

2019 RECOMMENDATIONS

INTERNATIONAL SCIENTIFIC ADVISORY BOARD



SCIENTIFIC REPORT 2018

INCA

1 Congratulations on the scientific report and thanks to Professor Christine Chomienne for her exemplary leadership during the past years. We also congratulate the different team members for their work and important presentations.

2 SAB acknowledges its role in contributing to the scientific direction of INCa is now codified in March 2019 Health law

3 The SAB spent the bulk of its time discussing the new Cancer Research Strategy development plan and content and offers the following:

PROCESS FOR STRATEGY DEVELOPMENT:

1 The SAB agreed with the planned process

2 The working groups and their outputs as well as the feedback from the consultations, and the SWOT analysis will be key in developing a strategy that will:

- a. build on the research strengths of France, its networks and its research infrastructure. There are unique strengths that should be called out
- b. address gaps or weaknesses defined in the SWOT analysis
- c. allow France to grow its reputation as international leader in cancer research and its impact on positive health outcomes for all citizens (addressing inequities)

CONTENT OF THE STRATEGY:

The SAB offers the following comments and recommendations:

1 The overarching key goal of research is **to improve health for all** in France – reducing incidence, morbidity and mortality of cancer. INCa deserves congratulations for the progress of the past decade and now it is time **to expand and accelerate** the impact on cancer outcomes.

2 The SAB noted the efforts that were made to focus as well as to be proactive by anticipating emerging important areas for research (e.g. immune-based therapies).

3 Consolidation of database resources :

- a. INCa should take a leadership role to create national resources for data sharing, support and research into new thematic initiatives (e.g. common databases and data elements)
- b. For older initiatives (e.g. SIRICs, data bases), INCa should be proactive in leveraging past investments to bring together projects and infrastructure addressing common questions to create economies of scale as well as enhance opportunities for research
- c. As a steward of these precious resources, INCa must ensure they are harmonized to international standards and optimized for collaborative use, both nationally and internationally

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- 4** The excellent investigator-driven fundamental research program must continue.
- 5** The already excellent programs, underpinned by critically important support for infrastructure and clinical and translational research, as well as important new topics such as large data science and pediatric oncology should continue in the new strategy as planned.
- 6** Clear goals, timelines and metrics for success should be defined to make decisions about NEW strategic programs and future funding as well as to determine whether they are rolled into other core funding programs
- 7** **Three themes** – the SAB agrees improvements are needed in cancer prevention, in the quality of life of patients living with cancer and in the outcomes of some cancer types with the poorest survival rates
 - a.** The working groups planned will provide insights into the SWOT analysis of current state in these areas as well as where the greatest impact of investment in research can be found
 - b.** Achieving goals of improvement in these areas will require **new investments** in research in etiology, prevention (primary and secondary) research, biology, behavioural science, implementation science, clinical research as well as **capacity building (human resources)**
- 8** **A fourth theme** which would be cross-cutting over all aspects of cancer care should be considered for inclusion:
 - Researching and reducing inequities in aspects of cancer prevention, treatment and outcomes

FEASIBILITY AND FUNDING:

- 1** The SAB notes that Cancer remains a leading cause of morbidity and mortality in France – Investment in cancer research is a clear priority to lead to improvement in health outcomes
- 2** The new INCa research strategy with its inclusion of a broader mandate will require substantial increased financial and human resources to realize the potential positive impact on cancer outcomes. The SAB thus feels strongly that a substantial increase in government investment in the INCa budget, commensurate to the ambitions of those goals, is required.