

Choosing to participate in a clinical trial

The Jules Bordet Institute launches an interactive tool to support cancer patients in making their choices

Thursday 21/02/2019 – *Should I participate in this clinical trial?* That is the question many patients have to ask themselves during their cancer treatment. With several hundred clinical trials launched every year, cancer patients have many opportunities for access to new and promising treatment. At the same time, it is not always easy to understand and decide to participate in a clinical trial. That is why, on the occasion of the 21st BSMO (Belgian Society of Medical Oncology) annual congress on Friday 22 February in Liège, the Jules Bordet Institute is launching an interactive web tool to support patients as they make their choices.

Although the new treatment proposed in clinical trials can be promising, it is generally less well known than standard treatment, in terms of effectiveness as well as undesirable side effects. Which is precisely why it is essential to weigh up the arguments for and against before making a decision! To explain the particularities of clinical trials and guide patients through the decision-making process, the Oncological Medicine Department of the Jules Bordet Institute, headed by Professor Ahmad Awada, has developed an interactive trilingual tool, named IREN: *Informed about Research, ENgaged for better treatment*. Available online, the tool consists of animations and videos. It enables patients to review all the subjects covered in the Information and Consent Document (ICD) received from the physician-researcher prior to participating in the clinical trial. The information and questions presented in this tool make it possible for the future participant to decide with confidence.

Patrick Miqueu, coordinator research promotion and patient partnerships at the Jules Bordet Institute, explains: *"As a reference centre in the fight against cancer, the Jules Bordet Institute wanted to make this tool available to all Belgian patients. It is by offering patients the resources they need to understand the research proposed that they can commit to a true partnership with the professionals and that medical progress will be greater and more rapid."*

The IREN tool was developed with the help of some 20 professionals and two patient-partners at the Jules Bordet Institute. In 2016 the Clinical Trials Conduct Unit (CTCU) at the Jules Bordet Institute won the Pfizer Oncology Award for this project. Patrick

Miqueu benefitted from the support of the Friends of the Jules Bordet Institute and a grant from the Damman-Latrique and Detournay Funds.

Discover the new IREN tool at www.bordet.be/iren

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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 2018, 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 Institute Bordet on the ULB university campus in Anderlecht, next to the Erasmus Hospital. Inauguration is planned for 2020.

www.bordet.be

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.

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.

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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



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

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