



**CRIG**

CANCER RESEARCH INSTITUTE GHENT

presents



CORONA WON'T STOP US!

\*CRIG  
CANCER RESEARCH INSTITUTE GHENT

**ANNUAL REPORT 2020**

# Chairman's statement

I recently discovered a letter from my grandfather dated May 1940. Being eighteen years old, he described to his mother an adventurous flight to northern France and escape from enemy troops. At that time he could not know he was trapped by the claws of an evil regime. Fear, curfews and travel bans were just the everyday problems during World War II. Eighty years later, the last survivors of this greatest generation are confronted with another merciless foe. Devastating consequences are long-term isolation from relatives for all, and death for many of them. The greatest generation but also cancer patients of all ages are among the hardest hit population by the viral pandemic. Higher fatality risks, delayed diagnosis/treatments, and psychological havoc are commonplace. My deepest respect to all the frontline medical staff members, the patients and their families during these difficult times.

No doubt the pandemic affected all of us, but how did CRIG react? I am honored to present our creativity and solutions to a changing environment induced by COVID-19. CRIG launched a series of online OncoDot symposia, an attractive digital alternative for our yearly OncoPoint symposium, to ensure that the whole research community stays in touch in these challenging times. Furthermore, CRIG provided online modules for our Doctoral Schools program on cancer and organized online interviews and test-your-knowledge sessions for candidate PhD students to increase their resilience during fellowship defenses. Positive evaluation by participants and high success rates guarantee its future organization.



No doubt all of us missed the cinema theatres but 'CRIG research @ the movies' introduced a valuable alternative! CRIG researchers are showcased in interviews ('calling CRIG' in two different formats, one targeted at our research network, one for the general public), and 'young investigator proof-of-concept' laureates present an educational movie on their CRIG-funded research project. In line with these science communication initiatives, CRIG also co-organized an online 'Kankercongres' for a broad target audience, attracting more than 500 interested participants.

At the end of 2020, CRIG participated to the 'Cultural Jukebox' initiative at Ghent University Hospital, and observed 'hidden' talents of painting, singing, playing music by researchers and healthcare workers to emotionally support cancer patients in these challenging times.

Together with the steering committee, the co-chairs of clinical and fundamental research Prof. Lieve Brochez & Prof. Geert Berx, and the CRIG operational unit, I extensively reached out to our partner institutes Ghent University, Ghent University Hospital and VIB-UGent to plan new initiatives to further support interdisciplinary cancer research. More than ever, I am looking forward to the next year to further mature these actions.

I am thrilled to see the increasing number of CRIG supporters. Through donations, we have been able to continue supporting young researchers performing promising basic, translational and clinical cancer research to the benefit of all patients.

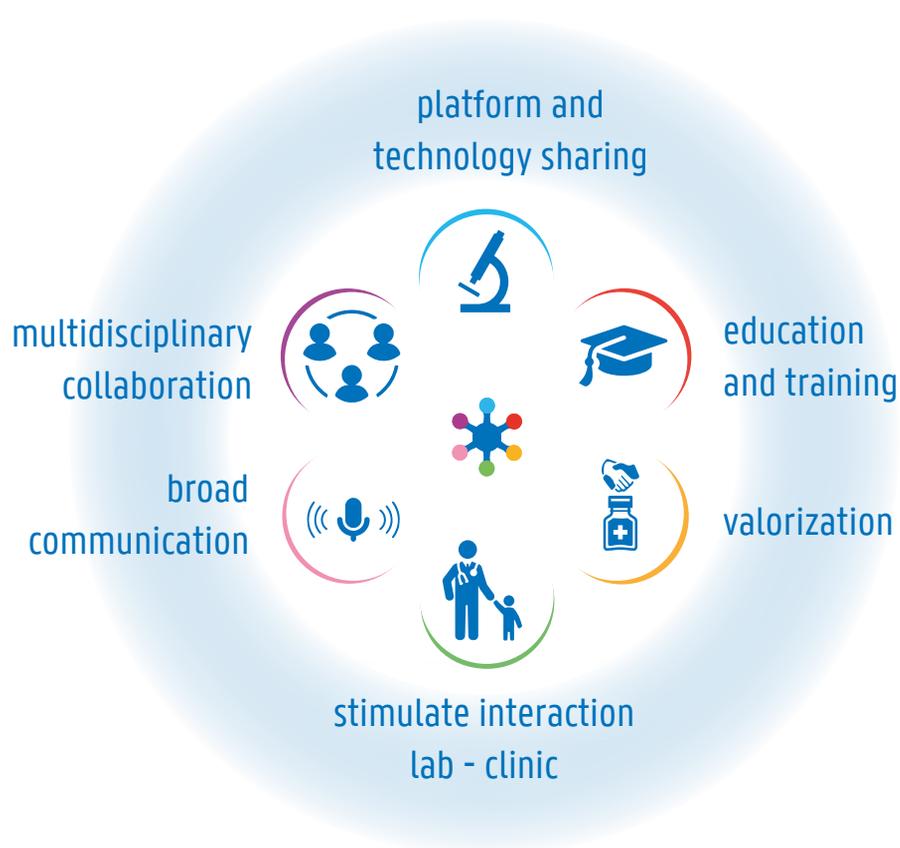
Prof. Olivier De Wever  
on behalf of the steering committee



# CRIG in a nutshell

The Cancer Research Institute Ghent stimulates and accelerates cancer research in Ghent, and comprises over 450 researchers from more than 70 research groups at Ghent University, Ghent University Hospital and VIB-UGent.

CRIG also joins forces with other research institutes, foundations & industrial partners, and reaches out to society. CRIG's mission is to stimulate fundamental, translational and clinical cancer research across expertise domains, towards more effective treatments and better survival of cancer patients.



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# CRIG 2020 in numbers

 450+ researchers



3 partner institutions 

 research groups 70+



3 FTE in operational team 

 PhD theses 22



>280 A1 publications 

young investigator proof-of-concept projects granted (>133K €)  9



>316K € donations and legacies received 

 granted via UGent industrial research fund (IOF) projects 2.4M €



>10M € external project funding acquired by CRIG researchers 

 valorization project income 5.6M €



16 bilateral contracts 

 3 licenses



2 spin-offs launched 

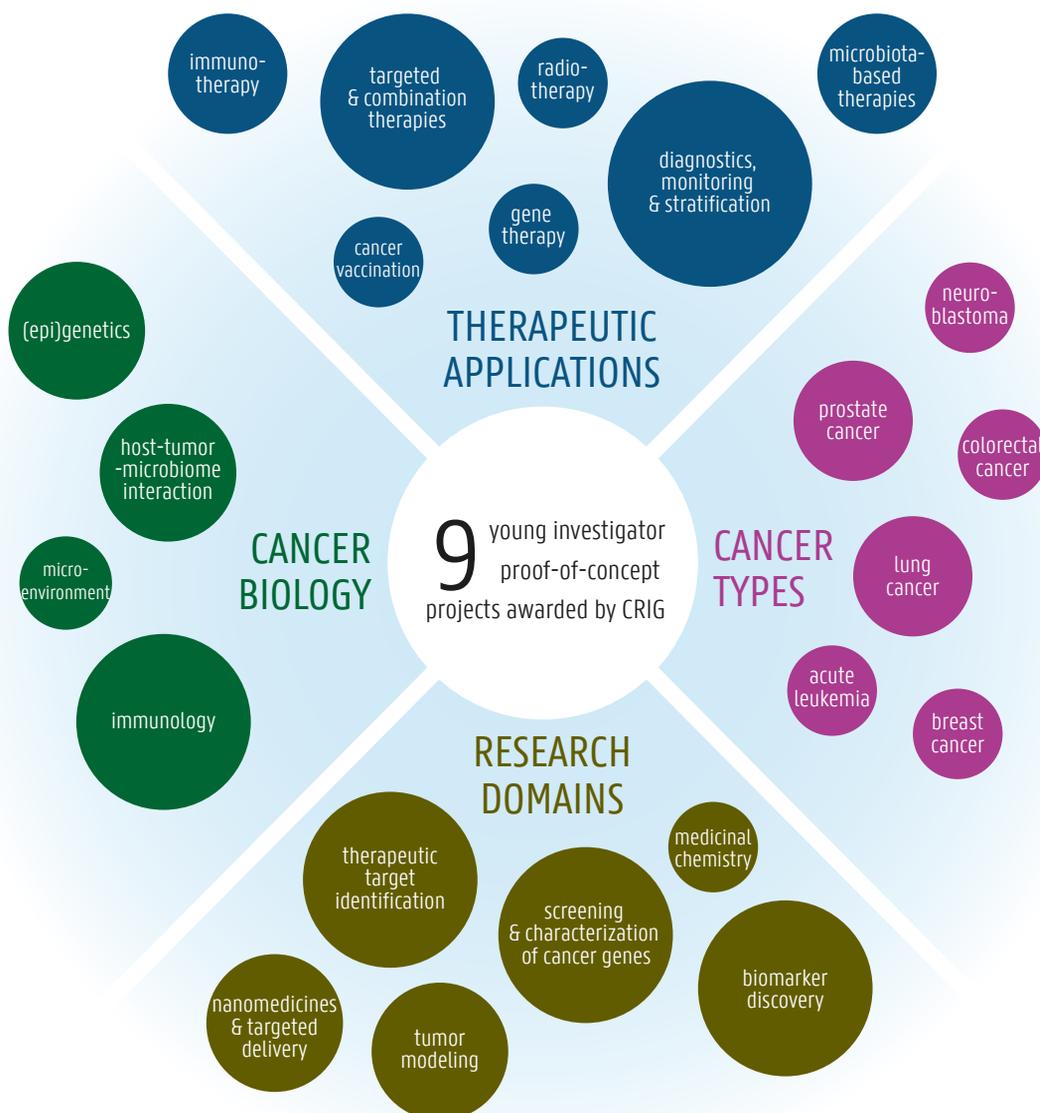
\*\*\* CRIG unites 70+ research groups, 450+ researchers (>10% growth in 2020) from 3 partner institutions (UGent, UZ Gent and VIB-UGent) \*\*\* 3 full-time equivalents in operational committee \*\*\* 22 PhD theses defended by CRIG doctoral fellows \*\*\* >280 A1 publications (co-)authored by CRIG group leaders \*\*\* 9 young investigator proof-of-concept projects granted by CRIG for a total of >133 K EUR \*\*\* >316 K EUR donations and legacies received \*\*\* 31 cancer research projects (personal mandates excluded) – for >10 M EUR in total - have been granted to CRIG researchers by Kom op tegen Kanker (5 biomedical research projects, >1.6 M EUR), Stichting tegen Kanker (7 fundamental projects and 6 translational/clinical grants, >4.6 M EUR) and Fund for Scientific Research (FWO Vlaanderen: 6 research projects, 1 FWO-KOTK project & 1 TBM project, >4.5 M EUR) \*\*\* 5.6 M EUR of valorization project income obtained; 2.4 M EUR granted by UGent Flemish industrial research fund (IOF) for projects aiming to bring new technologies/products further to market; 3 licenses and 16 bilateral contracts with companies realized within UGent; 2 spin-offs launched, 8 in the pipeline \*\*\* >7200 mentions in Altmetrics of CRIG publications in social and other media (of which the majority on Twitter)

# Achievements in 2020

## Supporting innovative research projects by young investigators

CRIG actively supports innovative cancer research in Ghent by awarding young investigator proof-of-concept (YIPOC) projects to postdoctoral fellows. The funding allocated for these projects is co-financed by CRIG and by vzw Kinderkankerfonds via a strategic partnership.

In 2020, CRIG awarded 9 projects, for more than 133 000 EUR in total. With this funding, the awarded postdoctoral researchers are able to generate proof-of-concept results to increase the success rate of future external grant applications. Reports from the proof-of-concepts projects awarded by CRIG in the last four years have demonstrated a clear output and lever effect, including the acquisition of postdoctoral fellow mandates, research projects, and several high impact publications, in which data from CRIG proof-of-concept grants were included.



## Awarded young investigator proof-of-concept projects

### Dr. Bieke Decaestecker

The functional role of the highly conserved long non-coding RNA SILC1 in neuroblastoma development



### Dr. Sarah Deville

Direct phenotyping of extracellular vesicle subpopulations in blood plasma of breast cancer patients using asymmetrical flow field-flow fractionation



### Dr. Eric de Bony de Lavergne

A high-throughput CRISPR interference platform for the systematic identification of checkpoint inhibition response modulating long non-coding RNAs



### Dr. Bram De Laere

Quantitative analysis of androgen receptor perturbations using a blood-based liquid biopsy as a treatment-predictive biomarker for men with metastatic castration-resistant prostate cancer



### Dr. Francis Combes

Transcriptional targeting of hepatocellular carcinoma for cancer cell-specific delivery of therapeutic genes



### Dr. Ioanna Petta

Study of the role of intestinal goblet cells and the mucus barrier during the development of colorectal cancer



### Dr. Martijn Risseuw

CBF $\beta$  depletion using a proteolysis targeting chimaera strategy, an alternative strategy against RUNX/CBF $\beta$  driven leukemia



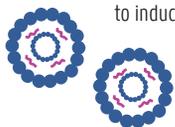
### Dr. Nora Sundahl

Intestinal Microbiota in Prostate Cancer patients as a Biomarker for Radiation-INDuced Toxicity (IMPRINT): a Prospective Biomarker Study



### Dr. Rein Verbeke

Exploring the mucosal delivery route for lipid nanoparticles co-loaded with mRNA and  $\alpha$ -GalCer to induce lung-resident memory T cells



“Recently, I received an ERC Starting Grant to unravel the impact of mycotoxins on human cancer development. A part of my ERC-concept was based on my obtained CRIG-grant. The belief of CRIG in this concept was of substantial importance, thank you!

Prof. Marthe De Boevre - laureate CRIG grant 2019

“Thanks to my first CRIG grant we were able to establish the use of CRISPR technology in the OncoRNA lab. We learned a lot and are now applying this method to systematically investigate the link between long non-coding RNA structures and their function in cancer.”

Dr. Eric de Bony - laureate CRIG grant 2019

As we believe it is important to show what type of research we are able to fund thanks to your donations and actions, we decided to make short educational movies with all CRIG grant laureates of 2020. More information about this initiative can be found on page 13.

## ••••• Organizing symposia and providing education for researchers

Through the organization of various symposia, CRIG provides an opportunity for cancer researchers to present their latest discoveries, to meet fellow researchers and to start multi- and interdisciplinary collaborations to accelerate research. In 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic obviously severely impacted our ability to organize educational and research events. However, corona-proof alternatives and new formats were introduced to ensure continued education and research communication within CRIG.

### 02.03.2020 - International Thematic Network 'PrIOMiC' kick-off symposium

With support from Ghent University, CRIG established an International Thematic Network (ITN) on '**P**recision oncology, **I**mmuno-**O**ncology and **M**odeling in **C**ancer', called 'PrIOMiC'. The aim of the network – which is open to all cancer researchers in Ghent – is to stimulate interaction and long-term collaboration between CRIG and international experts from renowned cancer research institutes on these themes. Read more about PrIOMiC activities and opportunities via the CRIG website.

Although the initiative was established in 2019, we officially launched our PrIOMiC network with a kick-off symposium in March 2020 (two weeks before lockdown!). The one-day symposium provided a forum to top researchers from our internationally renowned partner institutes to present their state-of-the-art research and expertise to almost 150 attending cancer researchers and students. During the additional meet-the-expert sessions and satellite symposium, several CRIG teams got involved to start international collaborations.



### 07.10.2020 - OncoPoint goes digital – first OncoDot symposium

CRIG's OncoPoint is a yearly forum for cross-fertilization of cancer research at UGent, UZ Gent and VIB-UGent, in which fundamental, translational and clinical cancer researchers present their work, meet each other, discuss and start new collaborations. Since a physical meeting was not possible in 2020, CRIG launched OncoDot - a series of 3 short, online symposia – as a corona-proof alternative. In October 2020, the first event successfully took place with live streaming of selected abstract presentations from a professional studio and opportunities to interact with almost 100 online attendants. The format is repeated during two OncoDot symposia in the first half of 2021.

### Spring 2020 - Doctoral Schools specialist course on cancer - 3rd edition

CRIG's Doctoral Schools specialist course on cancer is targeted to Ghent University doctoral fellows with different educational backgrounds and active in distinct cancer research disciplines. The educational course, lectured by CRIG experts, covers a broad variety of fundamental, translational and clinical cancer research insights, technologies and applications. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the content of several modules was alternatively provided online, allowing the participants to finish the course. As the course is very well-received by the attendants, the fourth edition is organized in the first half of 2021 (in an online format).

CRIG further supports the advanced education of young cancer researchers and specialists by organizing symposia (see above) and by stimulating participation in educational events that are organized by individual CRIG research groups or partner organizations. Also in 2020, CRIG promoted several symposia, workshops and invited speaker seminars (many of which in an online format). Finally, the program 'Major in Cancer' within the Master of Sciences in Biomedical Sciences at Ghent University is lectured by various CRIG group leaders and coordinated by CRIG chairman Prof. Olivier De Wever.

Finally, the new format 'CRIG calling...' was introduced in 2020 as an additional incentive to inform the CRIG network on novelties in cancer research within CRIG. More specifically, CRIG researchers are interviewed about their recent publications or interesting research findings. All the interviews – both scientific interviews for researchers and more general interviews for the broad public - can be found on our CRIG website.

## • • • • • Valorizing and partnering with industry

The CRIG business unit supports the CRIG investigators in translating their research findings into valorization. Since the end of 2019, the Flemish Industrial Research Fund (IOF) has financed the position of a dedicated platform collaborator (project manager Dr. Cristina Pintucci) to support the members of the CRIG business unit: the business developers of 7 UGent IOF consortia (Biomarked, DISCOVERE, ChemTech Life Sciences, MedTeg, Protein Technologies, E-poly and ACT-T), the research coordinators of (University College) HoWest, and the head of 'Health, innovation and research institute' at UZ Gent. Moreover, 2 UGent Innovation Officer positions have been granted by the IOF at the end of 2020, in the fields of Cure & Prevention, and AI. The Innovation officers will work in synergy with the CRIG business unit and CRIG project manager to facilitate large valorization projects and collaborations.

Despite the fact that 2020 was a challenging year, the CRIG valorization income reached 5.66 million EUR, doubling the 2019 income. Five projects were co-developed by the CRIG and the GATE (Ghent Advanced therapies and Tissue Engineering) interdisciplinary platforms.

CRIG group leaders Prof. Fritz Offner, Prof. Sylvie Rottey and Prof. Bruce Poppe joined forces with 8 other partners in the ICON project ATHENA (Augmenting THERapeutic Effectiveness through Novel Analytics). Funded by the Flanders Innovation & Entrepreneurship Agency (VLAIO) and coordinated by Janssen Pharmaceutica, the 3-year project explores the concept of machine learning to establish predictive analytics in the field of oncology as a novel approach towards personalised medicine.

The UGent IOF projects accounted for 2.44 million EUR income to boost the embedding of CRIG research findings into the industrial landscape, such as:

- The spin-off track for an enabling next-generation cellular immunotherapy for lung cancer (Prof. Karim Vermaelen)
- The spin-off track for the development of gel grafting for medical applications, which could be used in reconstruction after breast cancer surgery (Prof. Sandra Van Vlierberghe and Prof. Phillip Blondeel, in collaboration with GATE platform)
- The spin-off track for developing a platform of molecules targeting the tumor microenvironment (Prof. Christian Stevens)
- Accelerating the translation of the Galsome mRNA vaccine platform to a clinical-grade product, for application in solid tumors (Prof. Stefaan De Smedt, in collaboration with GATE platform)
- Development of cationic polymers for RNA delivery, with potential application in cancer vaccines and drug delivery (Prof. Richard Hoogenboom and Prof. Niek Sanders, in collaboration with GATE platform)

CRIG researchers have engaged in 16 bilateral collaborations with industry during 2020, and 3 exclusive license agreements (Glycostem, Flamingo Tx and Radion-D) and 1 non-exclusive license were signed for technology developed by CRIG teams. In the context of oncology, the Ghent IPR portfolio was enlarged with 8 patent applications entering the PCT phase, 4 PRIO patent applications filed, and 4 technologies under evaluation (IDF) for filing. Two spin-offs (Flamingo Tx and Radion-D) were incorporated using CRIG research technology. Flamingo Therapeutics develops novel treatment options for various cancers, focusing on the non-coding genome. Radion-D (developed in collaboration with HIRUZ and the UGent IOF consortium HyCT) improves breast cancer treatment by lowering the radiation risk. Eight projects with potential spin-off finality are currently in the CRIG pipeline.

## CRIG research(ers) in the spotlight ●●●●●●

Numerous scientific studies on fundamental, translational and clinical cancer research are yearly published by CRIG research teams in peer-reviewed international - and often top ranked - journals. For example, more than 280 A1 articles in the field of oncology were (co-)authored in 2020 by CRIG group leaders (detailed overview on <https://www.crig.ugent.be/en/publications>).

Also 2020 was a very successful year in terms of research funding that was obtained by CRIG teams, including > 10 M EUR granted by FWO, Stichting tegen Kanker & Kom op tegen Kanker for over 31 cancer research projects. Moreover, many CRIG researchers obtained personal mandates to pursue novel research projects. At the European level, we would like to congratulate **Prof. Marthe De Boevre** for obtaining an ERC Starting Grant to study the link between mycotoxins and cancer, **Prof. Koen Raemdonck** for obtaining an ERC Consolidator Grant to continue his work on inhalation therapy of RNA drugs, and **Prof. Kevin Braeckmans** for obtaining an ERC Proof of Concept Grant to explore photoporation as novel intracellular delivery technology for the R&D and cell therapy markets. Furthermore, we would like to highlight that 14 CRIG researchers obtained a PhD fellowship (fundamental research and strategic basic research) from FWO Vlaanderen. For the majority of these laureates, CRIG organized upfront test defenses with experts in cancer research as jury. Since this pilot project was evaluated positively by the candidates and the jury, CRIG will repeat and expand this initiative.

Several CRIG researchers were also awarded for their excellent research. For example, the KVAB (De Koninklijke Vlaamse Academie van België voor Wetenschappen en Kunsten) awarded the 2020 price 'Laureaat van de Klasse van de Natuurwetenschappen' to **Prof. Pieter Van Vlierberghe**, for his important work on acute leukemia.

Finally, we want to congratulate all CRIG researchers for their valuable contributions to cancer research in 2020, and their continuous efforts in the battle against cancer.

**BACKGROUND IMAGE:** CRIG researchers showed that the ZEB2 protein reprograms the epithelial cells of the intestinal wall, which allows bacteria to pass and cause inflammation that can lead to tumor development.

Top part: Zeb2 (red) detection in lamina propria mesenchymal cells of healthy human colon

Bottom part: Zeb2 (red) detection in epithelial cells of a colon cancer CMS1 patient

(c) Slowicka, Petta. et al. Zeb2 drives invasive and microbiota-dependent colon carcinoma. Nature Cancer, 2020.

## ● ● ● ● ● Outreach to the patients and the general public

CRIG engages in providing relevant communication to the public about cancer and the latest breakthroughs in cancer research. In 2020, CRIG organized (and participated in) diverse events to communicate and interact with patients and the general public about cancer research and therapies. As physical meetings were not possible during the corona pandemic, CRIG provided online alternatives and launched new initiatives for outreach.

### 04.02.2020 - World Cancer Day

In the context of World Cancer Day, Kankercentrum UZ Gent and CRIG co-organized guided visits in cancer research labs, the radiotherapy facility and the wellness area, as well as meet-the-expert sessions with caregivers on several topics. During an evening program - with presentations by CRIG experts and a panel debate - patients, relatives, caregivers and the broad public were informed about cancer research, diagnosis, treatment and (the cost of) care.

### 28.11.2020 - online Kankercongres 'Kanker, van onderzoek tot hoop'

Our unique concept – a conference on cancer, accessible for everyone – brings together researchers, doctors & caregivers, students, patients & their relatives, and delegates from foundations, companies & patient organizations. Due to the corona crisis, this 5th edition was organized as a shorter, online event but still with plenty of interaction. With more than 700 registrations, we can call this special edition a success!

The newest developments in cancer research, treatment – with a focus on immunotherapy – and the role of genetics in cancer were clearly presented by expert speakers in a professional studio. During the meet-the-expert sessions on breast cancer, colon cancer, leukemia and cancer research, the online participants interacted via a chatbox with the experts and moderators. Contact us if you want to see the full recordings of the event!

Kankercongres 2020 was an initiative by CRIG & Kankercentrum UZ Gent, the foundations 'Beautiful After Breast Cancer' and 'Stop Darmkanker', and the 'Center for Oncological Research' (UAntwerpen).

### CRIG@the movies

Next to organizing events, CRIG believes that film is a very powerful tool to visualize and communicate about research. In 2020, both short educational movies and interviews with CRIG researchers were launched as new and corona-proof formats.

#### 'Calling CRIG' - interviews with CRIG researchers

The interview format aims to inform the CRIG network on novelties in cancer research, and features CRIG researchers about their recent publications or interesting research findings. Both scientific interviews for researchers (in English) and more general interviews for the broad public (in Dutch) - can be found on our CRIG website

## DEC 2020 - De Culturele Jukebox @UZ Gent: culture for cancer patients

CRIG contributed to the 'Culturele Jukebox' project, an initiative of Prof. Tessa Kerre at UZ Gent, based on the experience that art and culture can make a difference for patients. To tackle the isolation of cancer patients, volunteers play music, read aloud, or bring another cultural activity on request of the patient, in a personal one-on-one setting. In the context of 'De Warmste Week', a kick-off program by volunteers of CRIG and Kankercentrum UZ Gent was streamed to all patient room televisions on Dec 15. You can still enjoy the talent and warm contributions of our cancer researchers and caregivers by watching the recording via our website!

The 'Culturele Jukebox' initiative was taken in collaboration with the Department of Hematology, UZ Kankercentrum, CRIG & with special thanks to 'Fonds Prinses Delphine van Saksen-Coburg', a fund that was officially opened in December to support the healing power of art.

Finally, several CRIG researchers also actively engaged in science communication at different events and in the media. As an example, we highlight an interview with CRIG about our view on multidisciplinary collaboration as the key to successful cancer research (campaign 'Leven met kanker' in collaboration with De Standaard, September 2020. Read via our website).

Stay up to date via our website [www.crig.ugent.be](http://www.crig.ugent.be), social media channels (Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, Instagram) and monthly newsletter!



### CRIG laureates present their research projects in short educational movies

As described earlier (p 6-7), CRIG awards 'young investigator proof-of-concept' projects to support innovative cancer research by young CRIG researchers. Since these grants are financed for a large part by donations and actions for CRIG, we find it important to be transparent and to show where the funding goes to. Therefore, we started to make short educational movies about the research projects of the CRIG laureates. In 2020, we compiled four movies (in Dutch) that are targeted to a broad audience and can be found via our 'CRIG@the movies' page on our website

# CRIG management

CRIG management consists of 3 committees in close contact with each other, to translate CRIG's mission into concrete action points.

## CRIG STEERING COMMITTEE

UGent • medicine & health sciences	Prof. Olivier De Wever (chairman)
	Prof. Wim Ceelen
	Prof. Katleen De Preter
UGent • sciences	Prof. Geert Berx (vice-chair fundamental research)
UGent • pharmaceutical sciences	Prof. Katrien Remaut
UGent • veterinary medicine	Prof. Niek Sanders
UZ Gent delegate	Prof. Lieve Brochez (vice-chair clinical research)
VIB delegate	Prof. Peter Vandenabeele

## CRIG OPERATIONAL COMMITTEE

Coordinator	Dr. Pieter Rondou
Project and communication manager	Dr. Eva De Smedt
Administrative assistant	An Rose

## CRIG BUSINESS UNIT

UGent	Dr. Cristina Pintucci (dedicated project manager & POC for the business unit)
	Dr. Daisy Flamez (IOF consortium Biomarked)
	Dr. An Van Den Bulcke (IOF consortium ChemTech Life Sciences)
	Dr. Dominic De Groote (IOF consortium DISCOVERE)
	+ the business developers of the IOF consortia MedTeg, Protein Technologies, E-poly & ACT-T

The CRIG business unit is further supported by the business and innovation center of VIB-UGent (dr. Griet Verhaegen) and HIRUZ (Health, innovation and research institute - prof. Catherine Van Der Straeten, dr. Lieve Nuytinck) for collaborations with VIB and UZ, respectively



The **steering committee**, consisting of 8 elected CRIG group leaders is responsible for the strategic and financial plan, and monitors all CRIG related initiatives.



The **CRIG business unit** supports CRIG researchers and their partners in setting up and managing collaborative innovation projects in oncology, and assists in intellectual property rights management, business development, R&D partnering, licensing & venturing and strategic research funding.



Under the direct supervision of the CRIG steering committee and its chairman, the **operational committee** is responsible for the daily management and the implementation of the strategic plan, such as the coordination and organization of CRIG events, follow up of cancer research activities and initiation of new projects within CRIG, as well as collaboration and communication with different stakeholders.

# Financials

## INCOME

donations, legacies & actions <sup>(1)</sup>	316 057 EUR
vzw Kinderkankerfonds (to support young investigator proof-of-concept projects)	75 000 EUR
UGent funding for CRIG's International Thematic Network <sup>(2)</sup>	60 000 EUR
UGent Doctoral Schools & lecturing fees	4000 EUR
sponsoring for CRIG events <sup>(3)</sup>	3846 EUR

## EXPENSES

young investigator proof-of-concept grants	133 701 EUR
personnel	207 071 EUR
organization of meetings, symposia, events, education, mobility grants <sup>(4)</sup>	20 123 EUR
website, IT, hardware, office, promo	7024 EUR

**(1)** Donations and legacies via UGent (Universiteitsfonds) & income actions (mainly from 'Warmste Week 2019') via vzw CRIG-fonds. All income from donations and actions are integrally used for cancer research, including the support of the young investigator proof-of-concept research projects; **(2)** funding by Ghent University to support 'PriOMiC', CRIG's International Thematic Network on cancer (60 K EUR/year during 2019-2023; funding is used for CRIG personnel, organizing symposia, mobility & mobility grants, ..); **(3)** sponsoring by companies for 3 OncoDot symposia in 2020-2021; **(4)** indicated expenses do not include co-financing by individual CRIG teams or partners for specific events or mobility.



[www.crig.ugent.be](http://www.crig.ugent.be)

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## Special thanks to all our supporters!

We wish to cordially thank all our supporters for the donations and actions that were organized for the benefit of CRIG! We wish to explicitly state that every single euro of each donation will only be used to support cancer research by CRIG researchers. Non-research activities are never paid by donations.

Finally, we also would like to thank our partners and sponsors for financial and other support that enabled us to realize CRIG's objectives in 2020.

You can **donate to CRIG** (with possible tax reduction) via transfer on "Fondsenwerving UGent" - **IBAN: BE26 3900 9658 0329** (BIC: BBRUBEBB) with reference "CRIG". End of 2018, vzw CRIG-fonds was founded to further support cancer research at Ghent University and Ghent University Hospital. More information and possible ways to support cancer research at CRIG: <https://www.crig.ugent.be/en/donate>.

End of 2020, vzw CRIG-fonds launched a **face mask sale** to show that cancer researchers are resilient and to raise funds for cancer research. A cartoonist from Ghent, Lise Vanlerberghe, designed a unique cartoon for us (see cover of this annual report), showing our perseverance in these challenging times. The cartoon is printed on two versions of qualitative face masks and matching storage (and washing) bags. Interested in this limited edition action? More info and ordering via our website.