

ECHO

Spotlight on research

Give it a break!

As Chairmen of the Cancer & Solidarity Foundation, we have now been contributing to the support of research for more than ten years. So we are pleased to note that some progress is being achieved, new treatment approaches are becoming available for patients, genetic engineering is enabling us to anticipate and better define cancer and some vaccines have already been clinically tested. Yes, research is advancing and advancing quickly. But, in the meantime, it cannot save those who in future will benefit from all these discoveries. And we are the direct witnesses of this. We take the opportunity of this editorial to send a personal message to a friend who unfortunately has now left us. She was a woman who shared with us her rage and determination to tame this disease, to fight it, but also to capture its positive dimension. She described her experience with cancer for us in a personal journal, which is a true lesson on life that makes it more beautiful and better for us all. Through these few lines, we want to thank her for her commitment to the support of the Foundation's cause. And, even though our friend has lost her own battle, we will continue ours, with all our strength, because it has also become the fight of everyone concerned with cancer.

Thierry F. Ador and Olivier Ador

Living proof

What to tell a patient suffering from cancer ? After the death of one of her patients, Dr Jeanne-Marie Bréchet decided to work on this theme with a psychologist and the patient's wife. *"A doctor cannot avoid the moment when he or she must reveal to the patient the nature of the disease involved. But the level of information must be adapted to suit each person. Most people don't want to know too much. It is very distressing. I also think we should concentrate on improving the consistency of information provided by the various doctors, nurses and other members of the medical team to the patient and to his or her family. Medicine is also an art. These are not simply procedures to be followed"*. The book "Autour du malade" ("Around the Patient") was based on these three-way conversations.

Source : Santé Magazine, n° 326

What's up, doc?

During the 4th French-language convention on nutrition held in Dijon, the debate was focused on **prevention and food**. Many studies demonstrated that very often the same food that protects the heart and the brain also plays a preventive role in the onset of some types of cancers....

Our conclusion: food must be above all varied and balanced.

Rectum-colon cancer

- Increase your intake of fruits and vegetables
- Decrease your intake of alcohol, meat and meat-based products

23,000 new cases a year would be avoided, which means a reduction of 20 to 30%.

Breast cancer

- Increase your intake of vegetables, legumes and cereals.
- Decrease your intake of alcohol
- Keep your weight under control

17,000 new cases a year would be avoided, which means a reduction of 30 to 50%

Source : Santé Magazine, n° 328

Researchers solve medical problems, we solve their money problems

 **Cancer & Solidarité**
Fondation

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CCP 40-196754-9

On the front line

In 2003, the Foundation has decided to support the research work of 2 new grant-holders, in addition to the grants already assigned at the beginning of the year:

- **Doctor Fabienne Gummy-Pause**, at the Cantonal University Hospital of Geneva, who is conducting a research programme on a study of the ATM gene in infantile leukaemia and lymphomas;
- **Doctor Pierre-Yves Dietrich**, at the Cantonal University Hospital of Geneva. His research project concerns the development of molecular tools enabling us to understand the immune response to melanoma induced by therapeutic vaccines.

Planet research.

- A team of French, Belgian and American researchers have highlighted the role of an essential protein in the cancer process. When it is disordered, it begins to function permanently thus providing fuel for cancerous tumours.

Source: Cancer Research, May 2003

- **Kidney cancer:** a true feat has been accomplished to save a patient who was otherwise incurable. A team of specialists removed the affected organ and subjected it to neutron radiation at a level so intense that the patient's body could not have supported it. The kidney was then re-implanted. One year later the patient is in good health, but it will take time to measure the effects of this technique and to determine its effectiveness for other organs.

Source: Top Santé, n° 149

- In almost 50% of all cases, HPV16 (papillomavirus) is responsible for cancer of the neck of the uterus. Hence the idea of preventing this type of cancer by developing a vaccine to protect women against this viral infection. A test on an anti-HPV16 vaccine has been conducted in the United States with very promising results. It was noted that the target viral infection practically disappeared.

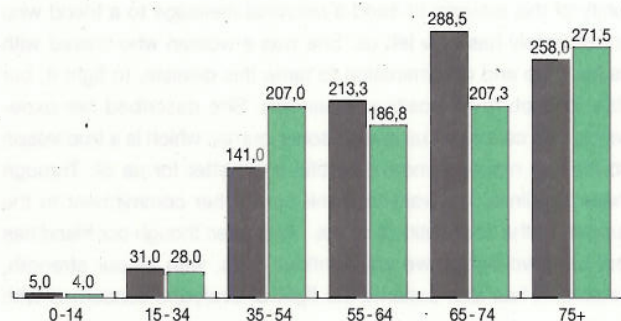
Source: Santé magazine n° 328

Vital statistics

The results of the survey conducted in Geneva on the impact of cancer have just been published. 2,614 new cases of cancer are diagnosed every year, of which 1,318 affect men and 1,297 affect women. They are the cause of the deaths of 467 men and 409 women.

In men, lung cancer comes immediately after prostate cancer, but, in terms of deaths, lung cancer continues to be one of the most aggressive, as it kills 1 patient out of 4. In women, breast cancer remains in the top position, but today it causes less than 1 death out of 4 (high prognosis quality).

Average number of case per year and age class



Source: Registre genevois des tumeurs

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