

EuReCa International PhD Program  
**PhD thesis project**  
2022 Call for application

**Evaluation by electronic questionnaires of quality of life and fear of cancer recurrence in the follow-up of patients treated for uveal melanoma, and their relationships with satisfaction with oncologist-patient communication**

### General information

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**Call** 2022  
**Reference** 2022-08-BREDART\_DOLBEAULT  
**Keyword(s)** Uveal melanoma; Quality of life; Fear of cancer recurrence; Communication; Satisfaction with care.

### Director(s) and team

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**Thesis director(s)** Anne Brédart & Sylvie Dolbeault  
**Research team** [Psychopathology and Health Processes Laboratory](#)  
**Research department** [Interdisciplinary Department of Oncology Support Care](#)

### Description of the PhD thesis project

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Uveal melanoma (UM) is a rare eye tumor with dismal prognosis, for which Institut Curie is the French reference center. Primary UM requires localized treatment that often present short- and long-term effects on patients' quality of life (QoL). In UM, genomic testing, together with traditional clinical information, is used to stratify patients by risk of recurrence, orienting towards more or less intense surveillance modalities. Little is known about how oncologists and patients communicate about cancer recurrence risk in non-Anglo-Saxon cultures. We hypothesize that the information needs and preferences of patients are different in the French culture compared to Anglo-Saxon countries, and that unmet information needs impacts on patients' QoL and fear of cancer recurrence.

A specific patient-reported outcome (PRO) questionnaire has been developed within the EORTC Quality of Life Group for patients affected with UM; however, the international validation of this questionnaire, the EORTC QLQ-OPT30, has yet to be performed. A common cross-culturally validated instrument would allow for comparing and synthesizing results from studies performed in different cultures and healthcare practices. Evaluations of PROs are increasingly performed using electronic versions completed on a website or health application. Such digital assessment facilitates patients' monitoring and clinical management, and has been demonstrated to minimize patients' unmet care needs.

In this PhD project in the field of Human and Social Sciences, we propose to:

**Objective 1:** cross-culturally validate the EORTC QLQ-OPT30 module.

**Objective 2:** develop an electronic version of the EORTC QLQ-OPT30 adapted to the mobile application offered to patients at Institut Curie (MyCurie2).



**Objective 3:** perform a prospective observational study of oncologist-patient communication about genomic testing for determining cancer surveillance modalities, and assess satisfaction with clinician-patient communication.

## International, interdisciplinary & intersectoral aspects of the project

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For **Objective 1**, the student will be in contact with the European Organisation for Research and Treatment of Cancer Quality of Life group and will investigate the EORTC QLQ-OPT30 for cross-cultural applicability and acceptability, psychometric performance and cross-cultural invariance of psychometric properties.

**Objective 2** will expand in our institute the use of MyCurie2 application with patient-reported outcome measures.

For **Objective 3**, the student will prospectively assess patient-reported outcomes in patients undergoing surveillance for uveal melanoma.

## Recent publications

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1. **Bredart A**, Anota A, Young T, Tomaszewski KA, Arraras JI, Moura De Albuquerque Melo H, et al. Phase III study of the European Organisation for Research and Treatment of Cancer satisfaction with cancer care core questionnaire (EORTC PATSAT-C33) and specific complementary outpatient module (EORTC OUT-PATSAT7). *Eur J Cancer Care (Engl)*. 2018;27(1).
2. **Bredart A**, Kop JL, Griesser AC, Fiszer C, Zaman K, Panes-Ruedin B, et al. Assessment of needs, health-related quality of life, and satisfaction with care in breast cancer patients to better target supportive care. *Ann Oncol*. 2013;24(8):2151-8.
3. **Bredart A**, Kop JL, Dick J, Cano A, De Pauw A, Anota A, et al. Psychosocial problems in women attending French, German and Spanish genetics clinics before and after targeted or multigene testing results: an observational prospective study. *BMJ Open*. 2019;9(9):e029926.
4. **Bredart A.**, et al. (2021). "Information needs on breast cancer genetic and non-genetic risk factors in relatives of women with a BRCA1/2 or PALB2 pathogenic variant." *Breast* 60: 38-44.
5. **Bredart A**, et al. (2016). "Identifying trajectory clusters in breast cancer survivors' supportive care needs, psychosocial difficulties, and resources from the completion of primary treatment to 8 months later." *Supportive Care in Cancer* 24(1): 357-366.

## Expected profile of the candidate

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We are looking for a student in psycho-oncology and psychometrics, with a clinical interest in psychological issues related to cancer care. Statistical skills for the analysis of psychosocial quantitative research data (familiarity with SPSS and R statistical package) would be highly appreciated.

