

Brussels (Belgium), 25 January 2023

## Media Alert

**4 February = WORLD CANCER DAY**

Theme 2023: "Close the care gap"

***The POSITIVE - BIG Time for Baby study closes the gap:  
breast cancer is no longer a reason to postpone pregnancy***

The start of a new year always brings hope. The POSITIVE - BIG Time for Baby study lives up to its name and brings positivity and real hope to young women with hormone-sensitive early breast cancer who dream to become pregnant one day. The first study results showed that pausing anti-hormone therapy to try to get pregnant can be done without additional risk of recurrence of their disease in the short term. This academic study wouldn't have been possible without global collaboration.

***"Receiving the diagnosis of breast cancer is bad, but not living is worse. The POSITIVE study gave me the chance not to give up my desire to have a baby. Today, I have two wonderful healthy children, the joy of my life!", says Sabrina.***

### ***My dream came true – testimony of Sabrina***



For the occasion of World Cancer Day, Sabrina testifies about those difficult and intense moments of her life. She's very grateful that she was given the chance to participate in this study. The chance that every young woman who dreams of one day becoming a mother deserves.

Sabrina's video testimonial will be launched on 4<sup>th</sup> February, on World Cancer Day, and will be shared via the social media channels. It will also be available [here](#).

### ***World Cancer Day 2023***

Just like last year, this year's theme of World Cancer Day is "Close the Care Gap". This global campaign, which emphasises that we are stronger when we are united, also celebrates real-world progress and allows us to demonstrate the importance of global academic breast cancer research and the impact it has on the quality of life of many of us.

### ***The POSITIVE study – Together, we can close the gap and change the face of breast cancer***

Thanks to ongoing research efforts and global collaboration, pausing endocrine treatment can be done by young women with a wish to have a child without additional short-term risks of recurrence of their disease. The first POSITIVE study results (*December 2022*) show that the rates of breast cancer coming back were similar to women who did not interrupt their treatment, and most were able to conceive and deliver healthy babies. This is very encouraging, and the study participants will be followed for several years to see whether these results endure over time. For this, further funding is necessary.

Academic research helps to close the gaps: the Breast International Group (BIG) holds a unique position in the field of breast cancer research. Thanks to its global network of academic breast cancer research groups, studies without commercial interest, such as the POSITIVE study, can be developed by world-class breast cancer experts and can be financed in-part through BIG's philanthropic community. The precious support of foundations, companies and private donors is vital to ensure the completion of the POSITIVE study for the benefit of many young women who wish to have a baby after breast cancer.

The POSITIVE study is sponsored and conducted by the International Breast Cancer Study Group (IBCSG), a division of ETOP-IBCSG Partners Foundation, and by the Alliance for Clinical Trials in Oncology in North America, in collaboration with the Breast International Group (BIG). The study concept was initiated within the BIG-NCTN (National Clinical Trials Network) Endocrine Working Group and then developed and coordinated globally by the IBCSG to address this important, patient-oriented, unmet medical need.

See also:

Press release – POSITIVE study results presented at San Antonio Breast Cancer Symposium 2022 (8 Dec 2022): <https://bigagainstbreastcancer.org/young-women-with-breast-cancer-can-safely-have-a-baby-study-shows/>

Recent international news articles and broadcast reports (TV/website) on the POSITIVE study results (Dec 2022):

- **NBC News (US):** <https://www.nbcnews.com/health/cancer/breast-cancer-women-baby-pause-therapies-safely-rcna60674>
- **AP News (US):** <https://apnews.com/article/health-san-antonio-cancer-breast-34b9a096f3e62c228e9ac7b739c3caf4>
- **SRF - Schweizer Radio und Fernsehen (Switzerland, German):** <https://www.srf.ch/play/tv/tagesschau/video/studie-schwangerschaft-trotz-brustkrebsbehandlung?urn=urn:srf:video:b6ec0cc2-0ba3-4e56-82ac-2aefef959797>
- **RSI - Radiotelevisione Svizzera (Switzerland, Italian):** <https://www.rsi.ch/news/svizzera/%C3%88-stato-davvero-un-barlume-di-speranza-15854557.html>
- **Die Neue Zürcher Zeitung (Switzerland):** <https://www.nzz.ch/wissenschaft/brustkrebs-frauen-mit-kinderwunsch-koennen-therapie-unterbrechen-ld.1715912?reduced=true>
- **La Vanguardia (Spain):** <https://www.lavanguardia.com/ciencia/2022/12/08/8637229/ser-madre-cancer-mama-embarazo-terapia-hormonal.html>

### **Breast cancer in young women**

The majority of young women with early breast cancer have a hormone-sensitive, so-called oestrogen receptor-positive (ER+) disease, meaning the cancer cells are fed by their own hormones. These women therefore receive endocrine treatment to block the natural production of hormones in order to reduce the risk of the cancer returning. Endocrine therapy may be prescribed for 5-10 years and impacts the ovaries, preventing conception while on treatment.

### **About the Breast International Group (BIG)**

The Breast International Group (BIG) is a not-for-profit organisation for academic breast cancer research groups from around the world, based in Brussels, Belgium. BIG facilitates breast cancer research at an international level, by stimulating cooperation between its members and other academic networks, and collaborating with, but working independently from, the pharmaceutical industry. Founded by leading European opinion leaders in 1999, BIG now constitutes a network of almost 60 collaborative groups from Europe, Canada, Latin America, Asia and Australasia. These entities are tied to several thousand specialised hospitals and research centres worldwide.

For more information, visit [www.BIGagainstbreastcancer.org](http://www.BIGagainstbreastcancer.org)

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### **About the International Breast Cancer Study Group (IBCSG)**

IBCSG as part of ETOP IBCSG Partners Foundation is one of the world's leading groups in breast cancer research. IBCSG pioneers research in combined hormonal therapy and chemotherapy, timing and duration of adjuvant therapies and quality of life of breast cancer patients. The latest generation of clinical trials in the adjuvant setting addresses tailored treatment for subgroups of patients, as we also expand our research into neoadjuvant treatment, chemotherapy and immunotherapy for advanced disease. In addition to clinical trials, ETOP IBCSG Partners Foundation conduct extensive programs in translational research, database studies, quality of life and statistical methodology. The International Breast Cancer Study Group is dedicated to innovative clinical research to improve the prognosis of women with breast cancer. Patients and investigators from six continents cooperate by participating in extensive clinical trials in breast cancer populations.

For more information, visit: [www.etop.ibcsg.org](http://www.etop.ibcsg.org)

### **Note to editors (not for publication):**

For further information, and/or for interview requests, please contact:

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