

BIG

Combines resources and expertise to conduct research

Advances knowledge of the disease to optimally serve patients

Establishes clinical and translational research priorities

Reduces the duplications of efforts

Obtains study results quickly

Collaborates with other scientific networks

Develops new models of collaboration

Did you know?

Breast cancer represents the **second** most common type of cancer and the **fifth** most common cause of cancer death globally

More than **1 050 000** new breast cancer cases occur worldwide annually

Breast cancer also affects **men**

BIG

BREASTINTERNATIONALGROUP

facilitating breast cancer research internationally



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Breast International Group (BIG)-aisbl

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Support BIG and
international breast cancer research

ABOUT BIG

The Breast International Group (BIG)—based at the Jules Bordet Institute in Brussels—is an international non-profit organisation for academic breast cancer research groups from around the world.

Created by Dr Martine Piccart and Dr Aron Goldhirsch in 1996, BIG now constitutes a network of over 40 groups based in Europe, Canada, Latin America, and the Asia-Pacific region. These research entities are, in turn, tied to approximately 3000 specialised hospitals and research centres worldwide.

To make significant scientific advances in breast cancer research, reduce the wasteful duplication of effort, and optimally serve those affected by the disease, large-scale cooperation is crucial. 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.

WHY IS RESEARCH AT INTERNATIONAL LEVEL SO IMPORTANT?

Breast cancer is potentially preventable and is one of the most curable life-threatening diseases when detected early.

Nowadays, advances in breast cancer research rely on the better understanding of cancer biology, which in turn, requires the use of powerful, sophisticated and expensive technologies. This is only possible through international research aimed at effective prevention and developing new treatments. Unfortunately, the potential of such research is limited due to insufficient funding.

Every person is unique, and so are breast tumours: advances with the human genome have led to our understanding that breast cancer is not just one disease but several, each requiring « tailored » treatments. To achieve this, today's studies need to look at groups of patients whose tumours have the same genetic characteristics. But no single hospital or research group will see enough of these patients on its own to be able to obtain scientific results quickly. Only networks of academic research groups and hospitals have this capability, provided they have the financial means to collaborate beyond borders.

Enabling this collaboration is the mission of BIG, a challenging undertaking coordinated from the BIG Headquarters at the Jules Bordet Institute in Brussels.

YOUR CONTRIBUTION TO ADVANCING INTERNATIONAL BREAST CANCER RESEARCH

By supporting BIG you can foster international research, and ultimately contribute to improving the lives of those affected by the disease.

If you wish to make a donation in favour of the Breast International Group (BIG)-aisbl, kindly use the following details:

Recipient: Breast International Group (BIG)-aisbl

Account number: 210- 0701025-58

IBAN: BE 95 2100 7010 2558

SWIFT: GEBABEBB

Communication: Last Name, First Name - Donation

If you wish to discuss any other type of support opportunity, please contact Ms Carolyn Straehle at BIG Headquarters by phone at +32 2 541 3146 or by email at carolyn.straehle@bordet.be.

BIG'S CONTRIBUTION TO ADVANCING INTERNATIONAL BREAST CANCER RESEARCH

International studies conducted under BIG can enrol large numbers of patients more quickly and have enough statistical power to answer important scientific questions that can directly benefit patients.

For example, the HERA study involves 480 hospitals in 39 countries. The first results of this study, which is investigating the drug trastuzumab (Herceptin®), contributed to the medication being registered for use in Europe for women with early breast cancer already within 5 years from the start of the study.

To learn more about the research conducted by BIG
www.breastinternationalgroup.org