

## STRATEGIC PLAN

Following a survey of BIG members and discussions with the BIG Board of Directors and others at scientific meetings, the General Assembly endorsed a strategic plan for 2008-2011. More in particular, by 2011 BIG wants to:

- be recognised as a global leader in setting priorities for and facilitating international collaboration in breast cancer research,
- enhance the strength of BIG’s collaborative member groups while improving synergies between them in order to function as a better “whole” in the clinical and translational breast cancer research community,
- achieve a better reduction in the duplication of research effort and obtain research results more quickly.

Concretely, this translates into a series of strategic goals and operational objectives, to be implemented and achieved by 2011.

STRATEGIC GOALS	OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVES
1. Develop a research programme to accelerate drug and biomarker development in early breast cancer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop and launch a BIG neoadjuvant programme (NeoBIG), by building on the existing BIG-TRANSBIG structure, to generate both neoadjuvant trials and adjuvant trials</li> </ul>
2. Systematically provide leadership development opportunities for young investigators and scientists from BIG groups in all BIG activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Create a young members committee (engaging also their supervisors/institutions) and launch this with IMPAKT</li> <li>• Involve young investigators in the NeoBIG programme; as co-PIs in BIG clinical trials; in IMPAKT</li> </ul>
3. Improve multi-disciplinarity in the development of BIG research endeavours	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Create “consultancy groups” of experts from specific fields (e.g. pathology, surgery, imaging, cardiology...) for either hands-on or advisory involvement in BIG trials</li> <li>• Develop educational sessions (e.g. pathologists)</li> <li>• Appoint cross-disciplinary PIs in BIG clinical trials</li> </ul>
4. Further develop synergies with academic breast cancer research networks and groups, within and beyond BIG, in particular in connection with developing or under-represented regions in BIG	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Create a task force to develop scientific research priorities and research related educational support for developing regions</li> <li>• Pursue relationships with other research networks</li> </ul>
5. Develop more efficient collaborations with the pharmaceutical and biotechnology industry	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop BIG’s “Conduct of Studies” policy (e.g. research models, financial guidelines, contracts...)</li> </ul>
6. Create a stronger internal structure for the development and implementation of BIG trials and related activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Restructure Brussels office along three pillars: scientific, communications, financial/legal/HR</li> <li>• Refresh BIG’s “look”: logo, house style, “Secretariat”-“Headquarters”</li> <li>• Restructure BIG meetings (e.g. allow for task force reports, more opportunities for reporting on groups’ own research, workshops...)</li> </ul>