

PRESS RELEASE

Boulogne, 14 September 2021

Creation of the “Filière Intelligence Artificielle et Cancer” association:  
an innovative public-private partnership to accelerate innovation and research  
for the benefit of patients



<sup>1</sup> Press conference speakers

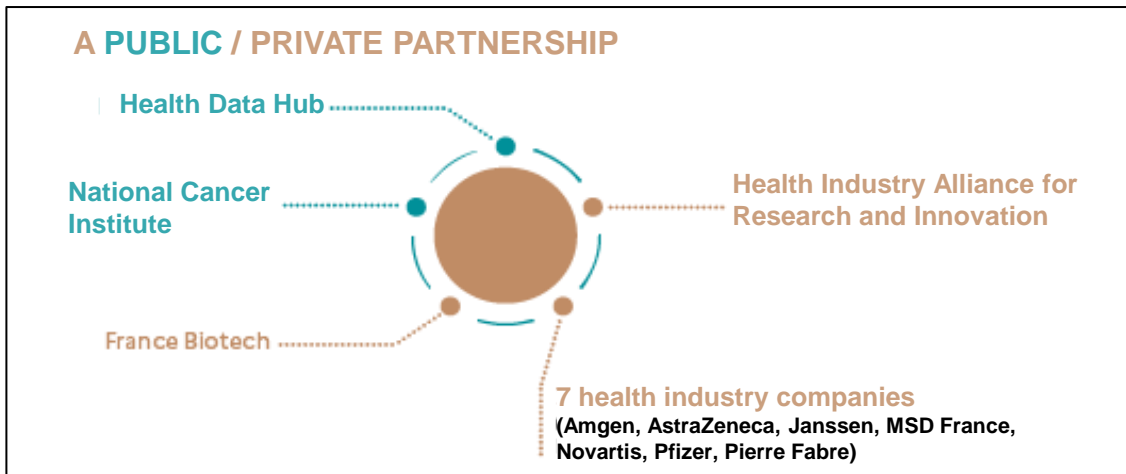
Therapeutic innovation should constantly be stimulated and shared so that our country can benefit from new breakthroughs in cancer research. The use of artificial intelligence in health data processing will be crucial in all fields of research. It can thus contribute to the development of new diagnostic and treatment strategies for patients.

To meet these challenges, the “Filière Intelligence Artificielle et Cancer” association has been created. Invested with a general interest task, this association is the result of an innovative partnership between public and private health actors. It has 11 founding members: the National Cancer Institute, the Health Data Hub, the Health Industry Alliance for Research and Innovation, France Biotech and seven health industry companies.

An innovative partnership between public authorities and health industry companies  
Officially created on 3 August 2021, the “Filière Intelligence Artificielle et Cancer” association has **11 founding members**. Its particularity lies in its ability to federate major health industry companies together with public actors.

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<sup>1</sup> Prof. Norbert Ifrah (President of the French National Cancer Institute), Mr. Thierry Breton (Director-General of the French National Cancer Institute), Mrs. Clarisse Lhoste (President of the AI & Health program of the Healthcare Industry Strategic Committee), Mr. Marco Fiorini (General Delegate of the Health Industry Alliance for Research and Innovation), Mr. Philippe-Jean Bousquet (Data-science and Assessment Division of the French National Cancer Institute).








Its creation thus indicates a willingness to strengthen public/private partnerships to stimulate cancer research for the benefit of the entire population. Beyond the innovation and research capacity of public and private actors, it combines the strengths of each of them in their respective fields:

- Public representatives bring their global and federating vision and guarantee, as a trusted third party, that public interest and good data use are respected;
- Health industry companies bring their development capacity.

### Missions that are resolutely oriented towards general interest

The sole purpose of the missions of the “Filière Intelligence Artificielle et Cancer” association is to serve general interest. They aim to improve the quality and relevance of the oncology innovation ecosystem for the benefit of all patients.

This includes:

-  **uniting public and private Founding Members** in a national initiative that can benefit the entire oncology innovation ecosystem;
-  **associating** data from industrial projects with data produced by public oncology organizations;
-  **deploying and validating technologies** that can extend and facilitate Cancer Data Reuse Projects;
-  **encouraging the industry to produce oncology data** and promoting their use within the National Cancer Institute’s cancer data platform and the Health Data Hub’s health data platform;
-  **developing and promoting cancer research** and encouraging the work of researchers and clinicians around cancer data.

To carry out its missions, the association aims to **strengthen dialogue among the different actors and increase their mobilization to consolidate France’s position as international leader in the field of innovation in cancer research and development.**

Providing patients with faster access to a greater number of innovations for all types of cancer

### *Improving knowledge before, during and after the disease thanks to Cancer Data Reuse Projects*

The improvement of knowledge on short-, medium- and long-term patient follow-up will help better diagnose the disease and thus adapt and personalize patient care. It also provides the opportunity to reduce the effects of the disease or its treatment, to return to normal life after cancer or to facilitate the return to work.

Moreover, a better knowledge of the disease, its determinants and risk factors will enhance prevention actions (primary, secondary or tertiary).

The projects that will be conducted within the “Filière Intelligence Artificielle et Cancer” association will enable to consider the development of new or emerging research fields and over time to deliver results for the benefit of patients and the entire population. The aim of the association is to lead 50 projects over 5 years.

### *Integrating private research data into the cancer data platform*

The cancer data platform of the National Cancer Institute was created 7 years ago. This platform currently collects and processes data<sup>2</sup> from the National Health Data System (SNDS), clinical practices, in particular the shared oncology record (DCC), surveillance and observation structures (such as cancer registries), regional screening coordination centers, studies, including clinical-biological databases, biotech or tumor libraries, and cohort studies combining clinical, biological and “omics” information and clinical trials.

Thanks to this partnership and the creation of the association, data from research carried out by industry companies on the molecules or drugs they develop could be integrated into the Institute’s platform. This project also represents an opportunity for public research to develop numerous projects.

The aim of this sharing and access are:

- to **accelerate research** in France for the benefit of patients;
- to **promote access to innovations for patients** (in particular for cancers with poor prognoses that are a top priority in the ten-year cancer control strategy).
- to **reinforce the attractiveness of France** in this field through data sharing.

This project has been selected by **the public investment bank (BPI)**, which is supporting it with €8 million. In all, 16 million euros will be allocated, since each industry firm will contribute a little over one million euros.

**Its governance** is centered around a board of directors composed of the college of the Public Founding Members, including a patient representative, and the college of the Industry Founding Members. It also includes a Stakeholders’ Committee and a Member Partners’ Committee that will be soon established following a call for expression.

- *The Stakeholders’ Committee* will consist of a broad range of health actors. It will make contributions and suggestions concerning the activities of the association to help it achieve its goals. It will provide an external viewpoint on the activities related to the Cancer Data Reuse Projects that are submitted to the association and promote the sharing and dissemination of information related to these activities within the organizations it represents.
- The purpose of the *Member Partners’ Committee* of the association is to promote the emergence of new projects as well as experience-sharing. It is composed of representatives of private actors from such diverse fields as medical, sciences, information technology, communication. It aims, among other things, to highlight ideas that will offer new solutions or services to patients and health professionals.

**During the first board meeting** held on 8 September at the National Cancer Institute, **all Founding Members signed the “Charter of the association’s shared values”**, which defines the principles and procedures that each member must respect in terms of transparency and ethics in the context of the missions they will be carrying out.

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<sup>2</sup> The purpose of these data is to assess cancer control devices and carry out expert assessments and studies on healthcare trajectories. By 2025, clinical practice data will be integrated into the cancer data platform and could be the subject of studies.

## The first pilot Cancer Data Reuse Projects

### *AstraZeneca*

A first project led by AstraZeneca to compare results from public and private data in the long-term follow-up of lung cancer patients who have received a treatment under an Authorization for Temporary Use (ATU).

This pilot project aims to establish a proof-of-concept to evaluate the ability to associate data collected under the ATU with those of the cancer data platform and to identify the related inputs of each data source.

Beyond this proof of concept, this project makes a contribution in the health sector by meeting some requirements mentioned in the new HAS evaluation doctrine on early access authorizations: it will consist of a recommendation guide approved by pharmaceutical laboratories and the National Cancer Institute to collect patient follow-ups in a standardized and electronic manner. It may apply to future early access applications.

### *Amgen*

Optimization of treatment sequences to prolong the survival of patients with hematological malignancies (blood cancer).

As proof of concept, the objectives of this project are:

- 1 - to assess the feasibility of associating cancer registry data with those of the cancer cohort, within the cancer data platform;
- 2 - to characterize healthcare trajectories and treatment sequences received by patients in this type of cancer;
- 3 - to identify predictive factors for treatment response, "standard" profiles of patients who best respond to some treatments, and in fine optimal treatment sequences to prolong patient survival in this type of cancer.

The originality of this project lies on the one hand in the concrete application of artificial intelligence methods (machine learning algorithms) in addition to "standard" statistical methods, and on the other hand, in the implementation of a scientific collaboration through a public-private partnership involving an industry firm, a cancer center, the National Cancer Institute and a SME specialized in artificial intelligence.

### *Novartis*

The aim of this pilot project is to provide new knowledge about certain cancers with molecular alterations. Based on the matching of data from cancer molecular genetics platforms with data from the Cancer cohort, it will be used to describe the management of patients with molecularly altered cancers and to define their prognosis, in order to improve this management.

In fact, the search for molecular alterations enables today to improve patient management thanks to the development of targeted therapies that can target specific alterations.

Two types of cancer are studied in this project: lung cancer with cMET mutation or BRAF mutation and breast cancer with Pi3KCA mutation.

#### Access to:

- the dedicated section on the [website of the National Cancer Institute](#) or on the [website of the Health Industry Alliance for Research and Innovation](#);
- the [statutes](#) of the "Filière Intelligence Artificielle et Cancer" association on the [website of the National Cancer Institute](#);
- the [Charter of the shared values](#) of the "Filière Intelligence Artificielle et Cancer" association".

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#### About the National Cancer Institute (INCa)

Established by the Public Health Act of 9 August 2004, the National Cancer Institute is the State agency providing health and scientific expertise in the field of oncology, with responsibility for coordinating cancer prevention initiatives. Through its integrated vision of different types of cancer and the related health, medical, scientific, social and economic aspects, the Institute seeks to support patients, their families, health system users, the general population, health professionals, researchers and decision-makers in the fields of prevention, screening, care and research.

In compliance with the Act of 8 March 2019, the role of the National Cancer Institute is to “work in coordination with research organizations, public and private oncology players, health professionals, health system users and all others concerned, to develop a ten-year cancer prevention strategy, specified by decree”. The ten-year strategy was presented by the President of the French Republic on 4 March 2021.

[www.e-cancer.fr](http://www.e-cancer.fr) [twitter](#)

#### About the Health Industry Alliance for Research and Innovation (ARIIS)

The aim of the Health Industry Alliance for Research and Innovation (ARIIS) which was founded in 2010 is to **federate the healthcare sector around collective events or projects.**

ARIIS interacts with all stakeholders of the innovation ecosystem in order to:

- **promote French research** abroad;
- **adopt a forward-looking approach** to disruptive innovation that may change tomorrow’s healthcare;
- **support the digital transformation** of the healthcare sector, in particular as regards health data and artificial intelligence.

ARIIS is defining itself as a center for French research and innovation.

Read more: <https://ariis.fr/>

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#### PRESS LIAISON

National Cancer Institute  
Media Relations Manager – Lydia Dauzet  
[presseinca@institutcancer.fr](mailto:presseinca@institutcancer.fr)  
+33(0)1 41 10 14 44//+33 (0)6 20 72 11 25

PRPA  
Danielle Maloubier/Elisa Ohneiser  
[elisa.ohneiser@prpa.fr](mailto:elisa.ohneiser@prpa.fr)  
+33 (0)1 46 99 69 62