

# 1 Programme Innovative Cancer Diagnostics and Therapy

## 1.1 Objectives and research area

GROW programme Innovative Cancer Diagnostics and Therapy (Programme 2), consists of five previously separated research lines i.e. adaptive radiation oncology, medical oncology, diagnostic imaging and surgical oncology, haematology and cell therapy and skin diseases. In 2014 these five programmes were combined in the new programme Innovative Cancer Diagnostics & Therapy.

In this paragraph, we will shortly reflect on the history of the programme and its constituent elements in the period 2012–2017 and focus on the past four years (2014–2017), which cover the start of this new programme up until the end of 2017.

### 1.1.1 Vision, mission and objectives

#### **Vision**

The quality of life of the patient is at the heart of the matter.

#### **Mission**

The mission of the programme Innovative Cancer Diagnostics & Therapy is to study, develop and improve novel therapeutical approaches for personalized cancer treatment with a strong focus on preservation of function and quality of life (the new mission of GROW and the future Maastricht Comprehensive Cancer Centre (Maastricht CCC)).

#### **Objectives**

1. To develop innovative, preventive, diagnostic and therapeutic strategies based on concepts developed in the laboratory.
2. To develop and implement regional tumour specific best practices in the future Maastricht CCC by extensive subspecialisation and applying the principles of operational excellence and a shared care model.
3. To focus on care improvement by developing tailored communication models and individualized care.

### 1.1.2 Strategy and research area

The strategy of Programme 2 is to combine translational and clinical research, specifically aiming at improving the therapeutic index, i.e. better outcome and better quality of life for the patient, and less side effects induced by the treatment.

One of the main objectives of the programme since the 2012 External Review was to build the programme Innovative Cancer Diagnostics & Therapy, and make sure that this programme would be more than just the sum of its individual parts. This was (and still remains) a challenge, because the five original GROW programmes each had a strong independent history.

In addition, a network was built to establish a comprehensive cancer centre. Therefore, collaboration was sought with professionals and research groups working in the field of oncology at Maastricht UMC+ (within Programme 2, in other GROW programmes, and in other Schools), and with collaborating regional oncology clinics in the so-called OncoZON region.

Preservation of function was chosen as a central and theme.