TOC- Network

The Tumor bank Ovarian Cancer (TOC) project was started primary in September 2000 in Charite, Campus Virchow-Klinikum, Department of Gynecology. Between September 2000 and January 2010, overall 1300 with primary and recurrent ovarian cancer were prospectively documented and recruited into TOC. Tumor tissue, ascites, serum and whole blood were collected from each patient with ovarian cancer after given their informed consent. Furthermore, we have developed a systematic surgical and histo-pathological tumor documentation system (intraoperative Mapping of Ovarian Cancer=IMO).

On January 2004 we initiated the project TOC_Network, a tumor bank with a multi-centric study design. Overall ten European Hospitals are involved into this project. this year Imperial College form London, and UKE Hamburg joined our network. Each university hospital uses the same SOP’s and online documentation tool. The prospective tumor bank allows to assess and verify the clinical relevance of basic science of ovarian cancer and provides an essential link between basic research and applied clinical research. Moreover recent progress in genomics and proteomics, and concomitant advances in high-throughput screenings, have made large-scale molecular studies of tumors possible. Based on the gained experience a project aims the establishment of a large network of excellence for translational research in ovarian cancer Europe-wide.

**EUTROC Network:**

EUTROC is a forward looking multidisciplinary translational research network with the capacity for the rapid implementation of innovative preclinical and clinical studies in ovarian cancer. It currently has a European base with a global outlook, and an established record of collaborative meetings and publications in the 18 months since its inception. Three international translational studies are in progress. We promote this as a disease specific model consortium which is complementary to generic networks responding to the challenge of personalised cancer medicine. EUTROC will identify the biomarkers which are at advanced
stages of development and address the most important clinical needs in ovarian cancer. Collaborative links to international research organisations working on ovarian cancer are being established with OCAC, TOCAC, IOTA, ENTRIGO, the EORTC gynaecological cancer group, LIGHTS, OVCAD and METAcancer. In addition collaborations with north American and Australian centres have been started.