



## Since it was founded

From when it was founded in 2007, the Synergie Lyon Cancer Foundation has progressed remarkably well. The Foundation could not have achieved any of its work without the vital and valuable aid of our partners and sponsors.

We are proud to associate you with this success, by informing you of the highlights of the last two years.

## And in particular in 2013...

It is difficult to talk about 2013 without broaching the question of Michel Besse's death at the beginning of 2013 and expressing sympathy for his family.

Michel Besse was the first President of the Synergie Lyon Cancer Foundation. It is the decisions that he made at the head of the Foundation which now allow it to present sound management and results of which it can be proud.

Nonetheless, we must not become discouraged by the rather gloomy economic situation that reduces our financial resources.

Caring for patients suffering from cancer is a combat. We must not admit defeat! It is a question of respect for these patients and their families, for the doctors, nurses and researchers, for coming generations, and our sponsors and partners!

***"Giving is sharing positive energy that helps to cure!"***

This has never been so true and you are active witnesses.

That is why we wanted to highlight the researchers and doctors who "forge" oncology in Lyon and the works done by the Synergie Lyon Cancer Foundation.

In November 2013, we also launched a new Internet site that gives better visibility to our actions. Its aim is to be clear, fluid and informative, and we hope you will have the pleasure of discovering it: [synergielyoncancer.fr](http://synergielyoncancer.fr).

Therefore 2014 will be a watershed year during which we must take on major challenges and move mountains. We must continue to set up well-organised and ambitious projects while diversifying our resources and intensifying our partnerships.

We hope to continue sending you excellent news and that you will continue to place your trust in us.

A good new year 2014 to all.

## **The results of Synergie Lyon Cancer: 2012-2013**

### **A change of President**

2012 was marked by the arrival of our new President Jean-Pierre Bizarri on 15 March 2012 who succeeded Alain Mérieux.

Alain Mérieux took on this office in order to ensure continuity following the resignation of Michel Besse in May 2011. This gave time to the members of the Management Board of the Synergie Lyon Cancer Foundation to find a new qualified person capable of replacing Michel Besse and who would succeed him with the same commitment and rigour as his predecessors.

Jean-Pierre Bizzari is senior Vice President of clinical development in oncology at Celgène, a member of the scientific committee of the Institut National du Cancer (INCa) and member of the management board of the biopharmaceutical company, Transgène.

### **A new facility: C3D “Centre for Drug Discovery and Development”**

Launched in 2012, the C3D centre provides researchers with the **expertise and infrastructures** necessary for transforming their discoveries into **potentially therapeutic compounds**.

This laboratory was created thanks to the joint initiative of the Synergie Lyon Cancer Foundation, the Léon Bérard Centre (CLB) and the Cancer Research Centre of Lyon (CRCL). It is located in the Léon Bérard Centre.

The C3D centre is endowed with technological installations and multidisciplinary competences on which it can rely (biology, medicinal chemistry, non-clinical development), and which are necessary for running a pharmaceutical research project.

### **The bioinformatics centre has strengthened its position**

The strength of the Bioinformatics Centre directed by Professor Gilles Thomas resides in its originality, **the knowhow of its teams and its advanced technological resources**, making it an indispensable tool for **research in cancer genomics**.

*The Senior Chair of Excellence at the forefront of bioinformatics receives substantial support from the Apicil Group and Roche Laboratories.*

Professor Gilles Thomas, an internationally reputed expert in cancer genetics, came from the United States in the framework of a Senior Chair of Excellence funded by the Synergie Lyon Cancer Foundation. His expertise and the desire of the INCa to play a role in the European project BASIS (Breast Cancer Genetics Somatic Study) provided the impetus necessary for setting up the bioinformatics centre specialised in oncology.

This Chair of Excellence has received substantial support from the APICIL Group and ROCHE Laboratories. Its creation was also supported by the INCa, the Léon Bérard Centre (Centre Régional de Lutte Contre le Cancer Lyon et Rhône-Alpes), the University Claude Bernard Lyon 1 (UCBL1), the Hospices Civils de Lyon (HCL), the Cancéropôle Lyon Auvergne Rhône-Alpes cluster (CLARA) and the Rhône-Alpes Bioinformatics Centre (PRABI). The centre also collaborates closely with the International Agency of Research on Cancer (IARC) and the Cancer Research Centre of Lyon (CRCL).

***“At the heart of the fight against cancer, the bioinformatics centre of the Synergie Lyon Cancer Foundation is situated at the crossroads of the reality facing doctors and the questions asked by researchers. It also interacts strongly with the main regional actors in the development of bioinformatics and automation. The whole advantage of this laboratory is the close-knit interface that it forms between informatics and oncology”.*** Professor Gilles Thomas, Director of the centre.

The Bioinformatics centre has now become an indispensable tool for analysing the very large volumes of data generated by existing technologies. Its originality resides in the team’s expertise in cancer genetics and data processing.

It is strongly involved in international research programs and has reinforced its partnerships with the INCa, Inserm/ITMO, Lyric (integrated cancer research site in Lyon) and the ANR (National Research Agency). It is also involved in the IMODI (Innovative MODels Initiative) program, in collaboration with the Tumour Model Laboratory. The aim of this program is to develop predictive tumour models and, finally, propose preclinical models dedicated to personalised therapy.

## **The Tumour Model Laboratory is involved in a national project**

### ***The Tumour Model Laboratory: a vital tool for pushing research forward***

In response to the need expressed by the region’s medical-scientific community for animal models adapted to their research on cancer, the Tumour Model Laboratory (LMT) was set up in 2008 thanks to the collaboration between the Synergie Lyon Cancer Foundation and the Claude Bernard University – Lyon 1, with the support of the Cancéropôle Lyon Auvergne Rhône-Alpes cluster (CLARA), Inserm, the Léon Bérard Centre (CLB) and the CNRS.

The laboratory’s personnel currently include an engineer-manager and three laboratory animal technicians.

### ***Models wholly dedicated to oncology***

The objective of the Tumour Model Laboratory is to provide public research teams with an original and high quality service based on rigorous quality assurance standards.

The laboratory proposes a panel of mouse tumour models that mimic as closely as possible different human cancers, and efficient analysis and control imaging systems. These facilities provide the optimal conditions needed to study tumour biology and test new therapeutic approaches.

***“In order for the patients to benefit from the progress made from oncological research, we need high quality preclinical research. We have set up a laboratory of highly specific murine models managed by specialised and highly competent personnel. This facility can respond precisely to many questions asked by our scientific community.”*** Patrick Mehlen, Deputy Director of the Cancer Research Centre of Lyon (CRCL).

Since 2013, the Tumour Model Laboratory has been involved in the national project, IMODI, driven by Oncodesign and financed by Oséo. The aim of this program is to create a lasting national sector for the development, characterisation and exploitation of predictive cancer models.

## **The fine success of the Chairs of Excellence, an example of partnership that helps to cure!**

The Chairs of Excellence of the Synergie Lyon Cancer Foundation were created to attract high level researchers to Lyon likely to ensure progress in research programs focusing on **cancer escape and therapeutic targeting**.

In addition to a Senior Chair of Excellence that has led to the creation of the Bioinformatics Centre, the Synergie Lyon Cancer Foundation has funded the first Junior Chair of Excellence. So far, the results of this project have been highly positive. This Chair has benefited from support from the Foundation of the Caisse d'Épargne Rhône-Alpes and Humanis-Aprionis.

David Bernard was recruited in June 2009 to fill this "Caisse d'Épargne Rhône-Alpes Junior Chair of Excellence". His team, which works on the process of cell senescence, has since been integrated in the "Apoptosis, cancer and development" department of the Léon Bérard Centre. Since 2011, David Bernard has headed his own "Senescence Escape Mechanisms" team at the CRCL. The funding of this team by the Synergie Lyon Cancer Foundation ended in December 2013. A success story to be renewed as soon as possible!

### ***Marie-Caroline Fiore***

General Secretary  
Synergie Lyon Cancer Foundation

### ***Marina Rousseau-Tsangaris***

Treasurer  
Synergie Lyon Cancer Foundation

<b>ANR :</b>	<a href="http://www.agence-nationale-recherche.fr/">http://www.agence-nationale-recherche.fr/</a>
<b>CLB :</b>	<a href="http://www.centreleonberard.fr/">http://www.centreleonberard.fr/</a>
<b>CIRC :</b>	<a href="http://www.iarc.fr/indexfr.php">http://www.iarc.fr/indexfr.php</a>
<b>CLARA :</b>	<a href="http://www.canceropole-clara.com/">http://www.canceropole-clara.com/</a>
<b>CNRS :</b>	<a href="http://www.dr7.cnrs.fr/">http://www.dr7.cnrs.fr/</a>
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<b>HCL :</b>	<a href="http://www.chu-lyon.fr/web/">http://www.chu-lyon.fr/web/</a>
<b>Imodi :</b>	<a href="http://www.synergielyoncancer.fr/actualites/synergie-lyon-cancer-acteur-dimodi">http://www.synergielyoncancer.fr/actualites/synergie-lyon-cancer-acteur-dimodi</a>
<b>Inca :</b>	<a href="http://www.e-cancer.fr/recherche/la-genomique-du-cancer/les-projets-icgc-soutenus-par-linca">http://www.e-cancer.fr/recherche/la-genomique-du-cancer/les-projets-icgc-soutenus-par-linca</a>
<b>Lyric :</b>	<a href="http://www.cancer-lyric.com/">http://www.cancer-lyric.com/</a>
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<b>UCBL1 :</b>	<a href="http://www.univ-lyon1.fr/">http://www.univ-lyon1.fr/</a>