

Cancer Center Amsterdam was founded in 2016 by two scientific directors, a large team of PIs and an active staff of policy officers. With a strong emphasis on integration of all oncological research of AMC and VUmc, now merged into Amsterdam UMC, the institute embraced the goal to take an internationally leading position in translational oncology. Cancer Center Amsterdam is one of the eight research institutes within Amsterdam UMC with around 1200 active research members. However, it builds on a much larger team of professionals, as half way through the term that is under evaluation, Cancer Center Amsterdam made a strategic decision to connect care with science to facilitate its translational goals even further. This set the scene for a further integration of all oncological activities in Amsterdam UMC, the foundation of a daily board and the extension towards a more comprehensive cancer center. As a consequence, Cancer Center Amsterdam has become one of the largest cancer centers in Europe, integrating a multidisciplinary team of scientists that have expertise ranging from fundamental to clinical and QoL with care specialists and support staff.

Cancer Center Amsterdam's mission is to provide the best possible care for our patients today and tomorrow. We aim to innovate care through excellent patient-centered research and to improve therapy through biological insight into cancer and the generation of diagnostic tools and therapeutic modalities. Cancer Center Amsterdam's research is divided over three main research programs, Cancer Biology & Immunology, Imaging & Biomarkers and Clinical Therapy & Quality of Live. Programs are further sub-divided into 7 themes, each covering a specific domain within our research portfolio, and headed by theme leaders that oversee the activities within their area.

At the start the cancer center made a strategic decision to focus on translational science, to integrate scientific efforts and to invest in teams and facilities in order to support its researchers. A multitude of events to integrate our science were organized, peer-to-peer support established and new facilities, equipment and joint projects were funded, while at the same time providing a platform to educate the next generation of researchers.

In the period under evaluation (2017-22) Cancer Center Amsterdam's researchers acquired more than 240 million euro in funding, which has led to ground-breaking research with more than 6000 peer-reviewed papers published. These are not only cited very well by colleagues in the field, hence fueling new research, but more importantly have made clinical impact. For instance, the institute was leading in improving therapy for several disease entities, including hemato-oncological and Gastrointestinal malignancies, but was also instrumental in the implementation of supportive care for patients with cancer. The success is further exemplified by the world-leading position that Cancer Center Amsterdam takes in the use of its publications in medical policy documents.

In addition, the impact made is seen by the >500 PhD candidates that have finalized their research and successfully defended their theses. Trained within our graduate program, this young generation of scientists will continue their careers as medical specialists, pre-clinical researchers or continue in affiliated professions and are true ambassadors of our translational oncology research.

With 6 successful years behind us, we look forward to the coming period in which Cancer Center Amsterdam will finalize its integration at one location and is ready to take on the next challenge in further integrating oncological care with research. Valorization of our research will remain a cornerstone of our translational strategy, bringing research from the bench to the bedside and beyond to society. We look forward to an active role of the cancer center in the region and will continue to take up leadership in (inter) national clinical studies, societies and boards, all to make a positive impact on therapy and QoL of patients with cancer.

We are confident that the strong network organization that was built in the last years will continue to flourish, will remain a breeding ground for young talent and facilitate excellent translational research. Extending that effort beyond the walls of Cancer Center Amsterdam and to consolidate the alliance with our regional partners will open the door to further improvements in oncological care.

Factsheet

Research programs

Program 1: Cancer Biology & Immunology

Program 2: Imaging & Biomarkers

Program 3: Cancer Treatment & Quality of Life

Scientific staff 2022 (in numbers)

Assistant professor: 60

Associate professor: 41

Full professor: 144

Other staff: 149

Other scientific staff 2022 (in numbers)

Postdocs: 163

Other researchers: 82

PhD candidates: 571

Funding 2022

Direct funding: €29.600.000

NWO, KNAW, government & EU funding: €6.000.000

Charitable organization funding: €23.300.000

Contracts with industry: €13.800.000

Prestigious grants/prizes 2017-2022

Individual:

3 ERC consolidators

4 ERC PoC grants

5 NWO VENI, 4 NWO VIDI, 2 NWO VICI

10 KWF Young Investigator Grants

1 Spinoza prize

Consortium grants:

7 coordinators of KWF consortium grants

2 EU coordinators

4 Marie Curie project coordinators

Relevance to society

Analysis of CCA publications and their use in policy documents.

