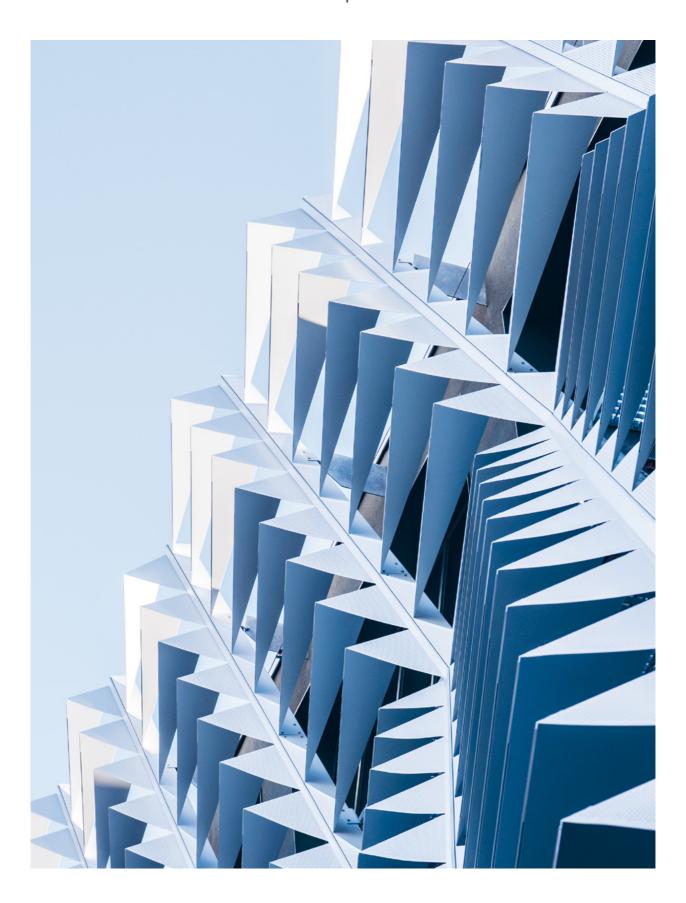
# ISREC FOUNDATION

# Annual Report 2017



### **THANK YOU**

At the close of this year, we wish to express our gratitude to all the generous donors who have made our projects possible.

Special thanks go to Prof. **Francis-Luc Perret**, director, **Aylin Niederberger**,
general secretary and **Nathalie Blanc**,
administration assistant, as well as to

our ambassadors **Didier Grobet** and **Jürg Kärle** for their faithful commitment.

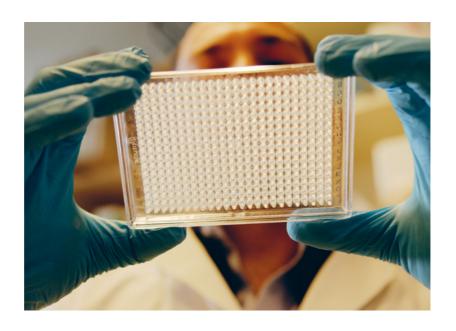
You all have contributed to the development and the success of our Foundation. Your support is very much appreciated.

Thank you!









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# A New Mainstay for the ISREC Foundation

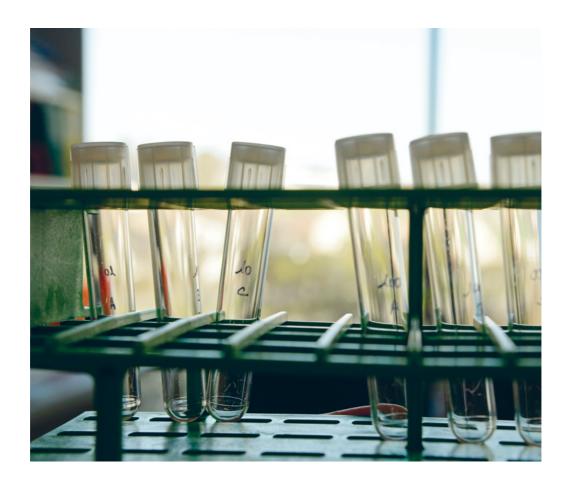
Dear Friends of the Foundation

The year 2017 was particularly intense for the ISREC Foundation. The AGORA building mobilized considerable forces, not only regarding its construction and furnishing, but also with respect to the establishment of its organization and management. The members of the Council showed strong commitment to the management and helped the latter make important strategic decisions, such as the consolidation of research in the Lake of Geneva area, in particular in Geneva itself.

# An attractive destination for young scientists

This new research cluster in Lausanne offers a unique scientific environment in the field of oncology, and today, many young scientists from all around the world hope to be able to work in Lausanne.

In addition to the AGORA project, which represents the core of the Foundation, the Foundation Council and Management have a shared vision regarding the future. This focuses on two main priorities: promoting translational research and supporting exceptional young scientists in the field of cancer research. This mission has continually developed since the foundation of ISREC in 1964.



To fulfil this vision, the Scientific Board has been reinforced by eminent scientists who vouch for the trustworthiness of the supported research, for the benefit of the donors as well as the recipients of the funds.

# Bringing scientists and patients closer together

The patients and their families have not been forgotten. A meeting designed to share ideas was organized. It included foundation and association representatives, private individuals and public authorities affected by oncological issues. The aim of the gathering was to formulate proposals regarding the welcoming of patients and their families during their visit to AGORA. The success of

this meeting has confirmed the importance of dialogue between the research community and the patients.

I would like to thank the Management and all the Foundation's collaborators for their tireless work, as well as the members of the Council, without whom the activity of the Foundation would not be what it is today. And finally, my gratitude goes to all the donors who trust the Foundation and give it the means to fulfil its mission.

Heartfelt thanks to all who support us!

Catherine Labouchère President

# THE FOUNDATION'S MISSION

# Our lines of action

Formulated in 1964, the dream of Henri Isliker, founder of the Swiss Institute for Experimental Cancer Research, is about to come true owing to the mobilization of important resources raised thanks to a wonderful instance of a public-private partnership: the creation of a multidisciplinary research center at the heart of the hospital campus that will bring together all the scientific and medical competences required to control, as effectively as possible, a disease that affects a large part of the population.

The two main missions of the ISREC Foundation, as described below, will be supported by numerous projects conducted within the AGORA building, thus giving them their full significance. These two missions can be summarized as follows:

 Development of cutting-edge, precision and targeted research, for the benefit of as many people as possible, with a particular focus on the quality of patient care in its human, psychological and societal dimensions.  Support of the next generation of medical professionals and training of scientists and clinicians able to conduct original research and to simultaneously engage themselves in bedside clinical work.

Cutting-edge research and patient service are often antinomic or even incompatible notions. However, intelligently dosed and conducted in a setting that encourages this symbiosis and diversity, they can produce unexpected results, and generate new callings.

The ISREC Foundation has chosen to promote this environment by creating a research cluster at the heart of the clinical setting. The aim of this center is to stimulate, question and provoke, while also innovating, and taking care of and comforting those in need of answers with respect to the challenges of the disease.

Initiated in September 2015, the AGORA building will be inaugurated in October 2018. It will be occupied from then on by labs se-



lected according to the research goals described in an initial program presented by Prof. George Coukos, Prof. Douglas Hanahan and Prof. Pierre-Yves Dietrich.

In collaboration with the architects Stefan Behnisch (design) and Serge Fehlmann (project execution supervisor), the ISREC Foundation, in its function as project manager, has striven to create a welcoming and functional building, adapted to the requirements of research calling for expensive equipment to be used and shared by all scientists involved.

The CHUV's departments have worked closely with the Foundation to render the AGO-RA building compatible with the operating constraints of the entire hospital campus, while preserving the institute's specificity. The project management and its delegated manager were thus able to ensure that costs were not exceeded and that deadlines and quality requirements were perfectly met. The commitment of the construction company also contributed to the success of the enterprise, the company having understood the significance of its all-encom-

passing contract: permanent reworking of the implementation plan that needs to be optimized based on the changing requirements progressively revealed by the users.

# The dream of 1964 is thus coming true

The result of a joint undertaking involving the general secretariat of the Foundation, the Foundation Council and its president as well as the Scientific Board, all of which have worked hand in hand with the future occupants of the AGORA building. The research program described hereafter predicts a bright future for AGORA.

Prof. Francis-Luc Perret Director

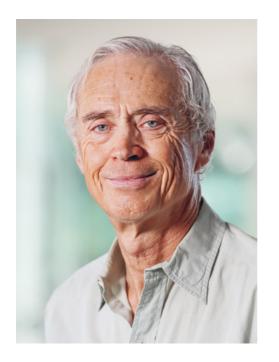
# AGORA PÔLE DE RECHERCHE SUR LE CANCER

# AGORA's scientific concept

# The Swiss Cancer Center – Lemanic: an exceptional collaborative network, a vibrantly integrated cancer research community

In 2013, oncology research took a new turn in Lausanne with the creation of the new Swiss Cancer Center Lausanne. The purpose of this institute is to establish a highly integrated, multidisciplinary and collaborative research community network aimed at solving urgent cancer problems by developing innovative new therapies and therapeutic strategies along with exceptional care for cancer patients. UNIL, CHUV and EPFL have signed a memorandum of understanding to develop a partnership in research encompassing all faculty and their teams involved in cancer research and therapy. The partnership was made official in 2016 and extended to include the University of Geneva (UNIGE) and the Geneva University Hospitals (HUG) under the

name «Swiss Cancer Center - Lemanic» (SCC). The SCC is headed by Professors George Coukos (UNIL-CHUV), Douglas Hanahan (EPFL) and Pierre-Yves Dietrich (HUG, UNIGE), and further includes the participation of privileged partners, i.e. the ISREC Foundation and the Ludwig Institute for Cancer Research (LICR). Today, this 5-institution consortium features at least 80 cancer research groups in Lausanne, as well as an additional 10 groups in Geneva. It encompasses transdisciplinary scientists, whose activities span basic, translational and clinical research, and an innovative new clinical network of oncology hospitals and practices collaborating to guide optimal therapeutic decisions for cancer patients, as well as to coordinate clinical trials and to implement «precision oncology» for a regional population of approximately 2 million people.



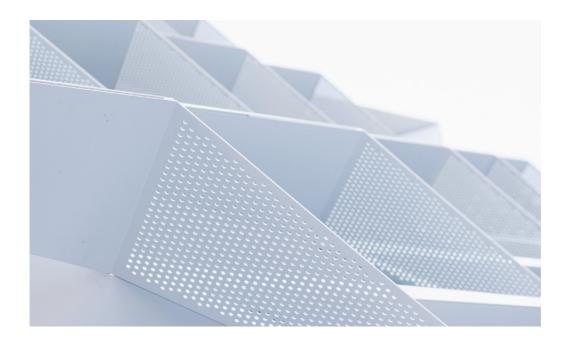




Prof. **George Coukos** Head of the CHUV oncology department

Slated to be completed in May 2018 and launched in November 2018, the AGORA translational cancer research building will be the nucleus and flagship of the SCC's research and therapeutic development activities. Built thanks to an 85 million CHF financial investment by the ISREC Foundation, the visionary building will be strategically located on the CHUV campus and will offer 5000 m<sup>2</sup> of equipped research laboratory space and 2900 m<sup>2</sup> of advanced facilities. These cutting-edge facilities will include new platforms for bioengineering technology, multi-dimensional cell phenotyping, a mass spectrometry platform for tumor antigen detection, bioinformatics for «big data» analysis, an in vivo imaging platform (MRI, micro-CT, 2-photon microscope, etc.), and a state-of-the art facility for preclinical trials.





# AGORA – Pôle de recherche sur le cancer present an «open» architecture designed to routinely foster formative collegial interactions

With its «open» architecture designed to routinely foster formative collegial interactions in artfully designed «bumping spaces», the AGORA will provide working space for approximately 250 cancer researchers, bioengineers, bioinformaticians and clinical researchers, organized into thematic «neighborhoods» over three laboratory floors. The building will house research groups from UNIL, CHUV, EPFL, the Ludwig Institute for Cancer Research (LICR), the Swiss Institute of Bioinformatics (SIB) as well as two groups from UNIGE and HUG. The open contiguous research lab spaces have been designed to ensure seamless integration between research teams of complementary expertise, and to facilitate both horizontal interactions throughout a given floor and vertical interactions between floors thanks to ample transparent staircases. This will offer a rare proximity between leading complementary labs and afford exceptional opportunities to the scientists for launching innovative collaborations on specific themes. Concretely, the AGORA will enable the integration and alignment of research programs in fundamental and translational tumor biology, including tumor microenvironment, tumor metastasis and immune engineering, as well as the effective incorporation of clinical therapeutic oncology programs comprising immune oncology, targeted therapy of the tumor microenvironment, radiotherapy and molecular imaging. Together with patient samples expediently available for translational studies and precision diagnostics from the CHUV Pathology Department in an adjoining building as well as from the HUG and other sites in the clinical oncology network involving Western Switzerland, this exceptional integration will serve to expedite the development of new and more effective therapies for cancer patients.

The roster of research groups to be installed in the AGORA is impressive: Principal Investigators (PIs) such as Professors J. Joyce, O. Michielin, and G. Coukos (UNIL-CHUV), and D. Hanahan, M. De Palma, J. Huelsken and

M. Lutolf (EPFL) will lead their primary (or satellite) labs in the building. The LICR hi-TIDe (human integrated Tumor Immunology Discovery engine) group led by Prof. Coukos will be particularly present in the building, thereby providing opportunities for collaboration with the other labs regarding translation of basic research to the clinic. In this respect, key scientific partnerships have already been launched and are ongoing between hi-TIDe and the Institute of Bioengineering (IBI) at EPFL, and with the SIB, collectively advancing immune bioengineering and bioinformatics capabilities, respectively. The underlying collaborative projects will be pursued and expanded within AGORA. In addition, Prof. P-Y. Dietrich and a new professor in immuno-oncology from UNIGE and HUG will be given dedicated space in the AGORA to develop new collaborative research, for example an innovative brain tumor immunotherapy program. The Geneva groups will also contribute to interregional clinical projects involving the Romand Network of Oncology for Precision Medicine, the Swiss Personalized Health Network and the coordination of clinical research in the Lemanic area. An additional key component of AGORA is that it will provide «hotel lab space» throughout the building. This protected space will be purposely located between larger permanent labs, in such a way that the temporary occupants of this lab space will be fully integrated scientifically and have access to shared equipment on the floor. For example, this space will be useful to host junior faculty transitioning to independence, who can benefit from close interactions with and mentorship from the established PIs present in the AGORA.

AGORA – Pôle de recherche sur le cancer – as the flagship of the Swiss Cancer Center-Lemanic and a focal point of its operations – will enable exciting developments and advances in translational and clinical cancer research to deliver the latest innovative therapies to cancer patients.

To conclude, the AGORA – as the flagship of the Swiss Cancer Center-Lemanic and a focal point of its operations – will enable exciting developments and advances in translational and clinical cancer research to deliver the latest innovative therapies to cancer patients. Seeking to promote scientific excellence worldwide, the SCC at large and the AGORA in particular will unite cancer scientists in the first truly integrated «comprehensive» cancer research enterprise in Switzerland.

Prof. **George Coukos**Head of the CHUV oncology department

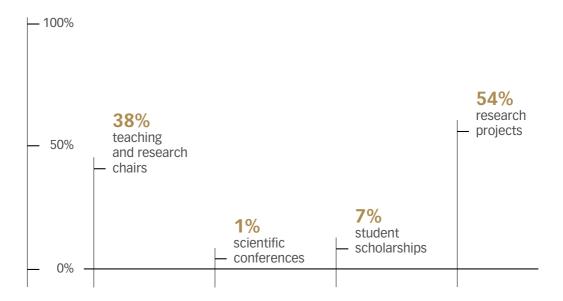
Prof. **Douglas Hanahan**Director isrec@epfl

# THE FOUNDATION YESTERDAY, TODAY AND TOMORROW

The ISREC Foundation is a private, non-profit foundation.

The ISREC Foundation was founded on June 18, 1964, thanks to the determination of its president, Mr. Rodolphe Stadler, and of its director and co-founder, Prof. Henri Isliker. Its first activity was the setting up of the Swiss Institute for Experimental Cancer Research (ISREC), run by Prof. Isliker.

Over the past fifty years, more than 150 personalities from Switzerland and abroad, including four Nobel Prize winners, have sat on the Foundation Council or the Scientific Board of the ISREC Foundation. The institute has contributed to significant research projects and discoveries, notably in the areas of mutagenesis, genome instability and repair, immunology, immunotherapy, the cell cycle, cell biology, tumor virology, oncogenes, cell differentiation and bioinformatics. As for the work accomplished by the scientists supported by the Foundation, it contributes to a better understanding of the mechanisms underlying cancer and to the identification of novel therapeutic targets.



Distribution of resources devoted to research since 2008

Since 2008, the ISREC consists of two distinct and independent entities:

- The ISREC Foundation, an accredited organization of public interest, supervised by the federal government;
- The ISREC@EPFL, the Swiss Institute for Experimental Cancer Research, incorporated in the EPFL School of Life Sciences.

Over the past ten years, the ISREC Foundation has invested more than **34 million** Swiss francs in cancer research. In years to come, **translational research** and the **training of young scientists** will remain the main priorities of the Foundation.

# SUPPORTED PROJECTS

# Young Scientists

The ISREC Foundation supports
PhD students in biology or medicine.
This funding is possible thanks
to two types of grants:

### — «Allocated grants»

These grants are awarded to the best students wishing to enroll in a doctoral program in biology or medicine. They are made possible by donations from physical or moral persons. The Foundation guarantees that the funds are used in full to finance the project to which they have been allocated.

### — «ISREC grants»

or financial support from the ISREC Foundation for a thesis. These grants are awarded to the best students wishing to enroll in a doctoral program in biology or medicine. They are financed thanks to donations, legacies and successions. In 2017, the ISREC Foundation supported the PhD work of three students:

### **AMÉLIE CACHOT**

Lab of Prof. Pedro Romero, LICR@UNIL Killer CD4 T Cells: Analysis of a

Novel T Cell Candidate for Human Tumor Immunotherapy

This «ISREC grant» amounting to CHF 80 000.— per year was awarded in January 2016 for four years.

### **EFE ERDES**

## Lab of Prof. Nathalie Rufer, Oncology Department, CHUV

Molecular Mechanisms Regulating TCR Affinity-Improved T Cells for Cancer This «ISREC grant» amounting to CHF 80000.— per year was awarded in June 2015 for four years.

### **SVENJA GROENEVELD**

# Lab of Prof. Etienne Meylan, EPFL/SV/ISREC

The Role of Epithelial-To-Mesenchymal Transition in Non-Small Cell Lung Cancer This «ISREC grant» amounting to CHF 80000.— per year was awarded in August 2013 for four years.

All scientific summaries are available online: www.isrec.ch

# Translational Research

Translational research projects encourage collaborations involving basic and clinical research. Their goal is to study cells and their interactions with the environment, and in so doing to provide new impulses for novel therapies and clinical approaches, in order to be able to act on the causes of cellular malfunction. Financial support for translational cancer research projects is possible thanks to:

### — «Allocated funds»

These funds are specifically created for each project. They come from private donations and must solely be used for their predetermined purpose. The Foundation guarantees that donations are used in full to finance the project to which they have been allocated.

### — «ISREC chairs»

The purpose of these chairs is to offer young professors affiliated to the EPFL (School of Life Sciences – ISREC) or to a Swiss university (faculty of biology or medicine) the opportunity to launch their careers in research. They are financed through the fortune of the Foundation.

In 2017, the following chairs were financed by the ISREC Foundation:

# Signaling Mechanisms and Novel Treatment Strategies for Hematological Malignancies

This translational oncology chair, endowed with CHF 500000.— per year, was allocated in March 2011 for a period of six years. It was awarded to the research group of Prof. Oliver Hantschel (EPFL/SV/ISREC).

# Molecular Cancer Immunotherapy and Immune Engineering

This translational oncology chair, endowed with CHF 500000.— per year, was allocated in June 2015 for a period of six years. It was awarded to the research group of tenure track Prof. Ping-Chih Ho (UNIL/LUDWIG).

# Decoding the Genetics of Lymphoma for the Development of New Therapies

This translational oncology chair, endowed with CHF 500 000.— per year, was allocated in November 2014 for a period of six years. It was awarded to the research group of Prof. Elisa Oricchio (EPFL/SV/ISREC).

continued

# Translational Research

# **Projects** supported in 2017:

# Immunity of Gastrointestinal Stromal Tumors

A collaboration between the CHUV, Lausanne and the Institut Gustave Roussy, Paris.

This «allocated fund» from a private donation and amounting to CHF 200 000.— per year was granted in January 2012 for five years. It was awarded to the INSERM Unit U1015 and the Center of Clinical Investigations IGR/Curie, in favor of Prof. Laurence Zitvogel.

# Mechanisms of Sarcoma Initiation and Development

A collaboration between the CHUV, Lausanne and the Institut Gustave Roussy, Paris.

This «allocated fund» from a private donation and amounting to CHF 300000.— per year was granted in January 2012 for five years. It was awarded to the Institut Universitaire de Pathologie, UNIL/CHUV in Lausanne, in favor of Prof. Ivan Stamenkovic.

# Ex Vivo Analysis of Genomic Instability in Normal and Cancer Cells

A collaboration between the EPFL and the Geneva University Hospitals.

This «allocated fund» from the Fondation de Bienfaisance Pictet and amounting to CHF 100000.— per year was granted in September 2014 for four years. It was awarded to Prof. Joerg Huelsken (EPFL/SV/ISREC).

# Ovarian Cancer Research – Personalized Cancer Vaccines

This «allocated fund» from a private donation and amounting to CHF 226548.— was granted in February 2016 for 24 months. It was awarded to Prof. Lana Kandalaft (CHUV).

### Flash Radiotherapy

This «allocated fund» derived from a donation of the Biltema Foundation and amounting to € 1000000 was granted in July 2016 for three years, for the research performed in the lab of Prof. Jean Bourhis (CHUV/RTH).

### **Personalized Immunotherapy**

This «allocated fund» derived from a donation of the Biltema Foundation and amounting to  $\le$  2400 000 was granted in July 2016 for three years, for the research performed in the lab of Prof. George Coukos (CHUV/UNIL/LICR).

# Development of Antibody Therapies for Solid Tumors and Acute Myeloid Leukemia

This «allocated fund» derived from a donation of the Biltema Foundation and amounting to € 3300000 was granted in July 2016 for three years, for the research performed in the lab of Prof. Carl Borrebaeck (Lund University, Sweden) in collaboration with the research teams at the LICR Lausanne Branch.



SUR/SRP Team 2017

### **Breast Cancer**

This «allocated fund» derived from a donation of the Biltema Foundation and amounting to € 900 000 was granted in July 2016 for three years, for the research performed in the labs of Prof. Ake Borg (Lund University) and Prof. Catherine Brisken (EPFL/SV/ISREC) on the one hand (ER+ breast cancer), and the labs of Prof. Douglas Hanahan (EPFL/SV/ISREC) and Prof. Kristian Pietras (Lund University) on the other hand (triple negative breast cancer).

### **Immune Engineering**

This «allocated fund» derived from a donation of the Biltema Foundation and amounting to € 1700000 was granted in July 2016 for three years, for the research performed in the labs of Prof. Matthias Lutolf, Prof. Philippe Renaud, Prof. Hatice Altug and Prof. Harm-Anton Klok (EPFL/IBI), in collaboration with the research teams at the LICR Lausanne Branch.

All scientific summaries are available online: www.isrec.ch

# Immune Engineering: Platform for the Development of T-Cell-Based Immune Therapies

This «allocated fund» derived from a donation of the Biltema Foundation and amounting to € 11700000 was granted in July 2016 for three years, for the research performed in the lab of Prof. George Coukos (CHUV/UNIL/LICR).

# Scientific events

In 2017, the ISREC Foundation supported 11 students in the SUR/SRP «Summer Research» program, a collaboration between the UNIL and the EPFL. This summer scientific work placement took place between July 3 and August 25 in the labs of the two institutions. For students, this is a memorable and rewarding experience, which, for some, will have an impact on their future study plans. As for the host labs, they are offered the opportunity to discover brilliant students who might return for a master's or a PhD degree. Congratulations to all these promising students.

# NEXT GENERATION OF SCIENTISTS



# Interview with Prof. ELISA ORICCHIO, ISREC/SV/EPFL

Professor Elisa Oricchio, an Italian citizen, began her research at ISREC/SV/EPFL in November 2014, in charge of a team of five scientists for six years. This chair focuses on the decoding of lymphoma genetics. The aim is to identify new tumorigenesis-promoting elements, and to develop novel therapeutic strategies against the disease.

# "Increasing our understanding of cancer development mechanisms and sharing this knowledge with clinicians"

# Can you tell us about your professional background?

As an Italian citizen, I completed my training in my homeland and obtained a master's degree in biology from the University of Rome. I have always been fascinated by the functions of the human organism. During my studies, I took an interest in cancer and later in basic biology, so as to improve my understanding of how and why this disease develops.

# What prompted you to join the EPFL?

I later spent sixteen years in New York for my postdoc. Wishing to work in my own lab, I began searching for options in the United States and Europe, until I discovered this opportunity in Switzerland. After seeing an advertisement, I decided to «have a look» and hence traveled to Lausanne and the EPFL for the first time. I must admit I was very impressed by the scientific environment here,

which differs quite a bit from that found in other European countries. Somewhat more meritocratic, less hierarchical, if I may say so.

# Have you also experienced this sense of freedom?

Yes, very much so. You are required to present a sound scientific project and your superiors are watching you closely, yet there is no marked dependency on the heads of the department. You remain completely independent, even though you are a young scientist. This really allows you to grow. Other organizations I have worked in are much more hierarchical, and room for maneuver is restricted. Here, you feel all the trust that has been placed in you.

# What are your thoughts on the AGORA project?

During my first contacts with Lausanne, I was told about the AGORA building that will bring together basic science and clinicians. I was familiar with this kind of undertaking from my stint in the United States, as such interactions with clinicians already existed in the hospital where I was studying.

I then decided that Lausanne would be an ideal place to continue my basic research, to study cancer development and to exchange thoughts and ideas with clinicians.

# Why is this proximity to the patients so important?

In my view, it is an essential element. In the lab, we work with models and sometimes tend to forget what an impact we can have on the lives of patients. For this reason, it is very important for scientists to communicate directly with these individuals, and to tell them the truth so as to avoid giving them false hope.

# Do you know that the ISREC Foundation has a new scientific board composed of internationally renowned experts who will observe the supported projects?

Yes, and it is a chance to be appraised by experienced people whose expertise is recognized. They are able to identify a problem in our reasoning and rapidly draw our attention so we can correct our methodology, and thus avoid discovering it too late.

# What does the ISREC Foundation's support mean to you?

The Foundation gives us a certain stability, especially budgetary stability. This is particularly important in our profession, as it takes time to create a project that will be accepted and later published. This process takes years.

# You began your research more than three years ago. Where do you stand today?

We are now in a key phase where we have accumulated a great deal of data. We have been able to identify a novel tumor suppressor in follicular lymphoma. This work has been published in Science Translation Medicine and aims to make us known internationally this year. We are ready and are about to finalize a publication.

# Do you have a message for our generous donors and readers of this annual report?

In my opinion, it is extremely important to promote what is called translational science. We need to understand the patients' needs and to respond with novel clinical applications that arise from research work. If we do not invest in research, we dangerously hinder scientific progress and knowledge transfer. We need to improve our understanding of cancer development mechanisms and to share this information with the clinicians.

# NEXT GENERATION OF SCIENTISTS



Interview with Prof. PING-CHIH HO, tenure track professor, University of Lausanne and LICR

Professor Ping-Chih Ho was awarded a chair in molecular cancer immunity for a period of six years. Since 2015, the work of his research group, carried out jointly with the oncology department of the University of Lausanne and the Ludwig Foundation, is centered around the reeducation of macrophages to strengthen antitumor immunity during T lymphocyte immunotherapy.

"AGORA creates required conditions for a unique alliance between researchers and clinicians, enabling transfers from one discipline to another"

# Why have you chosen to move to Switzerland to continue your research?

After a master's degree in biochemical sciences in Taiwan, I moved to the United States in 2006 for my doctoral thesis, followed by a postdoc in the immunology department at Yale University. At the time, I ne-

ver dreamt I would one day move to Europe, not to mention Switzerland. But a meeting with Prof. Georges Coukos convinced me of the quality of the research environment in Lausanne. While informing myself about this project, I realized that the main asset of this center is the pooling of specializations, which is why I decided to try my luck here.

# How did it feel to move first from Asia to the United States and then to Europe?

I experienced a genuine cultural shock when I moved from Asia to the United States. The situation was difficult in terms of life style and communication. After that, I was not too worried about moving to Europe with my entire family, all the more so because Switzerland is very open to other cultures. I experienced no integration problems.

# You began your research in 2015. Do the working conditions meet your expectations?

The research environment is unique here and I received a warm welcome from my colleagues. I'd say the setting is very generous. People are open-minded and scientific basis is excellent.

# In what way are conditions for researchers different in the United States?

Work in the United States is much more stressful. In Switzerland, I can carry out a project that is important to me while enjoying the freedom to take certain risks. The situation is different in the United States where funding allows for very little leeway. For young scientists, competition is fierce. Donors do not always allow scientists to head in a direction that may well prove interesting, such as the redefinition of our conception of cancer immunotherapy treatments.

# The ISREC Foundation places patients at the heart of its mission to support research. What is your opinion on this subject?

This should encourage us to change the way we look at cancer and its potential treatments. Meeting patients is a unique opportunity to dialogue and perhaps better define our research priorities.

# What does the inauguration of AGORA mean to you?

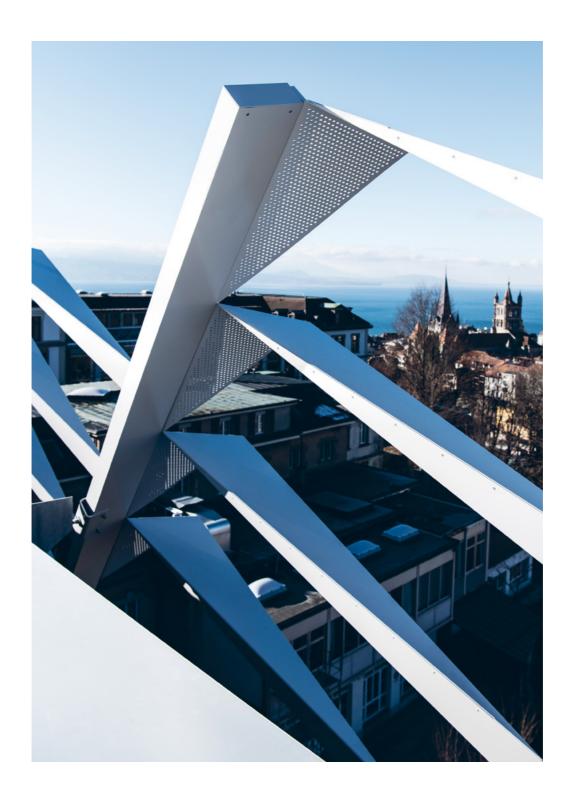
AGORA is, above all, a place of exchange and sharing. In the long run, the goal is to convert discoveries into clinical applications, so I explore the biology of things but want to submit my conclusions to the expertise of clinicians in order to understand the patients' reality more clearly. I think that with AGORA we will be able to facilitate knowledge transfer. This step is indispensable. I believe the excellency of this new research cluster will rapidly lead to Lausanne becoming a destination of reference in the scientific community.

# Our foundation's mission is to secure funds for new projects. Do you have a message for our donors?

Our work is highly motivating, yet also very trying when results fall short of our expectations. Even so, we must continue to develop the way we approach cancer treatment. For this to happen, we depend on substantial support. This is why donors play such an important part: they are the engine of our work. They offer us the opportunity to find new treatments and subsequently to heal more cancer patients.

# Your CV tells us that you are also very involved in teaching?

I love to teach and particularly appreciate working with students who display intellectual curiosity. In the learning phase, people are in a state of relative naïveté that prompts them to ask fundamental questions. Students remind us of the primary motivation that stimulates us each and every day.



View towards the south through the outer grid structure of the AGORA building

The chosen structure takes into account not only the architecture of the building, but also the meteorological conditions of the wind-exposed site. Protection against light or, on the contrary, enhancement of the lighting are essential features offered by this efficient frontage. Less energy is required to heat and cool the building while still allowing for a comfortable and productive workplace.





View from the Château Saint-Maire on the Cité hill
Today, the AGORA building enriches Lausanne's landscape and subtilely blends into the heart of this city on the move.
To the left in the foreground: the ISREC at the time of its establishment in 1964 at the Rue du Bugnon 27.







# HIGHLIGHTS IN 2017

# Events organized in 2017 for the benefit of the ISREC Foundation

## **AGO Trophy**

A sports event designed to raise funds for the **fight against cancer**, the proceeds of which go the ISREC Foundation and various other associations.

The memories of the 7th edition of the **AGO Trophy** that took place on Sunday, June 25, 2017 are still fresh. Yet, the next edition has already been announced for Sunday, June 24, 2018.

The story of three friends, Giuseppe, Pasquale and Agostino, is where this adventure began. All three of them were sports enthusiasts, keen on football, until Agostino Caruso, jersey no. 7, passed away in September 2010 after being diagnosed with cancer. Ever since, with the help of approximately fifty volunteers and faithful sponsors, Giuseppe Ciminera and Pasquale D'Agostino organize a yearly sports tournament (football and pétanque) to keep his memory alive. Each year, more than 200 participants and approximately 500 spectators gather for this game and family day.



Pasquale D'Agostino and Giuseppe Ciminera

In the past seven years, more than 113 000 Swiss francs have been raised for cancer research, and 55 000 francs have been donated to the ISREC Foundation. Giuseppe and Pasquale are well aware of the huge fight still ahead regarding cancer, and they are more motivated than ever, as numerous names have been added to that of their dear friend over the past years.

The **AGO Trophy** is an invaluable contribution that gives meaning to our actions.



Andrea Orlando and Estelle Ducret surround Catherine Labouchère, president of the ISREC Foundation

# A charity dinner to benefit cancer research

In October 2017, two young high school students from Lausanne, Estelle Ducret and Andrea Orlando, organized a charity dinner to benefit the ISREC Foundation in the context of their end-of-school project. Spurred and deeply touched by the unfortunately still very high number of people affected by cancer, Estelle and Andrea managed to motivate family, friends and numerous regional sponsors to support this evening organized at the Ecole Hôtelière de Lausanne. 150 family members, friends and acquaintances having showed up, the two students were able to proudly present a check amounting to 12 000 Swiss francs to the ISREC Foundation, along with the profits of a raffle, for a grand total of 13 000 francs. This sum will serve to support a young scholarship student, as requested by the two schoolmates.

Thank you, Estelle and Andrea, for this wonderful initiative!

# Other events in favor of cancer research

In memory of their mother, the three sisters **Ruth Mahoney-Rota, Anna Marchini** and **Beth Mahoney** participated in the very trying **Fisherman's Friend StrongmanRun** in June 2017.

Their race was sponsored to raise funds for the ISREC Foundation.

The **Club Team Girard** donated to the ISREC Foundation part of the benefits from the 20<sup>th</sup> **Oldtimer Hill Climb** that took place in August 2017.

Our warm thanks to all those who commit to the cause of our Foundation.



## The Foundation consists of the following bodies:

### THE FOUNDATION COUNCIL

The Foundation Council is the highest managing authority of the Foundation. It allocates resources, appoints its members, those of the Scientific Board and the Management, as well as the Financial Auditors. It approves the annual budget and the Foundation accounts.

### **President**

### Catherine Labouchère

Jurist, delegate of the Canton of Vaud parliament

### **Members**

### Yves Henri Bonzon

Head Investment Management CIO and member of the Executive Board, Julius Bär

### **Prof. Franco Cavalli**

Representative of the Scientific Board, Scientific Director, IOSI (Istituto Oncologico della Svizzera Italiana, Bellinzona)

## Prof. Pierre-Marie Glauser

Lawyer and professor of tax law at UNIL (University of Lausanne), Associate at Abels Oberson SA

### **Prof. Pierre-François Leyvraz**

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### **Prof. Philippe Moreillon**

Vice-Rector, UNIL (University of Lausanne), professor emeritus

### Dr Thomas W. Paulsen

CEO, Chief Financial Officer, Head of Finance and Risk Division, Banque Cantonale Vaudoise, Lausanne

### **Béatrice Schaad**

Director of the Communications Department, CHUV (Centre Hospitalier Universitaire Vaudois)

### **Prof. Didier Trono**

Full Professor, GHI (Global Health Institute), EPFL (École Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne)

### **Prof. Thomas Zeltner**

Former Director of the Federal Office for Public Health

### Foundation Council

From left to right: Thomas W. Paulsen, Pierre-Marie Glauser, Catherine Labouchère, Yves Bonzon, Thomas Zeltner, Didier Trono, Béatrice Schaad, Pierre-François Leyvraz, Franco Cavalli Absent: Philippe Moreillon

### Scientific Board

From left to right: Fabrice André, Franco Cavalli, Anne Müller et Michael N. Hall Absent: Peter Johnson



### THE SCIENTIFIC BOARD

The Scientific Board is composed of experts of international renown in various fields of cancer research. They cannot be a member of the Foundation Council, with the exception of the president of the Scientific Board, by virtue of his position. Assisted by the Scientific Board, the Management selects the research projects to be funded, and presents its proposals to the Foundation Council.

### **President**

### **Prof. Franco Cavalli**

Director, IOSI (Istituto Oncologico della Svizzera Italiana)

### **Members**

### Prof. Fabrice André

Research director, responsible for the U981 unit of the INSERM, Associate Professor, Medical Oncology Department, Institut Gustave Roussy, Villejuif, France

### Prof. Dr. Michael N. Hall

Professor at the Biozentrum, University of Basel

### **Prof. Peter Johnson**

Professor of medical oncology, Faculty of Medicine, University of Southampton, UK

### Prof. Dr. Anne Müller

Associate Professor in experimental medicine, Institute for Molecular Cancer Research, University of Zurich

### THE MANAGEMENT

Assisted by the Scientific Board, the Management selects the research projects to be funded, and presents its proposals to the Foundation Council. It develops and recommends a fundraising strategy and performs the tasks defined by the regulations of the Foundation.

### **Director**

**Prof. Francis-Luc Perret** 

### **General secretary**

**Aylin Niederberger** 

### THE FINANCIAL AUDITORS

The financial auditors, whose tasks are determined by law, are nominated by the Foundation Council. They are elected for one year. The 2017 mandate was entrusted to **Ernst & Young SA** in Lausanne, a fiduciary company recognized by the Swiss Institute of Certified Accountants and Tax Consultants.

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Since 1964, numerous donors have supported our cause through their gifts, subsidies or legacies and have contributed to the progress of cancer research.

We are very grateful and thank each one of them most warmly.

Among these donors, more than five hundred appear in our gold book:

# MORE THAN ONE MILLION FRANCS

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Impressum Publication edition Aylin Niederberger Design Alain Florey — Spirale Communication visuelle

© Photographs
Cover, P. 7, 10, 22 et 23 Laurianne Aeby – SAM
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