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ANNUAL REPORT 2025

Chairperson's statement



At the beginning of 2026, the third CRIG steering committee completed its 3 year mandate (2023-2025). **Prof. Katleen De Preter**, CRIG chairperson during the past 3 years and active steering committee member for the past 6 years, looks back on the accomplishments in 2025.

“As I look back on another productive, inspiring and engaging year for CRIG, I also reflect on the three years during which I had the privilege of serving as chair of the lively CRIG steering committee, which has further strengthened its (inter)national recognition thanks to the efforts of all of us.

The continuous growth of CRIG has only been possible thanks to this recognition and to the funds raised over the years (through legacies, fundraisers, donations, etc). With these funds, we were able to award a second series of partnership grants that start in 2026, and to extend our ‘young investigator proof-of-concept’ grants to senior doctoral researchers. To better inform all stakeholders about how CRIG’s budgets are being used and the impact they generate, CRIG has invested even more in communication and outreach by expanding the operational team with a social media and event manager — welcome, Charlotte Reynhout!

Furthermore, the Inspire & Interact seminars were launched this past year to stimulate interfaculty interaction and collaboration, and strengthening the CRIG family/community.

There is much more to look forward to in the coming years under new leadership: with great pleasure, I hand over the chairmanship to Prof. Karim Vermaelen, who, as an oncologist-researcher, will undoubtedly strengthen the indispensable collaboration between the lab and the clinic!”

At the beginning of 2026, **Prof. Karim Vermaelen** was elected as chairperson for the next three years by the steering committee.

“Over the past decade, my predecessors have built CRIG into a vibrant, multidisciplinary cancer research ecosystem, and I warmly congratulate them for their leadership and vision. I also want to thank our outstanding operational team, whose professionalism and dedication have been essential in shaping CRIG.



In my new role, I will continue to advance one of CRIG’s core strengths: the close integration of cancer research labs and world-class core facilities within the hospital campus. This proximity keeps us focused on serving patients. CRIG also thrives by connecting cancer research groups across campuses and faculties in Ghent.

With the construction of the new university hospital over the next four years, our campus is undergoing a major transformation. This will impact future cancer research, and CRIG must follow these developments closely to identify opportunities early.

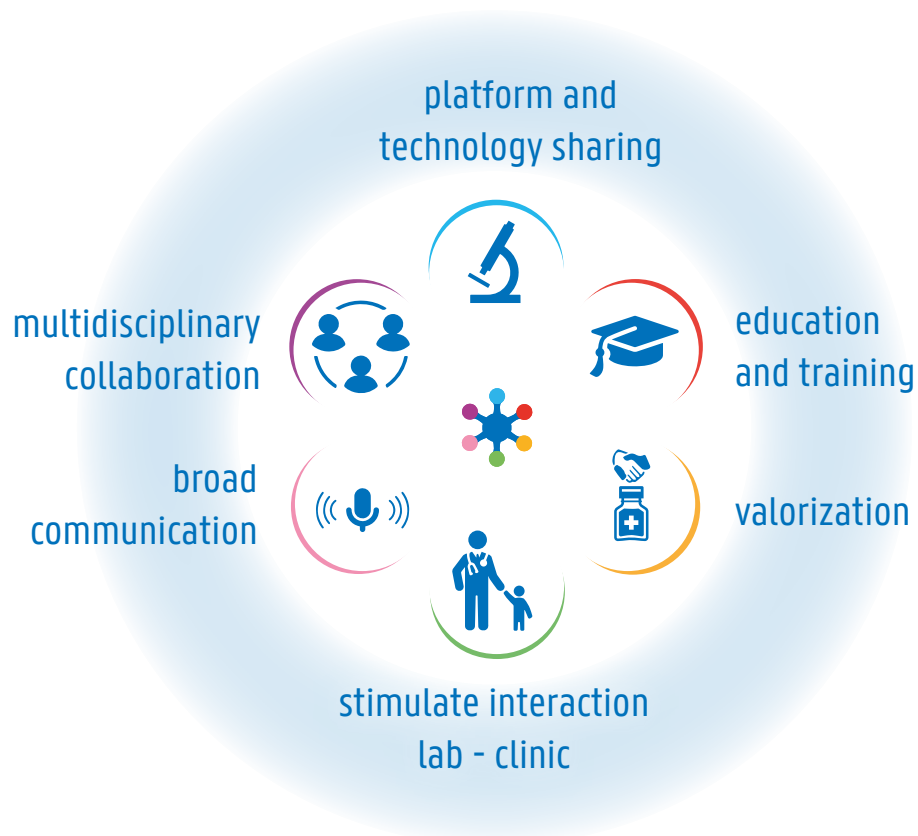
At the same time, we must maintain strong dialogue with external partners, building collaborations with industry, regulators, patient organizations, and academic centers across Europe and beyond.

I look forward to working with all CRIG members and partners in the coming years to write the next chapter of CRIG’s story!”

CRIG in a nutshell

Cancer Research Institute Ghent stimulates and accelerates cancer research in Ghent, and comprises over 750 researchers from more than 80 research groups at Ghent University, Ghent University Hospital and VIB-UGent.

CRIG also joins forces with other research institutes, foundations & industrial partners, and interacts with 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 management

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

CRIG STEERING COMMITTEE

End of 2025, a new CRIG steering committee was elected and will be active for 3 years (beginning of 2026 until end 2028). We explicitly thank the outgoing members Prof. Katleen De Preter (chairperson 2023-2025), Prof. Wim Ceelen and Prof. Evelyne Meyer for their excellent contributions and dedication. They are replaced by the 3 new steering committee members below (indicated with *).

UGent • medicine & health sciences	Prof. Steven Goossens
	Prof. Isabelle Hoorens *
	Prof. David Creytens *
UGent • sciences	Prof. Kris Vleminckx
UGent • pharmaceutical sciences	Prof. Koen Raemdonck
UGent • veterinary medicine	Prof. Ward De Spiegelare *
UZ Gent delegate	Prof. Karim Vermaelen (chairman)
VIB delegate	Prof. Geert van Loo

CRIG OPERATIONAL COMMITTEE

Coordinator	Dr. Pieter Rondou
Project and communication manager	Dr. Eva De Smedt
Social media and event manager	Charlotte Reynhout
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. Valentina Gofman - IOF consortium ChemTech
	Dr. Tim Desmet - IOF consortium Cell & Tissue Therapy
	Sarah Braet (RPh) - IOF consortium Discovere
	Dr. Gilles Brackman - IOF consortium MedTeg

The CRIG business unit is further supported by the business and innovation center of VIB-UGent (Dr. Griet Verhaegen), HIRUZ (Health, innovation and research institute) and HoWest (Dr. Paco Hulpiou) for collaborations with VIB-UGent, UZ Gent and HoWest, respectively.

The **steering committee** consists of 8 elected CRIG group leaders from different faculties of UGent and representatives from UZ Gent and VIB-UGent, ensuring the multidisciplinary character of CRIG. It is responsible for the strategic and financial plan, and monitors all CRIG related initiatives.



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.



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.



CRIG 2025 in numbers

 750+
researchers



3 partner
institutions 

 research
groups 80+




4 FTE in
operational
team 

 PhD theses 50



>300 
A1 publications

young investigator
proof-of-concept
projects granted (>279K €)  16



>120K € received from
donations and
fundraisers 

 granted via UGent
industrial research
fund (IOF) projects
to specific CRIG teams 2M €



>8M € external project
funding acquired
by CRIG researchers 

 valorization
project income
for specific CRIG teams 7.3M €



22 bilateral 
contracts

--- CRIG unites 80+ research groups, 750+ researchers (ca. 10% growth in 2025) from 3 partner institutions (UGent, UZ Gent and VIB-UGent) --- 4 full-time equivalents in operational committee --- 50 PhD theses defended by CRIG doctoral fellows --- >300 A1 publications (co-)authored by CRIG group leaders --- 16 young investigator proof-of-concept projects granted by CRIG for a total of >279 K EUR --- >120 K EUR from donations and fundraisers (excluded: fundraisers that were earmarked by the benefactors for specific research teams) --- 19 cancer research projects (personal mandates excluded) - for >8 M EUR in total - have been granted to CRIG researchers by 'Kom op tegen Kanker' (2 biomedical research projects, 1 prevention research project, 2 psychosocial research projects, > 2.2 M EUR), Fund for Scientific Research (FWO Vlaanderen: 9 senior research projects, 2 'Kom op tegen Kanker' projects, >5.3 M EUR) and Stichting tegen Kanker (2 prevention grants and 1 social grant; >0.5 M EUR) --- 7.3 M EUR of total valorization income obtained for specific CRIG teams; 2 M EUR granted by UGent Flemish industrial research fund (IOF) for projects aiming to bring new technologies/products further to market; 1 license and 22 bilateral contracts with companies realized by UGent; 5 spin-off projects in the pipeline --- 1 patent application granted, 7 in priority phase, 7 in PCT and 5 IDF filed.

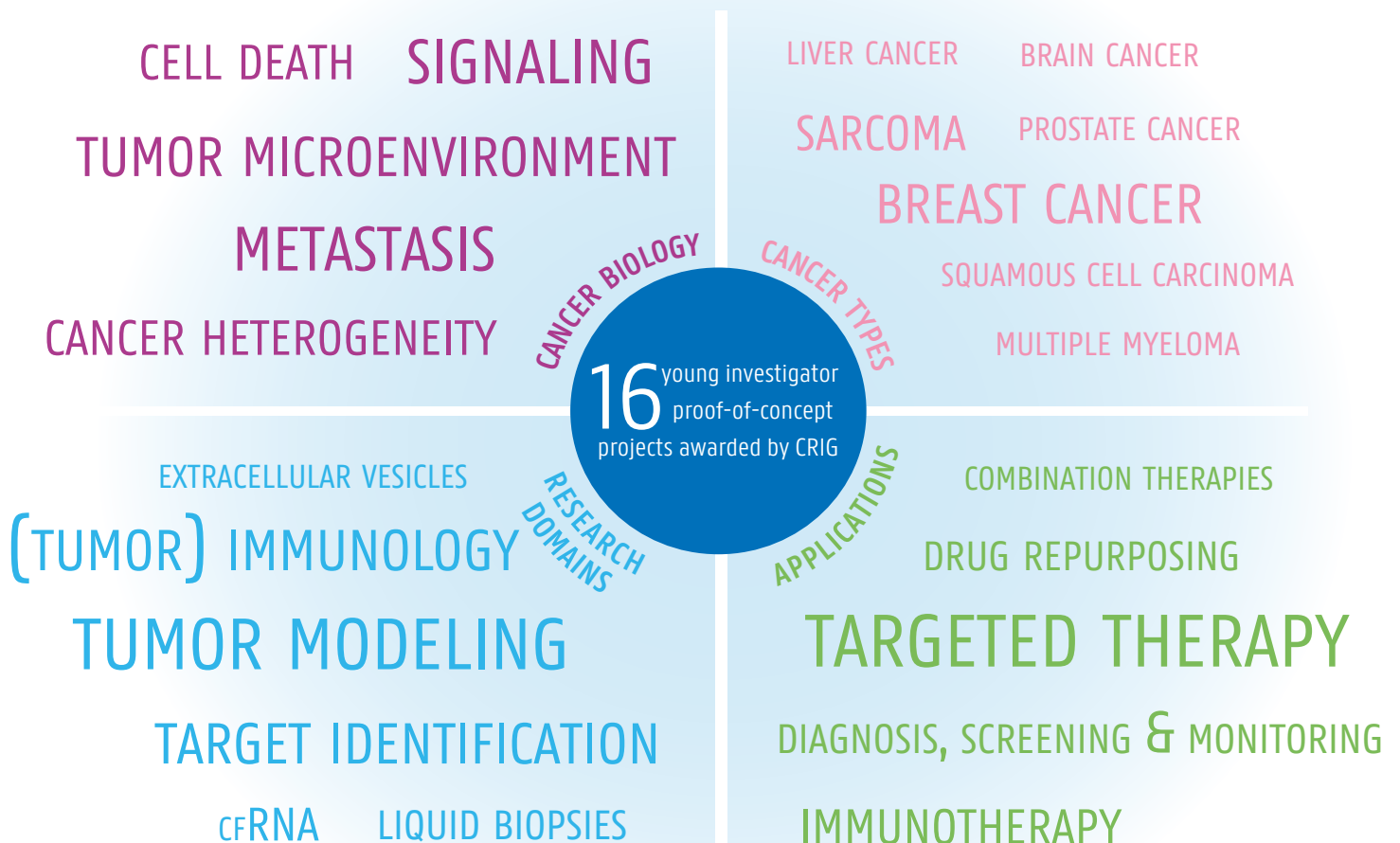
Achievements in 2025

Supporting innovative research projects by young investigators

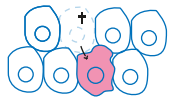
Since 2017, CRIG actively supports innovative cancer research in Ghent by awarding 'young investigator proof-of-concept' (YIPOC) projects. In 2025, the scope of the grants was broadened to postdoctoral and senior doctoral researchers. Also the financing was extended in order to award more projects, and with an increased maximum budget of 20 000 EUR per project. With this seed funding, the awarded young researchers are able to generate proof-of-concept results to increase the success rate of future external grant applications. Numerous completed projects from the past years have demonstrated a clear output and lever effect, including the acquisition of postdoctoral fellow mandates and research project funding, new collaborations, valorization and several high impact publications, in which data from CRIG proof-of-concept grants were included.

In 2025, CRIG awarded 16 projects, for more than 279 000 EUR in total. The funding allocated for these projects is financed by CRIG (mainly through proceeds from donations and fundraisers) and co-financed by vzw Kinderkankerfonds via a strategic partnership.

This year, there was an additional YIPOC grant available specifically for (Ewing) sarcoma research, supported and funded by vzw Warre's Hope. Marthe Boelens was selected as laureate for this grant.



Awarded young investigator proof-of-concept projects



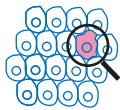
Annagiada Toniolo

Keratinocyte death as a driver of squamous carcinogenesis



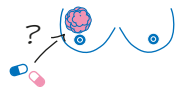
Dr. Deyna Keppens

Expanding the therapeutic scope of menin inhibitors: preclinical evaluation of KMT2A and NPM1 fusions as candidate therapy response biomarkers in Ewing sarcoma



Jef Haerincx

Transcriptomic and spatial characterization of dormant micrometastases driving late breast cancer relapse



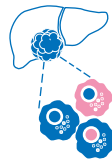
Dr. Jonas Steenbrugge

Combining JAK inhibition and immune checkpoint blockade in triple-negative breast cancer



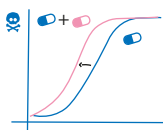
Marthe Boelens

A xenopus-based platform for functional and spatial modeling of Ewing sarcoma
laureate of the grant supported by Warre's Hope



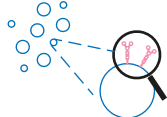
Dr. Paul Collins

KC-ID: KC or not KC, understanding macrophage heterogeneity and changes in the cellular microenvironment in MASLD-HCC



Dr. Stefanie Gijssels

Improved outcome by combined MEK and BET inhibitors in preclinical models of PRC2/NF1 deficient malignant peripheral nerve sheath tumours



Dr. Tijl Vermassen

Decoding the N-glycome of extracellular vesicles (EVs) in expressed prostatic secretion (EPS)-urine



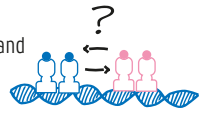
Dr. Annelien Morlion

Enriching cancer signals in blood plasma cell-free RNA through custom mRNA capture sequencing



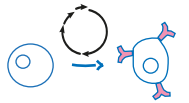
Eleni Staessens

Interactome studies to better understand nuclear receptor crosstalk in multiple myeloma



Dr. Jeffrey Aalders

Optimizing CAR-T cell development by navigating human pluripotent stem cells in a cell-cycle specific roadmap



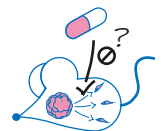
Dr. Mamadou Amadou Diallo

Targeted activation of ZBP1 for cancer therapy using a nucleotide-based approach



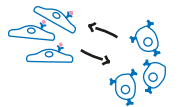
Dr. Nele Loret

Assessing the anti-metastatic effect of L-asparaginase in PDX models of triple-negative breast cancer
grant co-financed by Inner Wheel Meetjesland



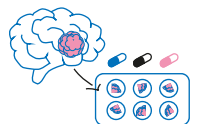
Dr. Robin Demuyck

Investigating the mechanism of sensing and cytotoxic responses by endothelial cells during ICD based therapies



Thibault Lootens

Patient-derived glioblastoma fragments as an ex vivo screening platform for personalized drug testing



Dr. Zahra Kayani

Targeted delivery of doxorubicin to breast cancer brain metastases via the blood-cerebrospinal fluid barrier using anti-FOLR1 VHH-conjugated gold nanoparticles



As we believe it is important and transparent to show what type of research we are able to fund thanks to donations and actions for CRIG, we also make short educational movies with our CRIG grant laureates.

More information via the '[CRIG@the movies page](#)' on our website.

Interested in supporting these grants?
Take a look on [our donate page](#) or contact us via [crig@ugent.be!](mailto:crig@ugent.be)



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

Through the organization of various symposia and events, CRIG provides opportunities for cancer researchers to present their latest results, to meet and learn from fellow researchers and to start collaborations to accelerate research.

Spring 2025 - **Doctoral School specialist course on cancer**

CRIG's annual Doctoral School 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 topics, technologies and applications. This 8th edition of our course was attended by 45 doctoral fellows.

31 March, 2025 - **OncoPoint symposium**

CRIG's OncoPoint symposium is an annual forum for cross-fertilization of cancer research at Ghent University, UZ Gent and VIB-UGent. Cancer researchers from all disciplines present their work, meet each other, discuss and start new collaborations. This 11th edition featured 2 keynote speakers, selected abstract and company pitch presentations, storm sessions, a platform & technology session and the 'Pieter Van Vlierberghe award' (see page 11). Parallel sessions were organized on (i) fundamental & translational cancer research, and (ii) clinical & psychosocial/nursing research (co-organization by Kankercentrum UZ Gent). Over 250 participants attended, presented and discussed cancer research via selected abstract presentations, pitch and poster sessions, booths and informal networking.

30 April, 2025 - **PhD welcome event for new CRIG researchers**

CRIG aims to bring together and support all cancer researchers in Ghent from the very start of their careers. Therefore, we organized (for the 4th time) an informal welcome event for all first year PhD students within CRIG. About 30 young researchers were introduced to CRIG, and got to know each other during a speed dating session and a social gathering.



20 May, 17 September & 26 November, 2025 - Inspire and Interact Series

In 2025, we launched the CRIG 'Inspire & Interact' Series as a brand new initiative to strengthen connections and to spark collaboration among CRIG research groups. Each seminar in the series is co-hosted with one of the CRIG faculties, providing a platform to highlight their specific strengths in oncology research, and to share inspiring examples of multi-disciplinary collaboration. To foster informal networking, each event also includes a social component. This first 'Inspire & Interact' Series included seminars co-hosted with the Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences (20 May), the Faculty of Medicine & Health Sciences (17 Sep) and the Faculty of Sciences (26 Nov). Of note, the last seminar in this first series was co-hosted with the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine at 3 Feb 2026.



To further stimulate education and networking, CRIG provided 5 '[mobility grants](#)' in 2025 to support short research stays of cancer researchers at international partner institutes (for example to learn novel techniques or start research collaborations). This mobility grant program is established via '[PriOMIC](#)', CRIG's International Thematic Network on cancer (**P**recision oncology, **I**mmuno-**O**ncology and **M**odeling in **C**ancer), funded by UGent.

Furthermore, CRIG organized test defenses for 23 young CRIG researchers that applied for a (post)doctoral mandate at FWO Vlaanderen, to help them maximizing their chances. Of note, 60% of them indeed succeeded to obtain such a grant in 2025.

Finally, next to organizing symposia and education ourselves, CRIG further stimulates participation of our members and network partners in events (symposia, seminars, ...) that are organized by individual CRIG research groups or partner organizations. Of note, CRIG was also part of the organizing committee of the second Belgian Precision & Personalised Oncology Meeting (BE-PRECISE), hosted in Brussels on September 25.

••••• Valorizing and partnering with industry

The CRIG business unit fosters collaboration among oncology innovators, accelerating the translation of discoveries into solutions for cancer patients. Dr. Cristina Pintucci supports these efforts as the unit's central point of contact, working closely with [CRIG's business developers](#) to advance valorization projects.

A total budget of 7.3 million EUR was awarded to CRIG teams for oncology focused valorization projects. The UGent Industrial Research Fund (UGent IOF) allocated 2 million EUR to support **CRIG researchers in bringing their findings closer to the industrial landscape**, including:

- **OXAFORM** (Prof. Richard Hoogenboom) develops an AI-driven predictive model to optimize polymer combinations for precise oral drug delivery, based on a mix-and-match excipient platform. The project aims at derisking the technology towards clinical development and spinoff incorporation.
- **HIP-RNA** (Prof. Karim Vermaelen) optimises an in silico, in vitro and in vivo testing platform to enable preclinical evaluation of LNP-based RNA cancer vaccines. The project also establishes a solid preclinical foundation and a clear therapeutic roadmap strategy towards starting a spinoff company.
- **ABscope** (Prof. Sven Eyckerman) offers a unique, cell-based platform for antibody specificity profiling thus enabling faster preclinical development.
- **Peritoneal catheter** (Prof. Wim Ceelen) develops an innovative branched catheter for chemotherapy drug delivery for treating peritoneal cancers, confirming biocompatibility and strengthening its regulatory validation.
- **Puralfuor** (Prof. Filip De Vos and Prof. Geert Villiers) develops a new method to produce ¹⁸F-labeled radiopharmaceuticals.





Linked to the Puralfluor project, the UZ Gent and UGent teams developed the [18F]PSMA 11 radiopharmaceutical, enabling **faster and more affordable diagnosis of metastatic prostate cancer**. Through a **licensing deal with Telix Pharmaceuticals**, this innovation is now advancing globally as part of a scalable platform for next generation PSMA PET imaging.

Under the Strategic Basic Research (SBO) program, the Research Foundation Flanders (FWO) financed a project coordinated by CRIG PI Prof. Lars Vereecke (VIB-UGent). The project aims to **accelerate drug development for advanced colorectal cancer** by targeting a new cell type, opening the door to new treatments.

CellGENTherapies (Prof. Bart Vandekerckhove) is partner of the project ATMP MX, coordinated by Biovia. The project aims at strengthening the **Flemish-Dutch border region as a leading hub for ATMP research and development** and it is supported by the Interreg EU funding program.

Dr. Loren Deblock was granted a VLAIO Innovation Mandate for accelerating the project Hafnolox towards spinoff incorporation. Hafnolox develops a **new medicinal product capable of detecting sentinel lymph nodes** using imaging techniques, greatly relevant for the assessment of breast cancer.

In 2025, CRIG researchers established **22 bilateral industry collaborations**. The **Ghent oncology IP portfolio grew** with one granted patent, 7 applications entering the PCT phase, 7 PRIO filings, and 5 innovations under evaluation for potential patenting.

Five projects with spinoff finality are currently in the CRIG pipeline, including those linked to the project OXAForm, HIP-RNA and Hafnolox described above.

● ● ● ● ● Outreach

CRIG engages in providing relevant communication to the broad public and patients about cancer and the latest breakthroughs in cancer research. Also in 2025, we organized and participated in several outreach initiatives.

September 27, 2025 - Kankercongres 'Kanker, van onderzoek tot hoop'

After a one-year break, the Kankercongres returned in a renewed format, offering a broader range of parallel sessions and workshops that allowed participants to choose the topics that interested them most. Highlights included the personal story of decathlete Thomas Van der Plaetsen and a closing panel debate moderated by Ivan De Vadder on roles of different experts and stakeholders in cancer treatment and care. The congress was held in clear Dutch and welcomed over 300 participants, including healthcare professionals, researchers, students, patients and their relatives, and others with an interest in science and oncology (see photos on the next page).

November 23, 2025 - Dag van de Wetenschap

Each year, the last Sunday of November is 'Dag van de Wetenschap', a day filled with scientific tours, workshops and activities throughout Flanders. For the third time, the UGent Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences organized its own varied science festival. More than 200 researchers and volunteers transformed the UZ Gent Campus into a true science campus for one day with over 40 activities for young and old such as lectures, workshops, demos and guided tours. CRIG participated as well, with our fact-or-fiction quiz on cancer and our CRIG escape room on personalized medicine. In the context of an initiative by the Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences, CRIG teams also guided small groups of donors and supporters in cancer research facilities on the campus in the afternoon.

CRIG laureates present their research projects in short educational movies

As described earlier (page 6), CRIG awards 'proof-of-concept' projects to support innovative cancer research by young CRIG researchers. Since these projects are financed for a large part by donations and actions for CRIG, we find it important to be transparent and to show how the funding is used. Therefore, we make short educational movies about the research projects of the CRIG laureates. Also in 2025 we compiled several movies (in Dutch) that are targeted to a broad audience and can be found via our '[CRIG@the movies](#)' page on our website.

Finally, several CRIG researchers also actively engaged in science communication at different events and in the media.

Stay up to date via our website www.crig.ugent.be, social media channels ([Facebook](#), [Bluesky](#), [LinkedIn](#), [Instagram](#)) and monthly newsletters!



Fundraising

As a network of cancer researchers, we have a good understanding of the gaps and opportunities in research funding, and try to address those with CRIG grants. As such, we support young (post)doctoral researchers to start promising new projects (read more on pages 6-7), and we help to bridge the gap between the lab and the clinic by awarding 'partnership' grants. It goes without saying that those initiatives are impossible without funds.

We are therefore extremely grateful for all donations we received in 2025, all fundraising actions that were set up for both festive (wedding anniversaries, birthdays ...) and sad occasions (in memoriams), and all other beautiful actions that were organized for CRIG.

We are grateful for every single fundraising initiative and every euro raised, but as it is not possible to feature them all here, we have highlighted a selection of initiatives.

In memory of their brave friend Juno, who passed away from acute leukemia just one month after his diagnosis, a group of his closest friends ran the Gent **Marathon for Juno**, to raise funds for leukemia research at CRIG. Their call for donations through Ghent University's action platform was an overwhelming success, with over 300 donors raising more than 20 000 EUR!

After their fellow student and cyclist Jilke Michielsen was confronted with a devastating cancer diagnosis, students and teachers from Topsportschool Gent wanted to make a meaningful difference. They organized **Sport4Hope**, a sporty fundraising initiative to support cancer research at our institute. The event turned out to be a tremendous success, raising 18 474 EUR.



In addition to these initiatives, we are fortunate to count on several partners and foundations that raise funds through their own activities and donate part of the proceeds to support our cancer research. As indicated before, CRIG has a strategic partnership with vzw Kinderkankerfonds, which co-finances our proof-of-concept projects (see page 6). Furthermore, **vzw Warre's Hope** continues to grow its fundraising efforts and enabled us to award a dedicated grant for Ewing sarcoma research (read more on page 6). Likewise, **Inner Wheel Meetjesland** co-financed the CRIG grant of Dr. Nele Loret. Also, part of the funds raised by the **Lux Luka Foundation** support (brain) cancer research projects at CRIG.

Traditionally, CRIG also organized its own fundraising initiatives in 2025. Beginning of December, we held our **SinterCRIG** action and sold almost 800 individual bags and more than 100 baskets filled with chocolate and sweets, raising a record-breaking amount of 9 680 EUR! And also **CRIG walk 2025** was very successful again. Thanks to the enthusiasm and support of 1 356 participants, a total of 11 460 EUR was raised!

Earlier in 2025, at the beginning of April, we also held our very first **art auction**! The initiative started when CRIG researcher Dr. Lisa Demoen asked her godfather and artist Jeroen Demoen to design a cover for her doctoral thesis. Using a special technique of painting on water, he began creating artworks called 'Leukemia Cells' (an example on the cover of this report). Enjoying the process so much, he went on to produce more than 100 works! In total 39 artworks were sold through a live auction and online sales, raising 3 690 EUR for CRIG and the 'Kunst aan Bed' initiative of Prof. Tessa Kerre.



Strengthening our CRIG community

As CRIG's mission is to stimulate and accelerate cancer research through collaboration, we try to bring researchers together in several ways. One way is by organizing research symposia such as our yearly OncoPoint symposium (read more on page 9), where cancer researchers present their work to each other and have the opportunity to network. In a similar way, invited speaker seminars, our Doctoral Schools program, public PhD defenses, ... all bring together researchers in a scientific context.

Our newly launched Inspire & Interact Series (read more on page 10) also fits within this category, as it highlights research expertise and aims to inspire new ideas and perspectives. At the same time, the 'Interact' element reflects the series' emphasis on connection beyond formal presentations. Each event therefore included informal moments for participants to engage with one another, encouraging new conversations and potential collaborations.

Next to these scientific initiatives, we also organize more informal events to strengthen our CRIG community. Our PhD Welcome Event (read more on page 9) is one example, and we organize a yearly 'Kubb Cup' as well for all researchers (see photo below and on the next page). Also while participating together in outreach and fundraising initiatives, researchers can get to know each other('s expertise).



Financials

INCOME

legacies ⁽¹⁾	1 393 737 EUR
donations & fundraiser actions ⁽²⁾	120 793 EUR
vzw Kinderkankerfonds ⁽³⁾	75 000 EUR
UGent funding for CRIG's International Thematic Network ⁽⁴⁾	30 000 EUR
sponsoring for CRIG events ⁽⁵⁾	14 458 EUR
UGent Doctoral School	4 795 EUR

EXPENSES

young investigator proof-of-concept grants	279 411 EUR
personnel	207 357 EUR
organization/expenses of meetings, events, education, mobility grants ⁽⁶⁾	33 404 EUR
website, IT, office, movies, promo	19 191 EUR



(1) Unique income from legacies in which CRIG was the beneficiary (via 'Universiteitsfonds', Ghent University). (2) **All net income from donations and fundraiser actions are integrally used for cancer research**, including the support for the young investigator proof-of-concept grants. Excluded in the numbers are fundraisers that were earmarked by the benefactors for specific research teams. (3) In the context of a partnership with CRIG, vzw Kinderkankerfonds provides co-funding to support the CRIG young investigator proof-of-concept grants and the CRIG partnership grants that focus on (or have applications in) pediatric oncology. (4) Funding by Ghent University to support 'PriOMIC', CRIG's International Thematic Network on cancer (30 K EUR/year during 2025-2029; funding is used for organizing symposia, mobility & mobility grants, ...). (5) Sponsoring by companies & external organisations for the OncoPoint symposium and 'Kankercongres'. (6) Indicated expenses do not include co-financing by individual CRIG teams or partners for specific events or mobility.

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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 want to stress that the proceeds of such initiatives always go to promising cancer research. 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 2025.



You can donate to CRIG (with possible tax reduction) via transfer on "Fondsenwerving UGent" - IBAN: BE26 3900 9658 0329 (BIC: BBRUBEBB) with reference "CRIG", or via the [online donation platform](#) (QR-code on the left). More information and possible ways to support cancer research at CRIG can be found on the [donate page of our website](#).

COVER IMAGE CRIG researcher Dr. Lisa Demoen asked her godfather and artist Jeroen Demoen to design a cover for her doctoral thesis. Using a special technique of painting on water, he began creating artworks called 'Leukemia Cells'. Enjoying the process so much, he went on to produce more than 100 works. In total 39 artworks were sold through a live auction and online sales, raising money for CRIG and the 'Kunst aan Bed' initiative of Prof. Tessa Kerre.