

# Clinical Research

The last year has seen a gradual introduction of a disease-orientated Task Force structure to replace the previous Working Groups at the Institute. These new initiatives have been formed to ensure that Molecular Medicine scientists can integrate seamlessly into the clinical multidisciplinary groups. Also, each Task Force has now got dedicated infra-structural support in the form of statistics, data management and clinical research nursing. Each Task Force will have a rotating Chairman and vice chairs, plus a professional as secretary/treasurer. The purpose of their meetings is to brainstorm, then formulate new research translational projects, interdigitated with clinical protocols. Funding will be the Task Forces' own responsibility, together with monitoring and eventual publication of results.

The Task Force should also adopt the responsibility of training in research methodology, the clinical and non-clinical research fellows working on the relevant disease site, irrespective of their professional discipline.

Inevitably the evolution of the new structure has meant that the original exemplar, the Breast Cancer Task Force, is extremely mature and very productive, whereas several others are still settling down on Gastrointestinal Cancer, Neuroendocrine Tumours, Ovarian Cancer, Gynecological Tumours and Prostate Cancer.

A large number of new projects have been planned and are underway. In the following pages we are reporting the summary of some of the results already obtained grouping them either for organ pathologies or for transversal research programmes. One chapter deals with the IEO Tumour Registry and the activity carried out in the second semester 2007. It is still missing a specific chapter on Biobank which is in an advanced stage of organization and will be in full operation in September 2008.