

## 2021 RECOMMENDATIONS

# INTERNATIONAL SCIENTIFIC ADVISORY BOARD



SCIENTIFIC REPORT 2020

**1** Congratulations to INCa on already launching 78 actions and approval of the 10-year action plan

**2** Clarity around some of the recommendations regarding screening programs is needed – for example, there are harms from breast cancer screening which are not acknowledged in Les Eclairages.

**3** An evaluation strategy for the impact of the 10-year plan will be important to develop

**4** Specific recommendations regarding SIRIC:

The SAB acknowledges the importance of the SIRIC programme (i.e. centers of excellence) for translational cancer research in France and supports its renewal in an even stronger and better resourced format. The SAB encourages INCA to perform a benchmark analysis of what is offered in other countries such as Germany (through the German Cancer Consortium - <https://dktk.dkfz.de/en> for early translation and NCT network - <https://www.nct-heidelberg.de/en/the-nct/introduction/facts-and-figures/nct-network.html> for late translation) to increase the overall visibility and contributions of the SIRICs as core comprehensive cancer centers in France. To achieve these goals, the SAB has the following suggestions:

- Increase the overall budget allocated to SIRICs;
- Allocate a sizeable fraction of the SIRIC budget (at least 25%) to inter-SIRIC collaborations, which could decrease competition between SIRICs, increase their cooperation and strengthen cancer research interactions between centers with complementary and non-overlapping expertise in France;
- Embed patient advocates in all SIRIC sites;
- Given that many SIRICs have already benefited from 10 years of funding, costs to infrastructure should be capped (for example, 10%);
- Increase the duration of SIRICs but review each of them every 5 years by an international panel;
- Consider periodic new calls for potential additional SIRIC centers, to diminish competition between cancer centers in France;
- Approach regional/local decision makers for potential co-funding of these important local/regional cancer research hubs.

**5** It is critical that INCa continue to work together with ANSM to identify how to increase the speed of activation of clinical trials – a necessity for enhancing the competitiveness of France in clinical research and offer patients the opportunity to access novel therapeutics.

**6** Some overarching comments on this session regarding the ITMO/INCa workshop:

- The themes presented today were very diffuse in their content;
- SAB recommends that each of the themes should have defined “big” questions which might focus calls for proposals and investment - more work is needed which will require bringing together relevant experts across fields to accomplish this. Goals, focus and priorities need better definition;
- Linkage to the 10-year action plan/strategy and its priorities should be clear.