

JOSEP CARRERAS LEUKAEMIA RESEARCH INSTITUTE

Progress at the Josep Carreras Leukaemia Research Institute continues at a good pace. Building work continues at the Clinical Research Unit of the Josep Carreras, University of Barcelona Hospital Clínic Campus and building work on the Catalan Institute for Oncology/Germans Trias i Pujol Campus should be finished by the end of July this year. Furniture and equipment are due to be installed during the last quarter of the year. The facilities are due to be opened during the first quarter of next year. Work on the new research building at the St. Pau Campus, part of which the IJC will also occupy, are also continuing at a good pace.

New equipment was delivered in 2015-2016 such as the Fluidigm® and a MFB Bioscience stereology system for the morphological study of lymphocyte populations. Work is under way for the incorporation of a CliniMACS Prodigy, which will enable new CART technology to be applied to clinical trials for the treatment of lymphomas and leukaemias.

At the present time there are 138 people working at the IJC including the research and clinical staff and support staff shared with the Germans Trias i Pujol Institute on Health Sciences (IGTiP). It should be mentioned that the Generalitat, the Government of Catalonia, has approved the project for the integration of the Institute for Predictive and Personalised Cancer Medicine (IMPPC), the IGTiP and the IJC and that there is a proposed agreement to declare that the administrator of the IGTiP should also occupy the post of administrator of the IJC.

The Institute's scientific production can be considered excellent with 80 scientific articles in 2015 with a total FI of 509.9, an average FI of 6.3, 3 doctoral theses presented, 6 in preparation, and the presence of 46.25% of articles in journals in the first quartile. A detailed study, to be presented to the Board of Trustees, is currently underway with regard to the scientific works on the ten

lines of research published between 2011-2016. A start-up company by the name of Leukos Biotech has also been launched to carry out clinical trials to evaluate the effect of serotonin receptor antagonists in patients who have ceased responding to treatment for acute myeloblastic leukaemia.

Dr. Brigitte Schlegelberger, from the University of Hannover has joined the External Scientific Committee.

Work continues, through conversations being held with the new representatives of the Catalan Government Ministries of Health, Business and Knowledge and Education, on how best to integrate the IJC at the three campuses. Conversations have also commenced with the directors of the Catalan Institute for Oncology (ICO) and representatives of ICO/Girona concerning the creation of a fourth IJC campus.

With regard to financial affairs, the IJC's annual budget is close to 4 million euros. During the period 2015-2026 the capture of competitive funding totalled €8,564,121 (projects underway €4,876,147; current grants awarded €1,288,600; agreements with companies €2,133,154; donations €266,220). Projects pending a decision have been requested to the value of €3,023,000.

In 2015 a total of 12 agreements were signed; we have participated at scientific meetings such as the CRG-IJC International Congress, in "RNA and disease", and the 3rd IJC Scientific Meeting; and there were 3 international courses on cytogenetics and FISH in myelodysplastic syndromes. Services have also been provided to other hospitals and research institutions courtesy of the Institute's technological platforms (affymetrix and microarrays, AMP).

The Josep Carreras International Foundation (FIJC) Communication Department has been working with the various groups' lead researchers at the three campuses and conferences have been held to raise awareness about the Institute at a number of centres and institutions such as the University of Navarre, the Barcelona Biomedical Research Park and Mataró Hospital, and

conferences are scheduled at Oxford University and the University of the Balearic Islands.

Avenues are being explored, together with the Scientific Directors of the Germans Trias i Pujol Institute, on ways to share platforms and projects and to establish a collaboration agreement which, once signed, could be extended to the other campuses.

In 2015 six research projects were requested from the German Josep Carreras Foundation and agreements were signed with the pharmaceutical industry (Celgene, Sysmex). We will also be participating in a European Consortium Project for the registration and clinical study of the main malignant blood diseases.

For 2015-2016 the IJC continues to receive the help and support of the 'Fundació Obra Social "la Caixa"' and work is taking place to establish a Professional Career based on the researchers' scientific progress and the 2016-2020 Strategic Plan. One of the projects currently underway is the Protocol for the collection of biological samples, for which financial assistance is expected from Badalona Rotary Club and the Badalona Cancer Foundation. Finally, there is an aim in 2016 to strengthen the Sant Pau Campus Scientific Project and to support the request for a ICREA researcher (Catalan Institution for Research and Advanced Studies) for the creation of a transversal cell imagery platform for all the Institute's campuses.