About the Breast International Group (BIG)
Together we save lives by moving breast cancer research forward.

Together, we invest in hope for all who suffer from breast cancer. Supporting BIG’s research brings us one step closer to achieving our goal: developing cures for breast cancer.

±2.3 million people were diagnosed with breast cancer in 2020.

1 in 4 of all new cancer cases in women worldwide.

1 in 800 for men, the lifetime risk of developing breast cancer.

Breast cancer is the most commonly diagnosed cancer in the world, with Belgium having the highest incidence worldwide.
The Breast International Group (BIG) is an international not-for-profit organisation that represents the largest network of academic research groups dedicated to finding better treatments and cures for breast cancer.

BIG against breast cancer is BIG’s philanthropic unit. It conducts vital fundraising to help finance academic clinical trials and research programmes that have no commercial interest but are crucial for patients with breast cancer.

±100 000 patients have participated in BIG trials. Patients are at the heart of BIG’s research.

±60 academic research groups make up the largest international network dedicated solely to breast cancer research.

±10 000 breast cancer specialists work within the BIG network.

>30 patient-centred clinical trials and research programmes are run under the BIG umbrella at any one time.
BIG was created in 1999 by Dr Martine Piccart and Dr Aron Goldhirsch, with the aim to facilitate and accelerate breast cancer research.

By working together, the BIG groups avoid unnecessary duplication of effort and waste of time and resources. And they make rapid progress against the disease.

We can proudly say that we have dedicated over twenty years to collaboration, innovation and leadership. Together, we facilitate and accelerate breast cancer research.

Our vision
Together we will find a cure for breast cancer through global research and collaboration.

Our mission
BIG’s mission is to facilitate and accelerate breast cancer research at the international level.

Global & local
BIG is the largest global network of breast cancer research groups and their affiliated experts. Their work benefits patients locally.

Trusted
We have been recognised for over 20 years to generate credible scientific results and safeguard patients’ interests.
Our research has a real impact on patients’ lives.

For over 20 years, BIG has been conducting global breast cancer trials and research programmes. Many are considered to be landmark, introducing particularly innovative designs, contributing to significant breakthroughs, or paving the way towards more personalised treatment of breast cancer.

**HERA**
This study contributed to the development of a treatment with the drug trastuzumab for the particularly aggressive HER2+ type of breast cancer (which accounts for 15-20% of cases). This revolutionary treatment transformed a cancer once considered to be very aggressive to one that can be treated more easily. Since then, it has informed many new studies, to save even more lives.

**OLYMPIA**
Patients with high-risk HER2-negative primary breast cancer who carry BRCA1 or BRCA2 mutations in their genes could see the risk of death from their breast cancer cut by about 32% when treated with olaparib.

**MINDACT**
About 46% of women with early breast cancer could be spared chemotherapy when the MammaPrint test was used in addition to conventional testing. Updated results of the study confirmed this, especially for postmenopausal women.

**DCIS**
After breast-conserving surgery, higher radiation doses to the part of the breast where ductal carcinoma in situ (DCIS) was found, in addition to radiotherapy of the whole breast, significantly reduced recurrence in higher risk patients. Radiotherapy could also be shortened safely.

**APHINITY**
The latest analysis showed the use of anti-HER2 therapy adding pertuzumab to trastuzumab and chemotherapy resulted in a 28% reduction in the risk of recurrence or death for those patients with HER2+ early breast cancer at highest risk, such as those with lymph node-positive disease.

**SOFT & TEXT**
Relapse rates could be cut by 34% thanks to a new treatment option combining exemestane with ovarian function suppression for young women with breast cancer.

94.2% of all funds BIG received in 2021, including from BIG against breast cancer’s philanthropic activity, were spent directly on BIG’s research.