WETENSCHAPPELIJK INSTITUUT VOLKSGEZONDHEID
INSTITUT SCIENTIFIQUE DE SANTÉ PUBLIQUE

The WIV-ISP today and tomorrow

The WIV-ISP is today a leading player in the field of public health, both among the federal and federated authorities and at a European and international level. Its partners are leading institutions such as WHO, EFSA, ECDC and OIE. At the WIV-ISP, more than 500 scientists, technicians and administrative staff work every day to protect and improve the health of the population.

Communicable and infectious diseases

Operational director Dr Michaël Kalai

Mission

- Responsible for the detection, early and rapid identification, and microbiological monitoring of existing and (**re-**)**emerging communicable** and **infectious** agents, and for preventing and treating these diseases.

Activities

The OD CID is a center of excellence recognized for research of communicable and infectious diseases.
The scientific research and reference activities of the OD CID are organized within five scientific services:

- Food borne pathogens
- Bacterial diseases
- Viral diseases
- Mycology and aerobiology
- Immunology

And three platforms:

- Laboratory of medical microbiology (**LMM**)
- **BSL3** and **metrology**
- Secretariat

The **OD CID** plays an important role within the Belgian, European and international networks of surveillance and reference laboratories and centers of expertise in **infectious diseases and food safety**.
The OD CID reliably informs the competent authorities and the public about new developments in the field of national health, the safety of the food chain and the environment.

Food borne pathogens

- Responsible for scientific research, laboratory detection and monitoring of food-borne pathogens and their **resistance** to **antimicrobial** agents and takes care of **diagnosis** and **data collection** during outbreaks of food poisoning.

The service coordinates three programs:

- **Bacterial** and **viral food borne** pathogens
- **Toxins** and **toxi-infections**
- **Parasitic** food borne pathogens

Tasks

- **Detecting** and **quantifying** bacterial food borne pathogens in food
- Compiling indicators for **hygiene** in foodstuffs as part of the mandatory European monitoring plan as instructed by the Federal Agency for the Safety of the Food Chain (FAVV)
- Detecting **viral food borne pathogens** in bivalves and other foods
- Demonstrating the causal agents in food and in human samples in cases of **food poisoning**
- Monitoring **antimicrobial resistance** in food borne germs
- Medical and veterinary diagnosis of **botulism**: demonstrating ***C.botulinum*** or its toxins in foods, animal fodder and environmental samples
- Medical and veterinary confirmation of **toxoplasmosis** for Belgium
- The service Food borne pathogens comprises the following laboratories and reference centers for food borne pathogens:
  - NRL Food Poisoning, NRL Food Microbiology, NRL *Salmonella* in food, NRL *Campylobacter,* NRL *Listeria monocytogenes,* NRL Coagulase + *Staphylococci,* NRL Verocytotoxinogenic *Escherichia coli* in food, NRL Antimicrobial resistance, NRL Bivalve molluscs, NRL Botulism, NRL Toxoplasma, NRC Norovirus

Bacterial diseases

Head of service Dr Sophie Bertrand

Mission

- Responsible for the **diagnosis** and **surveillance** of bacterial diseases. Its role within the network of surveillance and reference laboratories also extends to the study of **virulence mechanisms** of strains, their **resistance** to **antibiotics** and research into new treatments.

In order to carry out its mission, the service is divided into three programs:

- Bacterial **gastro-intestinal** diseases and meningitis
- **Tuberculosis** and **mycobacteria**
- **Anti-biotherapy** and **resistance**

Tasks

- **Rapid** identification of **epidemic** outbreaks, geographical clusters or **hyper virulent** strains
- Establishment of national incidence data based on (**microbiological** and **molecular**) identification and **typing** of bacterial pathogens
- Determination and monitoring of **antibiotic resistance**:
  - *in vitro* and *in vivo* study of **resistance mechanisms** of bacterial strains to **existing** antibiotics
  - evaluation of the activity of **new candidate therapeutic molecules**
- **Molecular epidemiology** of **tuberculosis** and **rapid** molecular determination of genetic mutations associated with antibiotic resistance
- Epidemiological monitoring since 1995 of the resistance to antibiotics of non-invasive strains of ***Streptococcus pneumoniae***
- Scientific research into **resistance mechanisms** to **fluoroquinolones** and **macrolides** in some non-invasive strains of ***Streptococcus pneumoniae***
- Active involvement in national and international monitoring networks [European Centre for Disease Control (ECDC), World Health Organisation (WHO)]
- The bacterial diseases service includes the follow in national reference centers (NRC):
  - NRC Salmonella & Shigella , NRC *Neisseria meningitides,* NRC *Listeria monocytogenes ,* NRC Mycobacteria,

Viral diseases

Mission

- The mission of the service **viral diseases** is the diagnosis, detection and surveillance of viruses responsible for infectious diseases in humans. In the framework of its mission the service conducts innovative research to improve methods for prevention, diagnosis and treatment of viral diseases. In order to achieve this mission, the service operates as a center of expertise within three programs:
  - **Respiratory** viruses
  - **Encephalitis** viruses
  - **(Re-)emerging** viruses

Tasks

- **Diagnose** and **detect** viruses which and/or:
  - cause disease in humans
  - are rare
  - (re-)emerge in the population
  - require specialized and uncommon techniques
  - involve a high biological risk
- Perform **confirmation** tests as a reference laboratory
- Surveillance and molecular epidemiology of **viruses which circulate or cause outbreaks** in the population
- Preparing for crisis situations **(Crisis Preparedness)** in case of large-scale infectious diseases**,** local capacity building and technical-scientific support for the competent authorities
- The service Viral diseases includes the following national reference centers (NRC):
  - NRC Influenza virus, NRC Measeles virus and Rubella virus, NRC Hepatitis viruses (B, C, D and E), NRC Rabies virus, NRC Tick borne encephalitis virus

Mycology and aerobiology

Mission

- detection, diagnosis and monitoring of diseases linked to pathogenic fungi. It maintains and develops a collection of filamentous fungi and yeasts of biomedical interest. The service's researchers establish possible links between microbiological contamination and potential health problems (allergies, poisoning, etc.). It determines the **allergenic pollen** and **fungal spore** content in the outdoor air.

The service is divided into four scientific programs:

- Medical mycology
- Belgian Coordinated Collections of Micro-Organisms: **BCCM/IHEM**
- Aerobiology
- Environmental microbiology

Activities

- Identification of **filamentous fungi** and **yeasts** of human, animal, food-based and environmental origin
- Microbiological surveys in hospitals, workplaces, schools and dwellings in the event of suspected fungal pathology
- Identification of **fungal strains**, using molecular biology techniques (**sequencing** and **typing**)
- Monitoring and counting pollen and fungal spores in the outdoor air in relation to seasonal allergies, via a network of four sampling stations

Immunology

Mission

- Better immune **diagnosis** and immune **prevention** of communicable and infectious diseases. It contributes actively to the Immuno-surveillance and the Immuno-diagnosis of infectious diseases, notably those preventable by vaccination.

The unit operates as a center of expertise for three scientific programs:

- **host-pathogen interactions**
- Immuno-surveillance & Immuno-diagnosis
- **allergology**

Tasks

- Researching **host-pathogen interactions**
  - defense mechanisms responsible for protection against communicable and infectious diseases develop better vaccines
  - Study of the mechanisms of pathogenic virulence in view development of more specific immune diagnoses or immune prevention techniques
- Developing **immune surveillance** and immune **diagnosis**
  - Immunological surveillance and serological diagnosis of inoculated infectious diseases
- Research of **allergies** and **allergic diseases** (**allergology**)

Laboratory of Medical Microbiology (LMM)

Mission

- Ensuring the **medical validation** and **coordination** of human clinical microbiology analysis at the level of the Operational Directorate Communicable and Infectious Diseases (OD CID)
- Being a medical microbiology contact point during **epidemic** outbreaks
- Ensuring the organization of **curative** treatment of human **rabies**.

Tasks

- Microbiological performance
- Point of **contact** and **provision** of medical advice during **disease outbreaks**,
- Treatment of human **rabies**: prophylaxis and post-exposure vaccination.

Expertise, service provision and customer relations

The missions

- **Assessment** and **checking** of the **quality** of **biological medicines** for human use (vaccines and blood products) **before** they are placed on the market
- Assessment and checking of the **quality** of **clinical biology laboratories** and in vitro diagnostic medical devices
- Assessment of the **risks** linked to the **use** of genetically modified organisms (**GMOs**) and/or pathogens and assisting in checking their use

Within the WIV-ISP, providing the logistical, technical and scientific support required by the operational directorates for service provision and customer relations.

Activities

- the service **Biological standardization**, whose work relates to the quality of **vaccines** and products derived from **blood**
- the service **Quality of medical laboratories**, essentially in charge of monitoring agreements and inspections of **clinical biology laboratories**, external quality control of their services, as well as in vitro diagnostic medical devices.
- the service **Biosafety and biotechnology**, essentially in charge of assessing risks to human and animal **safety** and the **environment** linked to the use of GMOs and/or pathogens

- the platform **Molecular biology and biotechnology**, on the one hand responsible for the **GMO detection laboratory** and **coordinator** of the national GMO reference laboratory, and on the other hand, logistical, technical and scientific support of the WIV-ISP's operational directorates regarding molecular biology
- The operational directorate also houses the following horizontal divisions:
  - the **Dispatching Centre**, in charge of receipt and recording of samples to analyse at the WIV-ISP, as well as the sending of analysis reports to customers
  - the **Customer relations coordination and advisory unit**, essentially in charge of coordinating relations with customers and the main WIV-ISP partners to whom it provides services.

Biosafety and biotechnology (SBB)

Mission

The SBB is the Belgian focal point responsible for assessing **biological risks** for human and animal health and the environment linked to **activities** involving **pathogenic genetically** modified organisms (**GMOs**) or products containing them.

Tasks

- **Scientific and technical expert for the authorities**
  - The **contained** use of GMOs and/or pathogens
  - The **assessment** and a **'watchdog'** role for specific emergency and intervention plans concerning **genetically modified micro-organisms** (collaboration with the internal federal public service)
  - The **dissemination** of GMOs into the environment, specifically **transgenic** plants
  - Clinical trials including medicinal GMOs
- **Biological risk assessment**
- **Interactive scientific platform**
  - The SBB supervises administration of the "Belgian Biosafety Server",

Biological standardization

Head of service Geneviève Waeterloos

Mission

This service has a legal activity of quality control for vaccines intended for human use and products derived from blood.

Tasks

- **Check** the compliance of vaccine batches intended for human use and products derived from blood with the international standards in effect prior to their placing on the market; regardless of the manufacturer
- **Quality** control of vaccines (inactivated viral vaccines, attenuated viral vaccines and bacterial vaccines) and products derived from blood (albumin, immunoglobulin, fibrin sealant kit) through performing laboratory analyses.
- **Quality** control of plasma pools, used in the production of stable products derived from blood, showing the absence of antibodies combating transmissible viruses (HIV, hepatitis B) and the absence of RNA - the messenger carrying the genetic information encoded in the DNA of the hepatitis C virus)
  - As a technical expert, participate in Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP) inspections and transfusion center accreditation

Quality of medical laboratories

Head of service Dr Philippe van de Walle

Mission

is responsible for the **control** and **participates** in the improvement of quality in clinical biology laboratories in Belgium.

Tasks

- **Manage** clinical **biology** laboratory **accreditations**
- Act as the secretariat for the Clinical Biology Commission, the Appeals Board and its various working groups

Platform Biotechnology and molecular biology

Head of service Dr Ir Nancy Roosens

Mission

It is a scientific and technical **transversal unit** made up of the **biotechnology laboratory** and the **detection laboratory** for genetically modified organisms **(GMOs).**

Tasks

- **A transversal biotechnology platform (BIOTECHLAB)**
  - Centralized management of access to **"hi-tech"** devices for the various IPH research units:
    - **DNA sequencer**, real-time polymerase chain reaction (PCR) machines, etc.
  - Develop, improve and validate new molecular biology/biotechnology methods
  - Initiate and contribute to the drawing up of new research projects in partnership with the experts on the different WIV-ISP research programs
- **A laboratory specializing in the identification of genetically modified organisms in food (GMOLAB)**

Coordination cell for customer relations and orientation

Head of service Dr Ir Nancy Roosens

Mission

to coordinate relations between the WIV-ISP and the main customers on whose behalf it performs services

Tasks

- Coordinate communication and management flows between internal and external partners for each service contract and participate in monitoring meetings regarding the main agreements drawn up between the WIV-ISP and its external customers
- **Provide support** to **research** and **negotiation** of new contracts with **external financing** within the WIV-ISP
  - Identify new technologies developed at the WIV-ISP likely to be patented

- Assist in **economic valorization** during negotiations with candidates wishing to acquire WIV-ISP patents

Dispatching Center

Head of service Dr Ir Nancy Roosens

Mission

The objective is to **centralize** and perform **sample registration** tasks and to send reports linked to the WIV-ISP laboratory services' activities.

Tasks

In order to achieve its mission, the Dispatching Centre undertakes various activities:

- Participate in the implementation of a central Laboratory Information Management System **(LIMS)** for sample management
- **Organize** the **collection** of samples from different customers, and inter-site transport
- Develop a laboratory for **pre-treatment** and potentially splitting of samples, in **accordance** with the rules on **biosafety**, before they are transferred to analysts
- Organize the logistical section dealing with the decontamination and sterilizing of equipment and certain culture media

Healthdata.be

Mission

supporting public health and health care policy by providing researchers, healthcare professionals and policymakers with factual, objective, reliable and comparable data that is collected, managed and disseminated electronically in a secure, efficient and effective manner.

- Support to the teams responsible for registers in their interaction with eHealth and privacy commission
- Collaboration with the various stakeholders when designing and implementing flows covering multiple finalities
- In practice this translates to the following tasks:
    - Healthdata.be will put in place business processes such “launching a new data flow or register”, “on boarding a new data provider”, in line with the regulations and governance put forward by instances such as the Privacy Commission and the eHealth Platform
    - Healthdata.be will take an active role in technical and standards workgroups that will assure the proper definition and implementation of data exchanges, especially when these cover multiple finalities.

Healthdata.be as a service provider

Next to the role as a facilitator, healthdata.be will put in place a platform targeted at data collection, data management & dissemination of research concerning public health: healthdata.be as a Service Provider.

Healthdata.be itself is composed of

- People
- Technology
- Data
- Processes.

Food, medicines and consumer safety

Mission

The mission is to carry out analytical chemical research to promote public health. Advanced analytical equipment is used to detect the presence of chemical substances in food, consumer non-durables and the environment.
This directorate provides reliable, usable and independent **information about safe food**, **medicines** and **consumer** goods to help promote public health.

Activities

The scientific research in this public service (PS) is organized into three scientific programs which work in the following domains:

- Medicines
- Consumer safety
- Chemical residues and contaminants

In addition, this directorate is working on building up various platforms equipped with the necessary advanced technical equipment:

- the **Liquid Chromatography** Platform
- the Platform for Liquid Chromatography linked to **mass spectrometry (LC-MS)**
- the **Gas Chromatography** Platform
- the **Atomic Spectroscopy** Platform
- the **Sample Preparation** Platform

Medicines

Head of service a.i Eric Deconinck E-mail service Medicines

Mission

Focusing on the **quality of medicines**, and particularly on the health risks linked to the intake of **illegal** and **counterfeit** medication. The service carries out quality controls on widely used medications and their ingredients under contract from the Federal Agency for Medicines and Health Products (FAGG).

Tasks

- **Support the Federal Agency** for **Medicines** and **Health** Products with various laboratory activities:
  - Check the ingredients contained in medicines, extemporaneous preparations, medicinal plant extracts, drugs, vitamin mixtures, protein and polypeptide treatments
  - Track down and **identify** counterfeit medicines
  - **Analyze** illegal formulations
- Contribute to the **creation of monographs** for the **Belgian Pharmacopoeia** Commission and the Therapeutic Magisterial Formulary
- Carry out **quality checks** on **foodstuffs** for **vitamins** on behalf of the Federal Agency

Chemical residues and contaminants

Head of service *Dr Mirjana Andjelkovic* *Dr Vincent Hanot*

Mission

- the health risks linked to the presence of toxic substances or residues of pharmacological active ingredients in foods. the health risks linked to the presence of pesticide residues in both foods and in the environment

Tasks

- The **Pharmacology Substances Residues** and the **Hormones** groups are both recognized as National Reference Laboratories and spend most of their time working on:
  - Development of new analysis methods to **detect pharmacology substance and hormones in foods**
  - Carrying out research into the presence of **toxic dyes** in the environment and in **food**
- The **Toxins** group is recognized as the National Reference Laboratory for **marine toxins** and works on:
  - carrying out scientific research into **bacterial toxins in food**
  - Development of an accredited method of liquid chromatography with mass spectrometry (LC-MS) for the detection of **cereulide**, an **emetic toxin of the Bacillus cereus**, in foods (**Ylief** project).
- As **National Reference Laboratory for Pesticides**
- The **PESTRANS** programmer is working on determining the transformation factors of plant protection products in foods. The team includes the following reference laboratories for detection of pesticide residues in food:
  - NRL Pesticides multi-residue methods
  - NRL Pesticides 'single residue' methods (SRM)
  - NRL Pesticides in cereals and animal foodstuffs
  - NRL Pesticides in food of animal origin with high fat content (NRL for Belgium and Luxembourg)

Consumer safety

Person in charge of service *Dr. Els Van Hoeck*

Mission

Works on identification of and research into health risks linked to the presence of new chemical substances in foods, in materials which come into contact with foods, in consumer goods and in the environment.

Tasks

- **The Materials in Contact with Food team**
- **The Overall Diet Studies team**
  - Research the exposure of the population to chemical substances via food, including the consequences of food processing and preparation for public health
  - Carry out research on the health risks linked to the leaching of **metals** from **ceramic materials** into food (**'cerafood'**)
  - Evaluate the amount of **aluminum** which consumers ingest daily through leaching from food contact materials (**'alufood'**)
- **The Human Bio-monitoring group**
  - Study the total exposure of the population to new and existing chemical substances by means of 'bio-monitoring' i.e. by analysis of human samples using cardio-vascular, cancer and kidney damage markers (Ylief project).
  - Develop advanced technology analysis methods to measure the exposure of the population to chemical substances and the consequences of this for the human body (e.g. the effect of passive smoking).

Toxicology

Head of service Dr Christiane Vleminckx

Mission

The service Toxicology assesses the dangers and health risks associated with chemical substances and non-ionising radiation.

Tasks

- Provide **scientific support**
- Participate in work involving the new system set up by the United Nations to ensure worldwide **harmonisation** of the **classification** and **labelling** of hazardous chemicals **(GHS)**
- Participate in the **evaluation** of **pesticides** for **agricultural** use at an international level as well as draw up guidelines regarding the assessment of risks to human health
- Participate in research projects at a national and international level in the fields of **in vitro toxicology**, **genotoxicity** and **biomonitoring** on industrial or natural chemical substances, low frequency electromagnetic waves, etc.

Health and environment

Head of service Dr An Van Nieuwenhuyse

Mission

The service **Health and environment** assesses the role of the environment as a determining factor in health. It examines the health risks to the population stemming from pollution. The sources of pollution are very diverse, and include both chemical substances and radiation. Human exposure to pollutants and other stressors in the environment occurs through the air, the soil, water and food.

Tasks

- Carrying out **epidemiological** studies to **assess** the health risks associated with **pollution**. For instance, carrying out a biomonitoring study on the effects of exposure to **heavy metals** in **Ath** by quantifying specific pollutants in the body.
- Developing research methods for **cancer clusters** or **aggregates** associated with the **environment**. The department is also involved in developing a structural approach to examine small area statistics on the long-term link between cancers and the environment.
- Assessing the **impact** of **air pollution** on **mortality** and **morbidity** rates and life expectancy.
- Being responsible for forwarding data on environmental and health indicators to the World Health Organisation (WHO) as part of the Children's Environment & Health Action Plan for Europe (ENHIS CEHAPE).

*CoE FCM Database (*FOOD CONTACT MATERIALS DATABASE*)*

Database of substances known by the member states of the Council of Europe (CoE) and used in Food Contact Materials (FCM). An Initiative of Belgian authorities and advisory group of CoE

OBJECTIVES

The database will require updating and refining. Where appropriate, it will be revised or improved as technical development advances (EFSA opinions, publications, etc.). The content will be tailored to user needs by adding substances, new assessments and relevant data on substances.

Belgium has developed and maintained the database for the last three years and to maintain this database alive we estimate the costs at 200 000 € per year.

Our intention is to propose a subscription of 990 – 2490 € to the interested companies to cover these costs. The subscription would allow the participating companies to access the database, to contact the database managers for specific questions on substances and to be represented by their European professional organizations at the database advisory group meetings at the Council of Europe.

PUBLIC HEALTH AND SURVEILLANCE

OPERATIONAL DIRECTOR PROF. DR HERMAN VAN OYE

Mission

Providing reliable, practical and impartial information on the health of the Belgian population.

- This **epidemiology** and **toxicology** center studies factors that should improve health and the risks for public health.

Activities

- gaining a better understanding of known and **unknown risk factors** that affect health and **well-being**
- **monitoring** health problems and the spread of communicable and chronic illnesses that constitute a risk to public health
- improving the **quality** of **care**

Healthcare services research

Head of service Dr Viviane Van Casteren

Mission

Studying the epidemiology of and improving the quality of health care for a variety of specific -mostly chronic- health problems

Tasks

- Examine the **occurrence** and the main **characteristics** of specific health problems in the population e.g. **diabetes mellitus**, **cerebrovascular accidents**, **influenza-like** diseases
- Develop disease-specific registries which aim at an exhaustive description of all patients with a specific disease in the population and of their characteristics, e.g. registries on **cystic fibrosis** and **neuromuscular diseases**
- Develop quality improvement initiatives by **collecting information** on **health care indicators**,
- Investigate issues related to **secondary cancer prevention** and **cancer epidemiology**, e.g. the development of **cancer screening guidelines**
- Health Technology Assessment regarding **cancer-related interventions**
- Analyze the effects of **prevention** strategies, e.g. of the **vaccination** against Human Papilloma virus on the occurrence of cervix cancer

Surveys, lifestyle and chronic diseases

Head of service Dr Jean Tafforeau

Mission

Developing and executing different surveys on health status, life styles, use of services and is actively working on survey methodology.
The service is also focusing on the unequal distribution of health and its determinants in relation to social position in society and follows the development of public health indicators at national and international level.

Tasks

- Develop and update health indicators both at national and international level
- Develop and implement different Health Interview Surveys (HIS)
- Elaborate and follow-up different Nutrition and Food Consumption surveys:
- Provide support to public health policy authorities with regard to Illegal Drugs:
- Conduct a **'serobehavioral'** survey on the **Hepatitis C** virus (**HCV**), the Hepatitis B virus (**HBV**) and the Human Immunodeficiency Virus (**HIV**) infections amongst current injecting drug users in Belgium

Epidemiology of infectious Diseases

Head of service Dr Sophie Quoilin

Mission

- The service gathers relevant information on infectious diseases with a view to improving public health in Belgium. It

Tasks

- Describe and monitor the **epidemiological evolution** of **infectious diseases**
- Study the **impact** of **infectious diseases** on the **population**
- Carry out evaluations of any health risk linked to a pathogen, whether for permanent or recurrent problems, or conversely, in the situation of a potential health emergency
- Provide epidemiological support in the **case of a public health crisis**, at a local as well as international level

Website service Epidemiology of infectious diseases

Website Sentinel Laboratories
Website AIDS Reference Laboratories
Website Surveillance infectious diseases among children
Website Influenza
Website Creutzfeldt Jakob surveillance
Website Intervention
Website Mortality
Website National Reference Centers for Human Microbiology

Healthcare-associated infections & antimicrobial resistance

Head of service Dr Boudewijn Catry

Mission

This service provides the resources required to monitor **care-associated infections** and **resistance** to **antibiotics** in **hospitals**, residential and care homes and similar care institutions.

Tasks

- collating similar reference data as part of various European projects, including the Healthcare Associated infections in Long Term care facilities (**HALT**), the European Surveillance of Antimicrobial Consumption (**ESAC**), the European Antimicrobial Resistance Surveillance (**EARS** network), the Healthcare Associated Infections (**HAI** network) and the Point Prevalence Survey on Healthcare Associated Infections and Antimicrobial Use (**PPS HAI** & **AMU**).

Cancer Centre

Head of service Dr Marc Van den Bulcke

Mission

The Cancer Centre was established when the Cancer Plan 2008-2010 was being implemented and currently has three main missions:

- Following up and evaluating policy **regarding cancer** in Belgium
- Formulating new measures for the Plan Cancer
- Acting as a consultative scientific institution within the framework of cancer policy

The Cancer Centre supports the development of a policy based on scientific evidence and/or balanced choices.

Tasks

- **Facilitation:** A good transfer of information and knowledge helps avoid any dispersion of work and guarantee a more efficient use of available resources.
- **Inventory:** The Cancer Centre follows up and implements the Cancer Plan by drawing up an annual State of affairs, thereby allowing all the information related to the Plan to be centralized.
- **Counselling:** The Cancer Centre identifies the needs on the ground in order to formulate proposals for future measures to the ministers, for the purpose of optimizing the fight against cancer in Belgium. These proposals concern both quantitative and qualitative criteria (SMART principle)

VISIT THE CANCER CENTRE'S NEW WEBSITE!

Belgian GLP monitoring programme

The Quality Assurance Bureau (QAB) of IPH has been the official GLP (Good Laboratory Practice) Monitoring Authority for Belgium since 1988.

It is the government-appointed national GLP (Good Laboratory Practice) compliance monitoring authority (Royal Decree dated 6 March 2002). It monitors compliance with OECD GLP principles and tests on chemicals.

Its main aims are:

- implementing the Belgian GLP inspection program;
- support for countries wishing to apply for membership of the OECD;
- participating in EU and OECD meetings;
- organizing GLP training sessions and annual meetings;
- working with GLP statutory authorities;
- Improving and adapting the GLP Compliance Monitoring program.

Organisation chart WIV-ISP