

Press release for immediate release

Professor Martine Piccart receives the prestigious ARC Foundation Léopold Griffuel Award for translational and clinical research

6 April 2018 – **On 5 April the ARC Foundation for Cancer Research awarded the 46th prestigious Léopold Griffuel Award for translational and clinical research to Professor Martine Piccart, Director of Research at the Jules Bordet Institute. Wonderful recognition for the research work she has pursued for more than 20 years in the field of breast cancer research.**

The ARC Foundation Léopold Griffuel Award

The ARC Foundation Léopold Griffuel Award was created in 1970 by the ARC Foundation for cancer research. This prestigious prize rewards one or more major discoveries in cancerology. It is one of Europe's most important prizes in the field of cancer research and is awarded annually to a researcher of international renown whose work has resulted in a major advance in cancer research.

Professor Martine Piccart, a career in the service of the fight against breast cancer

Professor Piccart is professor of oncology at the Université Libre de Bruxelles and Director of Research at the Jules Bordet Institute, the reference oncological centre in Belgium and abroad. She is also co-founder (with Professor Aron Goldhirsch) and President of the Breast International Group (BIG), the biggest network in the world today dedicated to research seeking to accelerate and perfect the use of anticancer treatment and diagnostic tools for women and men suffering from breast cancer.

By combining the efforts of numerous academic research groups from around the world, BIG's cooperative research model provides academic leadership in randomised clinical trials sponsored by industry. Some of these trials have made it possible to rapidly register new anticancer medicines with a significant impact on breast cancer mortality.

Professor Piccart initiated numerous clinical trials carried out through the BIG that permitted major advances in the treatment of breast cancer. She has also played an important facilitating role in cooperation between international researchers belonging to various cooperative groups worldwide. The collaboration models applied in these trials guarantee a rapid participation of a large number of patients, control of samples stored in biobanks by universities and respect for current quality demands.

"This award is a wonderful recognition for the research work carried out by Professor Piccart in the course of her career. For us it is the occasion to extend our warmest thanks and congratulate her for having served science, patients and the Jules Bordet Institute," declared Doctor de Valeriola, General Medical Director at the Jules Bordet Institute.

Attached: Photo of Professor Martine Piccart (Fondation ARC)

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About the Jules Bordet Institute

An integrated multidisciplinary centre, unique in Belgium, the Jules Bordet Institute is an autonomous hospital devoted exclusively to cancer.

For more than 75 years, the Jules Bordet Institute has been providing its patients with diagnostic and therapeutic strategies at the forefront of progress to prevent, detect and actively combat cancer. The Institute pursues three missions: care, research and teaching. Its international reputation attracts the world's leading cancer experts. Its spirit of innovation has enabled it to participate in the development and discovery of major new methods of diagnosis and treatment with the aim of bringing the findings to the patient as rapidly as possible.

In May 2013, the Jules Bordet Institute received official accreditation and designation from the OECI (Organisation of European Cancer Institutes) as a "Comprehensive Cancer Centre", a quality label reserved for multidisciplinary cancer care institutions whose activities include research and teaching. This is a first for Belgium.

The Jules Bordet Institute is a member of the Iris and Université Libre de Bruxelles hospital networks. With its 160 beds dedicated exclusively to cancer patients, every year the Institute treats more than 6,000 in-patients, 12,000 out-patients and provides 75,000 consultations. To effectively meet future demographic and scientific developments, the Institute is planning to build a new Institut Bordet on the ULB university campus in Anderlecht, next to the Erasmus Hospital. Inauguration is planned for 2018.

- Jules Bordet Institute website: www.bordet.be
- To consult the Jules Bordet Institute presentation brochure, go to: <http://www.bordet.be/fr/presentation/brochure/index.html>
- To view the Jules Bordet Institute presentation video, go to: <http://www.bordet.be/fr/presentation/organigr/textes/bordet.htm>

About the Friends of the Bordet Institute

The Friends of the Jules Bordet Institute is a non-profit-making organisation with the sole aim of supporting and financing research at the Jules Bordet Institute, a cancer centre that is a reference in Belgium and abroad. As the largest private donor to the Bordet Institute, "The Friends" have donated almost 12 million euros in the past five years.

Considerable progress has been made in the field of oncology in recent years. Our understanding of the biological origin of cancer is growing all the time. Whereas 10 years ago we spoke of the microscopic analysis of tumours, today we speak of genetic profile, of sequencing, etc. Dozens of new molecules and markers have been developed, permitting the advent of personalised treatment. This progress has to a large extent been made possible through the extraordinary technological progress of recent years. But these new techniques that now enable us to probe the infinitesimally small are increasingly expensive.

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Institut Jules Bordet, Association Hospitalière de Bruxelles régie par la loi du 8 juillet 1976
Jules Bordet Instituut, Ziekenhuisvereniging van Brussel onderworpen aan de wet van 8 juli 1976



For more than 40 years, the help of the "Friends" has enabled the Jules Bordet Institute to pursue its research using the most advanced technologies, thereby providing patients with the most innovative screening and treatment techniques. Techniques that generate life and hope.

By helping and supporting "The Friends of the Bordet Institute" you are participating in the many research programmes that they support and that all pursue a single aim: victory for life.

To find out more about the association The Friends of the Jules Bordet Institute, go to the website www.amis-bordet.be

To find out more about the "101 tables pour la vie", go to the website www.101tables.com