easily treated today.
TOGETHER,
WE WILL CURE
BREAST CANCER

MAKE A DONATION

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Donations of EUR 40 or more per year are 45% tax-deductible for Belgian residents.