



BIG RESEARCH IN FOCUS

SPECIAL EXTENDED EDITION



Breast Cancer Research in East Asia: challenges and opportunities

5-12



**"All in one and one for all"
must remain the spirit of
academic clinical research**

A gripping conversation with Prof Aron Goldhirsch.

13-15



**Expanding the network
and its Executive Board**

Get to know BIG's new Executive Board members and the four research groups just joining the network.

16-27

GEICAM has been keeping up with the times

By the GEICAM team



GEICAM Biobank

Biobanks are technological platforms that aim to provide researchers with access to high-quality biological sample collections and associated clinical data, particularly to support biomedical research projects of excellence.

The GEICAM Biobank or bGEICAM (www.geicam.org/en/medical-research-professionals/biobank) is a non-profit infrastructure for the management of a large number of valuable biological samples and clinical information, from both healthy donors and patients included in multi-centric clinical trials and other biomedical studies in breast cancer.

The main goal is to provide researchers with precious biological sample collections for the development of translational research of excellence, guaranteeing its rational, ethical and legal management and usage. Thus, bGEICAM fosters translational research aimed at improving the knowledge of the molecular basis and etiopathogenesis of breast cancer, the discovery of novel therapies, as well as the development of personalised medicine in this field. For this purpose, the biobank stimulates global translational collaborative research with other outstanding national and international breast cancer research groups and networks. It also supports oncology screening programmes, national registries and epidemiology initiatives.

All research projects applying to access samples from the biobank must be evaluated and approved by both the external scientific and ethical committees associated with the biobank before samples and related clinical data can be released. The committees include a multidisciplinary group of specialists in medical oncology, molecular pathology, radiotherapy and nuclear medicine, surgery, epidemiology, as well as members of patient advocacy organisations, lawyers and pharmacovigilance and regulatory experts in clinical trials.

Since 2015 bGEICAM has been part of the Spanish National Biobanks Network Platform of the National Institute of Health Carlos III (www.redbiobancos.es) as an associated member, specifically participating in the R&D and Innovation Group aiming to identify tissue quality markers and develop new procedures for tissue processing and storage.

GEICAM Exercise-Oncology project

The GEICAM Exercise-Oncology Project is based on the identified need to develop this area in Spain. Led by a research-experienced group, it aims to be a reference in Spain and Europe about exercise in oncology. The project focuses on three different

pillars: build a professional network of researchers, educate new qualified professionals and inform both patients and society at large about the importance of being active.



Research

All our research projects focus on breast cancer patients. At this time, we are running four studies, focused on achieving relevant clinical results. In this context, the effects of exercise on tumour and body physiology and the impact of exercise on patient outcomes are the main objectives of our studies.

Educational programmes

Educational programmes in the exercise-oncology area are being developed in collaboration with different universities. Our intention is to prepare specialised professionals who would be able to train patients with cancer and to create a network in Spain that may be involved in future research projects. The aim is also to educate other healthcare professionals about exercise-oncology.

Information sessions

Both patients and the general public attend information sessions developed by GEICAM. Upon request, the GEICAM Coordinator of Exercise Programmes in Oncology gives lectures in some hospitals to educate patients about exercise-oncology. Talks addressed to the general public are promoted by various companies from different fields and who are interested in breast cancer prevention.

With the GEICAM Exercise-Oncology Project, our Group wishes to respond to an increasing need with a comprehensive set of initiatives to become a reference partner in this area.

Several awards received this year

2017 has been a fruitful year for GEICAM (Spanish Breast Cancer Group), as it has been awarded various prizes that recognise its important contributions to the field of breast cancer. These include GEPAC's (Spanish Cancer patients Group) Albert Jovell Award in the Corporate and Social Responsibility category for the campaign "Little changes, big achievements".