The ICO cooperates with the Gansu Cancerology Hospital (China)

The Institut de Cancérologie de l'Ouest (ICO) and the Gansu Province Cancerology Hospital (Lanzhou, People's Republic of China) have just signed a cooperation agreement to create scientific exchanges between the two establishments, and share knowledge and innovative techniques in cancerology. A French delegation has just returned from China.

Scientific cooperation, fundamental research, oncology research, radiotherapy, nuclear medicine, pharmacy, medical physics, human sciences: the areas concerned by the agreement signed on Tuesday, 8 July 2014, in Lanzhou, between the ICO and the Gansu Province Cancerology Hospital cover numerous aspects of cancerology research and exchanges.

The French delegation who visited China from 6 to 11 July was welcomed by the Lanzhou Cancerology Hospital President, Professor Xue Zhong Chen and Mrs Haixiang Su, Director of Research at the health institute. Mr Yves Dubourg, Deputy General Director of ICO, sincerely thanked his hosts for the warm welcome organised in honour of the delegation.

During the signing of the cooperation agreement, Christian Houdoux, Director of Communications, Donations and Sponsorship and responsible for International Affairs at ICO, presented the Pays de la Loire region as well as the outlook in cancerology, calculated from estimates in the change in the number of inhabitants in the region. This data highlights an additional population of 1.3 million inhabitants in the Pays de la Loire for 2030, with an 25% increase in the region's population for 2040.
The expertise of the Institut de Cancérologie de l’Ouest, outlined by Mr Yves Dubourg through a presentation of key figures, current research work and major projects, particularly captured the attention of the Chinese doctors, with, in particular, the "pronotherapy"* project, carried by the ICO and supported by the Pays de la Loire region.

Professor Xiaohu Wang, Deputy Managing Director of the Gansu Province Cancerology Hospital, gave a very complete picture of cancerology in the Gansu Province and presented the organisation of the hospital's services.

Following these presentations, the cooperation agreement was signed.

**AN INTERNATIONAL APPROACH WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE ICO'S ESTABLISHMENT PROJECT**

Since the beginning of 2013, ICO’s General Management has been in contact with Dr Li Chen, a Chinese radiotherapist working in France, to establish cooperation between the two establishments. The project became a reality during the ICO Scientific Days organised last October at the Nantes Cité des Congrès, in which Dr Li Chen participated.

This approach, within the framework of the 2013-2017 ICO project, meets the objectives of international scientific exchanges that the Institute wishes to develop.

**THE GANSU PROVINCE CANCEROLOGY HOSPITAL**

Located in the city of Lanzhou, capital of Gansu Province, the Cancerology Hospital brings together 1,100 professionals including 400 doctors. With 1,200 beds, it proposes primary cancerology care for patients from the province’s different towns, and also from neighbouring provinces such as Tibet, Qinghai, Lingxia and Inner Mongolia.

Over the last few years, China's exceptional economic development has largely contributed to improvements in equipment, research and training within this establishment. Its dynamism enables it to create scientific exchanges with similar prominent establishments, both nationally and internationally, as well as universities (Yale, Montreal...).

It is in this context that the Gansu Province Cancerology Hospital Management wished to establish cooperation with the Institut de Cancérologie de l'Ouest with regard to its recognised qualities in patient care, its innovative spirit and excellence in multi-disciplinary interventions at the heart of the cancer disease.
HIGH QUALITY SCIENTIFIC EXCHANGES

During this stay, the French delegation visited medico-technical and research facilities in the hospital. They also had the privilege of visiting the Department Physics Institute of the China Academy of Science in Lanzhou and its synchrotron, and to talk at length about the experience acquired in hadrontherapy, the production of Carbon ($^{14}$C$^{6+}$) and heavy particle therapies.

The delegation also visited the construction site of a new hospital centre specialised in cancerology, that will complement the existing centre for the west of the city of Lanzhou from mid 2016. It will include a 4 beam hadrontherapy centre.

The delegation participated in the Gansu Province International Seminar for University Exchanges, conducted by Prof. Xiaohu Wang and Prof. Jinyi LANG, President of the Chinese Radiotherapy Society and practitioner at the Sichuan Cancerology Hospital. This annual 2-day encounter enabled Prof. Marc-André Mahé, head of research at the radiotherapy department of the ICO René Gauducheau site and President of the French Society of Oncology Radiotherapy (SFRO), to present stereotactic radiotherapy of hepatic tumours and total medullary irradiation in hematological tumours. Dr Etienne Bardet, radiotherapist at ICO, presented the radiotherapy techniques used at ICO for head and neck cancers as well as the latest studies by the GORTEC (Head and Neck Radiotherapy Oncology Group), known in China.

In conclusion, Mr Albert Lisbona, head of the physical medical service at ICO and President of the French Society for Medical Physics, presented the "new radiobiology for stereotaxis", completed by the intervention of Mr François Paris, Research Director at Inserm and Consultant at ICO, on new biology for new fragmentation.

These exchanges will continue from November 2014 with the arrival at ICO for one year of a Lanzhou radiotherapist to complete his medical studies. They will also continue in Spring 2014 with the visit to ICO of a Chinese delegation, during which the French-Chinese Scientific Committee will be put in place.

The Pays de la Loire region, already present in China, actively supports this first cooperation with the West of China.

*Protontherapy is a specific radiotherapy technique that aims to destroy cancer cells by irradiating them with a proton particle beam. It is preferably used to treat specific types of tumours for which conventional radiotherapy based on X photons would damage the surrounding healthy and radio-sensitive tissues to an unacceptable level.*

Christian HOUDOUX
Director for Communications, Donations and Sponsorship
Tel: +33 (0)2 40 67 99 11 / +33 (0)6 63 95 95 41
christian.houdoux@ico.unicancer.fr
Meeting at Lanzhou from 6 to 11 July

Photo from Left to Right
Pr Xiaohu WANG, Dr Etienne BARDET, Mrs Li CHEN, Mr Yves DUBOURG, Pr Marc-André MAHE, Pr Xue Zhong CHEN, Mr HOUDOUX, the Party General Secretary at the Hospital, Mrs Haixiang SU

Photo: During the cooperation agreement signature ceremony, exchange of presents. The ICO gave a trio of paintings by the artist Jean Pierre Bocquel “In the Country of 3 rivers, the Mayenne, the Sarthe and the Loir”.

The French delegation of the ICO made up of:

. Mr Yves Dubourg, Deputy General Director of ICO
. Prof. Marc André Mahé, Head of Research at the Radiotherapy Department of the ICO René Gauducheau site
. Dr Étienne Bardet, Radiotherapist, Radiotherapy Department of ICO
. Mr Albert Lisbona, Head of Medical Physics Department of the ICO René Gauducheau site
. Mr François Paris, Research Director at Inserm, Consultant Researcher at ICO in radiobiology and radiotherapy
. Mr Christian Houdoux, Director of Communications, Donations and Sponsorship at ICO

were received at Lanzhou from 6 to 11 July
Gansu Province: 33 million inhabitants

Gansu is a province located in the centre-west of China, between the Inner Mongolia plateau to the north and the Tibet plateau to the south; it extends over 454,000 Km2, and has almost 33 million inhabitants. It is the main City along the former Silk Road.

It was here, in the "Daxibeï", the "Chinese Great West", at more than 1,500 km from Beijing, that the central government decided to build the country's sixth national development area. The Yellow River crosses the city of Lanzhou, capital of the Province.