The Curie Institute was created with the will of a woman, Marie Curie and with the aim of fighting cancer.

In December 1909, The Paris University and the Pasteur Institute decided to build a radium institute, a big laboratory for Marie Curie. It was built a few streets away from the “Hangar” of the school of physics and industrial chemistry where Pierre and Marie Curie discovered radioactivity with polonium and radium in 1898.

Their goal was to create a big laboratory for the study of radioactivity and its applications in physics but also in biology and in medicine. The institute of radium included two sections: the laboratory Curie, directed by Marie Curie and entirely devoted to research in physics and chemistry, and the Pasteur laboratory directed by Claudius Regaud, devoted to the study of biological and medical effects of radioactivity. After a first Nobel Prize in 1903 shared with her husband Pierre, in 1911 Marie Curie received a second Nobel prize, for chemistry.

The First World War occurred at the exact moment when the Institute of Radium was finished. Marie Curie was giving lectures to the nurses doing radiology (the first ones), and continued to use the Institute. After the war, the two directors, Marie Curie and Claudius Regaud, proposed a global project for their institute combining research and therapeutic applications.

The Curie Foundation
The struggle of Marie Curie and Claudius Regaud to obtain additional means lead to the creation of a Curie Foundation in 1920. It was recognized as of public utility the following year. Its goal is to finance the activities of the Institute of Radium and to contribute to the development of its therapeutic outlets.

Continued overleaf.......
The construction of a dispensary, rue d’Ulm, within walking distance of the Pantheon, was one of its first achievements. It opened its doors in November 1922. Dr Claudius Regaud and his team developed innovative treatments associating surgery and radiotherapy for cancer. The Curie Foundation was at that time a model for cancer centers in the world.

Simultaneously, the Curie laboratory continued to occupy an important place in the field of research in physics and chemistry. In 1934, shortly before the death of Marie Curie, her daughter Irene and her son-in-law, Frederic Joliot Curie discovered artificial radioactivity. In 1935 the Nobel Prize for chemistry rewarded this discovery. During the same period, the number of patients coming to the Curie Foundation was so large that a hospital became essential. Donations as well as public subsidy created the hospital building.

The Institute of Radium and the Curie Foundation amalgamated in 1970 to form the Curie Institute with a triple vocation: research, teaching and treatment of cancer.

Ophthalmic tumors have been treated in Curie Institute since 1940. The first retinoblastoma patients were irradiated with 80 grays with cure of the tumor but major side effects. The doses of radiation were then slowly decreased. Dr Dollfuss was the first ophthalmologist and then was replaced by Prof Christian Haye. He developed examinations under general anesthesia for retinoblastoma and treatment of uveal melanoma by cobalt plaque.

I was interested in ophthalmic oncology during my residency when I worked in New York Columbia Presbyterian medical center with Bob Ellsworth in 1977 and 1978. In 1982 I started working in Curie with Prof Haye. We introduced the use of iodine plaques in 1989 and in 1991 we started the treatment for uveal melanoma by proton beam in the Orsay proton therapy center. The number of patients gradually increased up to 300 uveal melanomas and 60 retinoblastomas each year. The database for uveal melanoma and retinoblastoma was started in 1983. In 1991, I become head of oncology service. Dr Christine Levy, Dr Livia Lumbroso Le Rouic and Prof Nathalie Cassoux are now part of the ophthalmic oncology team. Multidisciplinary collaboration and collaboration with the research center is essential in our current practice. We also have strong collaboration with SFO, OOG and ISOO. Since 2008 I coordinate the French network for the care of uveal melanoma in France supported by the INCA (national cancer institute) and by a private donation.

In June 2015 I shall be happy to welcome all our colleagues from France and abroad for the ISOO meeting.
ISOO Meeting - Paris → Palais des Congrès d’Issy les Moulineaux

Meeting organizer, Dr Laurence Desjardins and Program secretary, Dr Doris Hadjistilianou have put together a wonderful academic meeting and social program in Paris.

Schedule of Social Events:

Welcome Reception - June 16, 2015
In the Palais des Congrès

Dining Cocktail - June 17, 2015
In the City Hall

Gala Dinner - June 18, 2015
Dinner Cruise on the Seine river with the Bateaux Mouches

The details of the meeting schedule are available on www.isoo.org
First Eye Cancer Working Day Event

The First Eye Cancer Working Day will be held on Monday, June 15th at The Curie Institute, Paris, Amphitheater Constant Burg, 12 Rue Lhomond, 75005 starting at 8 AM, the day immediately prior to the ISOO meeting.

Registration for this meeting is now full.

ISOO Business meeting

The ISOO members business meeting will take place during ISOO 2015 on Thursday, June 18 at 11.30 - 12.30.

Please could any items that members wish to discuss as agenda items at this meeting be sent to: Mandeep Sagoo (mandeep.sagoo@moorfields.nhs.uk), copy to ISOO contact (contact@isoo.org) before May 31, 2015.

ISOO 2017 meeting venues

Election of host for ISOO 2017 will take place at ISOO Paris business meeting. The candidates are:
- Australia (Sydney)
- Israel (Jerusalem)
- Japan (Tokyo)
- Thailand (Bangkok)
- United States of America (Miami)

Election of ISOO officers

Election of ISOO officers will take place at the ISOO Paris business meeting.

Details of candidates have been sent to members by email. If you have not received this please get in touch with ISOO contact (contact@isoo.org).
Bertil Damato writes……………. Over the past year, I’ve written a few articles in ISOO newsletters about how the International Council of Ophthalmology (ICO) can help you learn, teach and practice ocular oncology and other aspects of ophthalmology. Here are some reminders.

**Opportunities:**

- Learn how to teach better. ([educators.icoph.org](http://educators.icoph.org))
- Help your trainees to obtain ICO Fellowships. ([www.icoph.org/fellowships](http://www.icoph.org/fellowships))
- Know about ICO examinations, self-assessments, e-learning…etc.
- Serve on ICO education committees
- Improve residency and subspecialty education.
- Watch presentations you missed at the Tokyo WOC. ([www.wocondemand.com](http://www.wocondemand.com))
- Discover advocacy in ophthalmology, preventing vision loss worldwide.
- Join discussion groups on enhancing eye care around the world.
- Influence policies and funding for eye care.
- Vote and recommend new initiatives at the ICO General Assembly.

**Things to Do:**

- Visit the ICO website ([www.icoph.org](http://www.icoph.org)).
- Join the ICO Community (free) and create a profile online. ([www.icoph.org/connections.html](http://www.icoph.org/connections.html)).
- Attend the next WOC is at Guadalajara, Mexico, on February 6-9, 2016. As an ISOO Member, you will receive a generous discount. (Deadline for abstracts: June 1st, 2015; Register before July 1st to save $100). ([woc2016.org](http://woc2016.org))

See you soon in Paris

Dr Bertil Damato, San Francisco, CA, USA. ([DamatoB@vision.UCSF.edu](mailto:DamatoB@vision.UCSF.edu))
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