Improvement of European translational cancer research. Collaboration between comprehensive cancer centers

Ulrik Ringborg¹, Dominique de Valeriola², Wim van Harten³, Antonio Llombart Bosch⁴, Claudio Lombardo⁵, Kenneth Nilsson⁶, Thierry Philip⁷, Marco A Pierotti⁸, Peter Riegman⁹, Mahasti Saghatchian¹⁰, Guy Storme¹¹, Thomas Tursz¹⁰, and Dirk Verellen¹¹

¹Cancer Center Karolinska, Karolinska University Hospital, Sweden; ²Institut Jules Bordet, Belgium; ³The Netherlands Cancer Institute, Netherlands; ⁴Fundacion Instituto Valenciano de Oncolgia, Spain; ⁵Istituto Nazionale per la Ricerca sul Cancro, Italy; ⁶Department of Pathology, University of Uppsala, Sweden; ⁷Leon Berard, France; ⁸Fondazione IRCCS Istituto dei Tumori, Italy; ⁹Erasmus Medical Center, Netherlands; ¹⁰Institut Gustave-Roussy, France; ¹¹Universitair Ziekenhuis Brussel, Belgium

ABSTRACT

Even though the increasing incidence of cancer is mainly a consequence of a population with a longer life span, part of this augmentation is related to the increasing prevalence of patients living with a chronic cancer disease. To fight the problem, improved preventive strategies are mandatory in combination with an innovative health care provision that is driven by research. To overcome the weakness of translational research the OECI is proposing a practical approach as part of a strategy foreseen by the EUROCAN+PLUS feasibility study, which was launched by the EC in order to identify mechanisms for the coordination of cancer research in Europe.

> Key words: cancer, translational research, comprehensiveness, coordination.

> *Correspondence to:* Ulrik Ringborg, Cancer Center Karolinska, Radiumhemmet, Karolinska University Hospital Solna, S-171 76 Stockholm Sweden.

Tel 46-8-517 72121; e-mail ulrik.ringborg@karolinska.se