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Press release – For immediate release

2018 Lambertine-Lacroix Prize - Cancerology

awarded to the researcher Christine Desmedt of the Jules Bordet Institute, Université Libre de Bruxelles

9 May 2018 – **Christine Desmedt, researcher at the Jules Bordet Institute, was awarded this Saturday 8 May the Lambertine-Lacroix Prize from the National Fund for Scientific Research (FNRS) for her extensive research into our understanding of the molecular biology of breast cancer.**

Every four years, the Lambertine-Lacroix Prize is awarded by the National Fund for Scientific Research (FNRS) to a researcher of particular merit for his or her translational research on cancerology.[1]

In her research work Christine Desmedt, together with the team from the Jules Bordet Institute J.-C. Heuson Breast Cancer Translational Research Laboratory (BCTL) – ULB-Cancer Research Center, has sought, among other things, to investigate the biology of breast cancer and better understand its progress (appearance of metastases) with the aim of improving care for patients suffering from this disease.

Christine Desmedt, with her team, focused particularly closely on a better molecular characterisation of breast cancers of the lobular type with a view to optimising treatment. A four-year study of lobular breast cancers, which account for between 10% and 15% of breast cancers, served to identify the various gene mutations specific to lobular cancers by using DNA sequencing technologies. This study, which made it possible to identify genomic anomalies particular to lobular cancers, suggests that these cancers could benefit from a different therapeutic approach than for other types of breast cancer whereas today they are treated in the same way.

The study of the initial tumour biology and of the various metastases of a group of patients who died from their illness made it possible to reconstitute the progress of the disease. The conclusions of this study suggest that at least one metastatic lesion (and if possible several) should be biopsied and

1 The National Fund for Scientific Research – FNRS awards a Lambertine Lacroix Prize every two years, alternatively for translational research on cancerology and translational research on cardio-vascular disease. The translational nature of research indicates an approach that includes a fundamentally scientific approach to clinical problems. Research of this kind covers all stages ranging from laboratory research to the patient's bedside, and/or from the patient's bedside to the research laboratory.

analysed at the time of a breast cancer recurrence, especially if this recurrence is several years after the initial cancer given the potential modifications of the genomic profile in terms of the metastatic disease. Determining this genomic profile using high throughput sequencing techniques, targeting a set of predetermined aberrations that are clinically relevant, could in some cases be useful in making the treatment decision, especially in the choice of targeted treatments.

The awarding of the Lambertine-Lacroix Prize to the researcher Christine Desmedt on 8 May is wonderful recognition for the research work she has carried out for more than 15 years in the field of research against breast cancer. Work that has brought very promising prospects for the treatment of these cancers.

Attached: Photo of Christine Desmedt, PhD, bio-engineer and researcher at the Laboratory for Translational Research into Breast Cancer at the Jules Bordet Institute, headed by Prof Christos Sotiriou, MD, PhD, Senior Research Fellow at the FNRS, Director of the BCTL. The BCTL is part of the U-CRC (ULB Cancer Research Center).

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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 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 am 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.

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