

The Regional government begins the truth operation of Health in Campania. The National Cancer Institute of Naples is an “international excellence” in the field of Oncology.

Governor De Luca announces a loan of 50 million euros for an Oncology Adrotherapy Center.



The Scientific Director - Prof. Gerardo Botti - illustrates the ongoing activities.

The National Cancer Institute of Naples was the first Italian Oncology Institute to arrange clinical activities into “per organ” Departments. Thanks to a multidisciplinary approach, Oncologist, Surgeon, Radiotherapist, Nuclear Doctor, Pathologist and other figures, work synergistically. In order improve the diagnostic-therapeutic pathway, Experimental Oncology researchers are also included in the Multidisciplinary Oncology Groups (GOM), which represent the functional pivot of Institute’s activities.

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ADVISORY BOARD AWARD FOR YOUNG RESEARCHERS



The Prizewinners: dr. Maria Rita Milone, Ing. Biomedico Roberta Fusco, dr. Giosuè Scognamiglio

“Young people and biomedical research: current events and perspectives”

The two days dedicated to research, which took place at the Eremo SS Salvatore on 17 and 18 June, ended awarding three young researchers coming from the National Cancer Institute of Naples and with one more certainty: the stabilization of the precarious is closer!. That was announced by the Under Secretary of State for Health, Prof. Armando Bartolazzi, who attended the meeting, on the first day. “The Ministry of Economy and Finance has approved the implementing decree - stated the Under Secretary and will provides precarious researchers with a 5 plus 5 years contract.

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.Follows in second Translational Research

which is split into two different areas:

Preclinical Research (animal testing and / or use of highly innovative technologies - pharmacopredictivity and cardiotoxicity studies on animal models)

Clinical Research (Clinical Trials), which plays a central role in the management of clinical studies. In 2018, Clinical Research area reached the prestigious milestone of 118 trials. The National Cancer Institute of Naples has been the pilot center of over 50% of the trials and over 95% of them are multicentric. 56% of the trials are International, in collaboration with the USA, Canada, other European countries and Japan.

Consistent with this, the National Cancer Institute of Naples, promoted, in partnership with Luiss University, a level II Master's Degree on clinical trials, focusing on training events, with around 700 credits provided.

"At the moment - reports Prof. G. Botti - our Institute is the only Health facility in Campania accredited for Phase 1 trials: preliminary study for the research of the maximum tolerated dose and the evaluation of drug toxicity.

Thanks to this, International multi-centre clinical trial for therapeutic vaccine for hepatocarcinoma (Hepavac Study) which sees us as promoters, has been realised. "

The activation of the Phase I Unit – states the Scientific Director - together with the strengthening of the GMP Unit (Good Manufacturing Practices) within the laboratories of Mercogliano represented the basis for participation in the ministerial project on Car-T: "Chimeric Antigen Receptor Cells-T ", cells modified in the laboratory starting from T lymphocytes". A new strategy that uses the immune system to fight some types of blood cancer. It represents the implementation of immunotherapy in the treatment of tumors, which sees the National Cancer Institute of Naples at the forefront in this field. Last but not least, the activity of patenting and technology transfer which has allowed the production of four patents, of which three are international.

All this constitutes a valid indicator of attractiveness which has allowed to obtain remarkable results either in the field of scientific publications, and in the volume of funding obtained (ministerial and private subjects) in the recent years.

On February 28, 2019, the Health Technical Committee of the Ministry of Health financed six projects with the Call for Finalized Research 2018 (2016-2017 funds) at the National Cancer Institute and two young researchers have been awarded. Consistent with this, the Scientific Directorate established an Advisory Committee Board of young researchers to support the Technical Scientific Committee.

"The great commitment in Translational Research is acknowledged and awarded by the Regional Government which has funded eleven projects to the National Cancer Institute of the Naples (two of which as a leader) to fight against cancer disease"- explains Attilio A. Montano Bianchi -.

M.An.



Prof. Gerardo Botti (Scientific director) - Dott.ssa Rosa Martino (Health director) - Avv. Carmine Mariano (Managing director) - Dott. Attilio A.M. Bianchi (General manager)

A new centre for oncologic adrotherapy

During the conference promoted by Health Engine, Governor De Luca announced the launch of a new centre for oncologic adrotherapy. Namely, the National Cancer Institute of Naples will invest 50 million euros to realize the new centre. What adrotherapy is? A kind of radiation therapy based on proton, neutron and positive ion beams instead of ionizing radiation which targets inoperable anatomical sites of cancer.

ADVISORY BOARD AWARD FOR YOUNG RESEARCHERS

“Young people and biomedical research: current events and perspectives”

The “stabilization” of roughly 200 or so precarious workers at the National Cancer Institute of Naples is closer.

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That was announced by the Under Secretary of State for Health, Prof. Armando Bartolazzi, who attended the meeting, on the first day.

“The Ministry of Economy and Finance has approved the implementing decree - stated the Under Secretary and will provides precarious researchers with a 5 plus 5 years contract.

The remaining reports in these two days have highlighted the large amount of work carried out by young researchers of the National Cancer Institute - Foundation G. Pascale. The award has come from a liberal donation to the Institute given by the Governor of the Bank of Italy, Ignazio Visco.

In this first edition three awards each of 5,000.00 euros were deposited in nominal credits at the Scientific Directorate. The awards will be used to promote professional development by supporting travel expenses, participation in internships, international meetings or masters and any activity aimed at advanced training.

“In order to involve as much many people as possible and to give maximum great visibility to our young researchers - said the Scientific Director of the Institute, Prof. Gerardo Botti, we have announced this year the award for “Young Researchers 2019”. The winners were were selected chosen by the same colleagues Scientific Advisory Board itself.

“The Pascale Institute - declared the Health Director, Dr. Rosa Martino - invests in young people. The hope is that they can represent the future ruling class that will one day have to reward other young people one day “. The winners were:

Doctorr. Giosuè Scognamiglio, with who presented a study dealing with focused on the potential relationship between COX-2 and PDL-L1 expression in melanoma;

Biomedical Engineer Roberta Fusco, who presented with a study aimed at assessing theon tumour response to pre-operative radiotherapy in locally advanced rectum cancer;

Doctor. Maria Rita Milone, with who presented a study aimed at revealing new pathologies involved ion cisplatin resistance in non-small-cell lung cancer.

M.An.



This was announced by the Under Secretary of State for Health, Prof. Armando Bartolazzi, during the meeting.



Prof. Gerardo Botti (Scientific director)) - Dr.ssa Rosa Martino (Health director) award the winners of the “Young Researchers Award”

.current research

THE NATIONAL PROGRAM OF HEALTH RESEARCH

Current research (RC) is that part of health research carried out in our country, whose main recipients are the public and private (IRCCS) institutions of hospitalization and care that represent the excellence of our Health System.

Health research responds to the health needs of the National Health Service (SSN), whose objectives are defined in a document such as the National Health Plan (PSN) and to which the national scientific community contributes.

Every three years, the Ministry of Health (MoH), incorporating the National Health Plan (PSN), elaborates the National Health Research Program (PNRS) and proposes initiatives to be included in the programming of national scientific research and in international and community research programs.

The Program, adopted by the MoH, in agreement with the State-Region Conference, is valid for three years.

The health research program is divided into RC and Finalized Research activities.

RC is implemented through the three-year planning of “intramural” institutional projects, aimed at developing fundamental knowledge in specific sectors of biomedicine and public health and financed by the annual contribution of ministerial funding for RC; financing is established by performance indicators of the research activities carried out, defined by the MoH, for public and private subjects whose activity has been recognized by the State, as oriented to the pursuit of public purposes.

The planning of the three-year plan of the RC, consistently with the area of recognition of the scientific nature of the IRCCS and with the current welfare activity carried out, represents the basis on which to build programs and projects in full agreement with the priorities indicated by the PNRS.

The proceedings by which research projects are normally committed is defined by a “competitive” call, issued by the Scientific Directorate. The call is exclusively reserved for the internal research staff of the Institute and defines: addressee, fields of interest of the research, available economic resources, eligibility and evaluation criteria, methods and timing. The reviewers and evaluators of the projects are, for respective competences, the members of the Technical Scientific Committee (CTS) of our Institute. The Technical Scientific Committee is the technical advisory part of the Institute for scientific, educational and research problems and as dictated by Legislative Decree 288/03 is made up of 10 members, of which, four department heads, a resident physician, a representative of the health professions and two of external experts, over the Scientific Director and the Health Director, members by right. The final auditor, of course, remains the funding body “Office of the General Directorate of Health and Biomedical Research and the supervision of the Bodies of the MoH”.



Research projects and products are continuously monitored by the Scientific Directorate, which updates and implements, through the ministerial web-based system for the management of Biomedical research, the national database of the research network. The system has recently developed a public area where it is possible to view both current research projects and called research, as well as scientific publications produced.

The Mission of IRCCS is clinical and translational research, therefore, they carry out research that must, necessarily, find an outlet in therapeutic applications in health; normally, their activity is carried out in defined research areas for which a scientific quality of excellence has been recognized.

The scientific character recognized to Pascale is for the expertise of oncology and research is programmed on this. The program for the three-year period 2018-2020 is divided into five main macro-areas.

Each Macroarea represents a container of projects, lasting 3 years, whose results are 55% expressed by the scientific publications of the Institute and quantified by bibliometric indicators such as: IF / n° researcher, Impact Factor Normalized (IFN), total volume of funding obtained, number of patients recruited in clinical trials, average cost per IF point, etc.

.current research

INDEX CURRENT RESEARCH MACRO-AREAS 2018-2020

Macroarea 1

"PREVENTION AND RISK FACTORS IN NEOPLASTIC PATHOLOGY"

Coordinators: Buonaguro Franco Maria, MD- Gaetano Facchini, MD.

The macro-area's mission is the identification and characterization of individual and environmental determinants that contribute to the risk of cancer. The following are under study:

- 1) the role of infectious agents in the pathogenesis of neoplasms with a high health impact; 2) the correlation between metabolic alterations and neoplasms; 3) the development of methods for the molecular classification of neoplasms for prognostic and predictive purposes; 4) identification of early cardiotoxic markers of antineoplastic treatments; 5) the development of innovative immuno-therapeutic strategies on specific viral and tumor targets.

Macroarea 2

"TUMOR MARKERS AND INNOVATIVE DIAGNOSTIC PROCEDURES"

Coordinators: Petrillo Antonella, MD – Scala Stefania, MD.

The macro-area's mission is:

- 1) Evaluation of molecular and genetic alterations involved in neoplastic transformation and progression;
- 2) Evaluation of new molecular biomarkers, new diagnostic and prognostic factors in solid and hematological tumors, aimed at the early diagnosis and evaluation of cancer therapies;
- 3) integrated analysis of the cytokinomic and metabolomic profile, characterization of the tumor microenvironment.

The aim is the development of tumor markers and innovative diagnostic-therapeutic procedures aimed at the optimal and personalized care of the cancer patient.

Macroarea 3

"INTEGRATED TREATMENTS IN ONCOLOGY"

Coordinators: : Budillon Alfredo, MD – Caracò Corrado, MD.

The multimodal / integrated treatments represent the standard therapeutic approach for many kind of cancer, therefore the research activity of the Macroarea will aim to improve the level / quality of translational research by integrating complementary skills (molecular, medical, surgical, imaging functional) in the treatment of neoplastic diseases. Therefore, will be used "in silico" approaches and new preclinical models (primary tumor cultures, 3D cell growth models, "xenopatients") to identify new prognostic / predictive biomarkers and experiment innovative therapeutic approaches to be transferred to the patient's bedside

Macroarea 4

"INNOVATIVE THERAPEUTIC STRATEGIES IN ADVANCED DISEASE"

Coordinators: : Normanno Nicola, MD – Maria Carmela Piccirillo, MD.

This Macroarea is oriented to the development of new therapeutic strategies for the treatment of advanced cancer. It is based on the concept of inter- and multi-disciplinary research, supporting collaboration programs between basic / translational research and clinical research in medicine, surgery and radiotherapy, with the aim of implementing the development of precision medicine in oncology. In this Macroarea, different approaches whose common denominator is the quantitative and qualitative improvement of the survival of patients with advanced disease will converge, in order to optimize, integrate and innovate the current standards of treatment.

Macroarea 5

"NEW ORGANIZATIONAL / MANAGEMENT MODELS FOR HEALTH RESEARCH"

Coordinators: : Paola Del Prete, biologist - Maria Grazia Chiofalo, MD

This Program intends to:

- 1) improve the organization of assistance to cancer patients, through the identification of new models of care, access and monitoring, aimed at enhancing the quality of diagnosis and therapies, through new and efficient integrated PDTA also with the territory;
- 2) organize in a safe and efficient way the collection and recording of clinical data (big data), for purposes of care but also for research, both in the clinical and epidemiological field; 3) to bring the citizen closer to the results of the research and to the understanding of the relapses that they have on their health and / or quality / life expectancy.

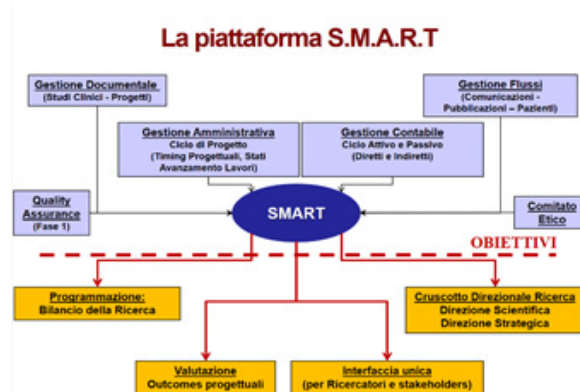
Dr.ssa Paola Del Prete

Reporting Current Research and coordination of monitoring of research activity

The SMART (System for the Monitoring of Scientific/Administrative Activities of Translational Research) platform was created as part of a current research project, funded by the Ministry of Health, entitled "Creation of a telematic system for the management of clinical studies activated at the Institute" coordinated by the Scientific Directorate of National Cancer Institute Pascale. The platform was designed and built with the aim of:

- create a centralized database containing information on the different research activities (clinical trials, research projects, observational studies carried out at the Institute) to evaluate the qualitative and quantitative trend;
- to create a network among all the operators of the Institute involved in the management of research activities (promoters, internal researchers, Scientific Management, Ethics Committee, administrative offices, study coordinators, services, etc.);
- support the harmonization and simplification of procedures, improve transparency and efficiency in the process of evaluation and monitoring of research activities, through the de-materialization of documental processes and the standardization of information flows;
- to carry out descriptive analyses and to produce periodic reports of the activities within the Institute.

Today, the platform is a 360° management and monitoring system for research activities and is a management dashboard for the various activities related to the evaluation, scheduling and reporting of the whole research.



Moreover, the platform is a useful tool to support Quality Assurance activities, allowing the sharing and the constant update on standard operating procedures (SOPs). A further functionality of the platform is being implemented, which will allow the sharing and exchange of information between all the institutions using the same platform.

Today the platform is also used by the Regina Elena Institute in Rome and by the all institution from the AMORE Network (IRCCS of Bari and CROB of Rionero in Vulture).

The challenge of SMART Network is to create a tool that will allow all patients belonging to the network to access the best standard and / or experimental therapies available throughout all the territory covered by the network in the next future.

Dr. Gianfranco De Feo
Monitoring Clinical Trials

.Pascal IRCCS patents

The research carried out at IRCCS Pascale is mainly focused on translational aspects.

Translational research has the aim to transform scientific discoveries within laboratories into clinical applications. In order to promote processes of economic enhancement of innovation in the fight against cancer diseases, a Technology Transfer Office (TTO) was created within the Scientific Department in 2012. The TTO is involved in support activities for protection, enhancement and transfer to businesses the worthiest inventions from researchers and clinicians of the Institute as well as to promote the results of scientific research.

Patents filed and granted in Italy, Europe and the USA:

Patent filed in Italy "MiRNA for the treatment and in vitro diagnosis of drug-resistant tumors" in partnership with the IRE of Rome and the University La Sapienza. (Ascierto -Botti).

Patent filed in Italy, Europe and the USA entitled "Cyclic peptides binding CXCR4 receptor and relative medical and diagnostic uses" (Scala).

Patent filed in Italy, Europe, USA and Japan entitled "Method for analyzing data provided by magnetic resonance imaging with dynamic administration of contrast medium" (Petrillo-Fusco).

Patent filed in Italy and Europe and in the PCT filing phase entitled "Retro-inverse peptide inhibitors of cell migration, extracellular matrix and endothelial invasion by tumor cells". (MV Career).

Dr.ssa Maria Luigia Mazzone
Grant Office and Technology Transfer Office

The “Ciro Manzo” Library

was founded in the late 40s and specializes in Oncology and Biomedical Sciences.

Since 2003 The “Ciro Manzo” Library has been a member of the BIBLIOSAN Network of Italian Biomedical Research Institutions, and guarantees free access for all its users to more than 7,000 online journals and to the Web of Science, Scopus and Scival databases for calculating bibliometric indices.

The Library is included in the Italian Catalogue of Periodicals (ACNP) and adheres to the NILDE system (Network Interlibrary Document Exchange) for the Document Delivery Service with the libraries of the Italian Biomedical Research Institutions.

It offers the following services:

- Reference for the retrieval of bibliographic materials, database queries and access to resources scientific;
- Document Delivery - request and retrieval of non-subscription scientific documentation through the NILDE portal or by email;
- Bibliometric analysis using the Web of Science, Scopus, JCR, InCites and Scival software.

Bibliometry is a field of study applied to various scientific disciplines, developed in the last twenty years.

It is based on mathematical and statistical techniques to analyze the distribution models of publications and to explore the impact within the scientific communities. Bibliometric indicators are currently used for academic purposes, also to assess the suitability of a scholar to compete for the National Scientific Qualification in order to access competitions for teachers.

The evaluation of research requires a dual approach:

quantitative, i.e. in numerical terms of scientific impact (bibliometric)

qualitative, i.e. the judgment of peers (assessors) or peer-reviewed

The quantitative bibliometric analysis allows to measure in numerical terms the products of the research activity, taking into consideration one or more elements, among which:

- the number of publications of an author
- the number of citations received from each publication, i.e. the citation index,
- the number of citations received from journals (Impact Factor),
- the productivity and impact of the publications of a single author (H-Index).

In recent years, given the growing development of the Web, a particular branch of bibliometrics was born, webmetry. It uses alternative metrics to quantify the use of academic publications, within the panorama of Web 2.0, without considering citations.

In this context, Altmetric, the best known and most used software for measuring alternative metrics, was created in 2011.



STAFF:

Dr.ssa Alessandra Trocino - Librarian

Document Delivery, Reference Service, Bibliometric

Dott. Mario Tamburini - Doctor

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Monday to Friday.

9.30-13.30 / 14.30-17.00.

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On Friday June the 28th 2019 the "site-visit" has ended. It was held by members of the International Scientific Advisory Board of Pascale. During the visit our researchers were able to present the main institutional activities.

The Board included eminent researchers from U.S.A and Europe. By this event, they have laid the groundwork for a safe further improvement of the clinical-assistance and research paths of the Institute.

The International Advisory Board is a support body for the Scientific Direction of the National Cancer Institute of Naples, whose aims are as follows:

- to analyze critical issues and define Institute research guidelines, focused on specific thematic areas and new technologies;
- to evaluate scientific activities carried out by Institute researchers;
- to encourage and improve international clinical-scientific collaborations.

"The feedback from the members of the international board - says the Scientific Director of the Institute, Prof. Gerardo Botti - has been very positive for the high quality of scientific activity expressed by the Institute and for the most innovative technological investments adopted in recent years.

For this I would like to thank all those who have contributed with their constant commitment to the success of the site visit held on Thursday, June 27 at the headquarters in Mercogliano, and on Friday June 28th at the headquarters of the Institute in Naples.

A special thanks to all my staff of the Scientific Direction which has contributed to the efficient organization of the meeting by working behind the scenes".



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