

The Belgian Node of the European Biobanking and Biomolecular Resources Research Infrastructure (BBMRI.be)

Debucquoy, A.¹, Bekaert S², Boniver J³, Ectors N²., Emmerechts K.¹, Salmon I.³, Van Eycken L.¹, Haustermans K.¹ on behalf of BBMRI.be
(1) Belgian Virtual Tumourbank - Belgian Cancer Registry (BVT-BCR), Koningsstraat 215 bus 7 - Rue Royale 215 boîte 7, 1210 Brussels (Belgium).
(2) Center for Medical Innovation (CMI), Gaston Geenslaan 11, 3001 Heverlee (Belgium).
(3) Fédération Wallonie-Bruxelles (FWB) Biowin, Avenue Georges Lemaître, 19, 6041 Gosselies (Belgium).

The Belgian National Node: 3 biobank networks united

The Belgian National Node of BBMRI-ERIC encompasses the three Belgian network biobank initiatives i.e. Belgian Virtual Tumourbank project assigned to the Belgian Cancer Registry (BVT-BCR), the Flemish Biobank Network (CMI) and Biothèque de la Fédération Wallonie-Bruxelles (BWB) involving 11, 9 and 8 public institutions, respectively.

All networks, biobanks and collections are included in the biobank catalogue of BBMRI-ERIC (Directory 2.0) (<http://bbmri-eric.eu/bbmri-eric-directory-2.0>).

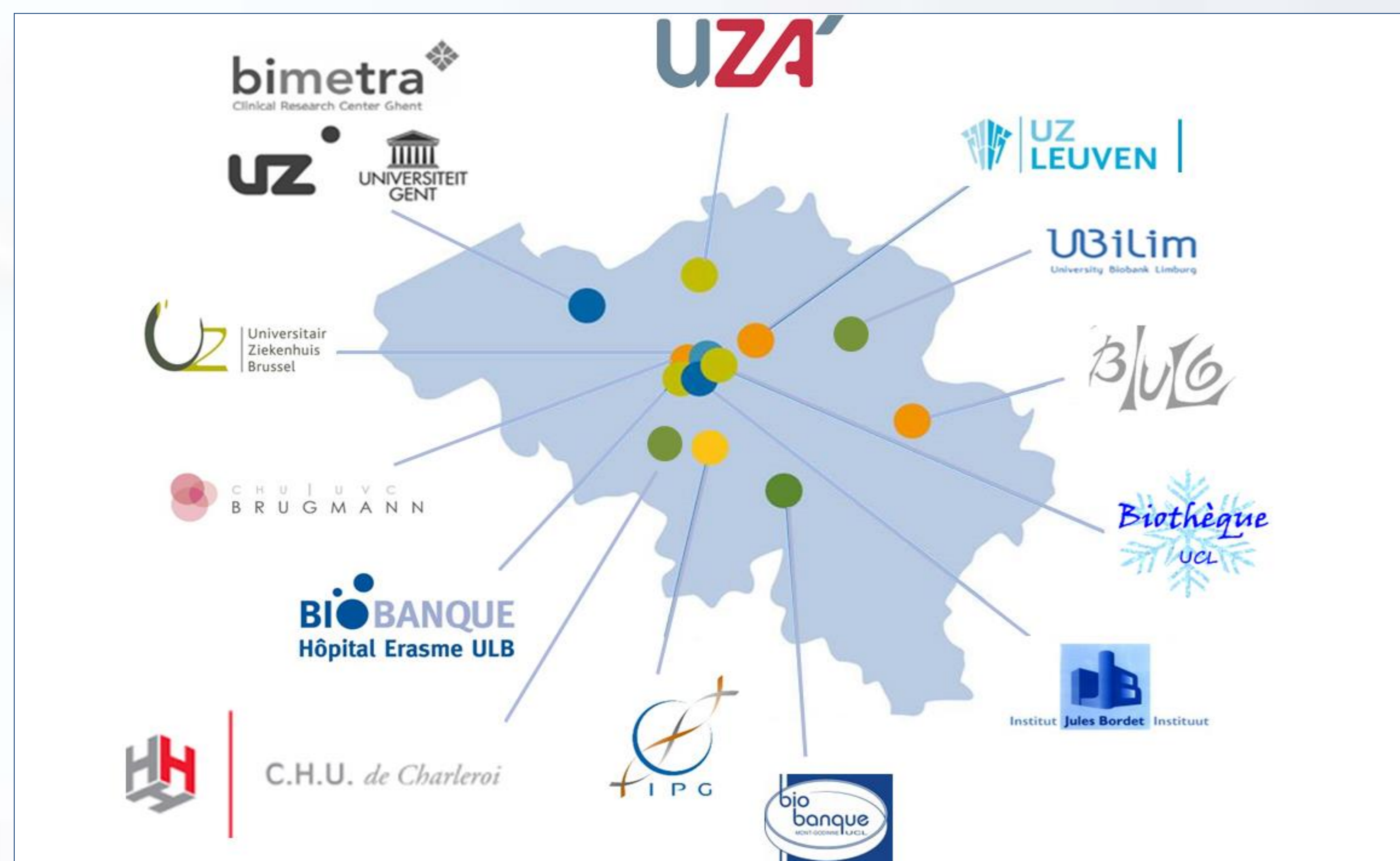


Figure 1. Overview of the 13 biobanks included in BBMRI.be

Belgian Virtual Tumourbank - Belgian Cancer Registry (BVT-BCR)

- Nationwide Belgian Virtual Tumourbank initiative that collects data of human tumour biospecimens with a registration module (BVTr) and catalogue model (BVTc).
- Link with the clinical database of the Belgian Cancer Registry
- Agreement of collaboration with 11 university hospitals (Fig.1)

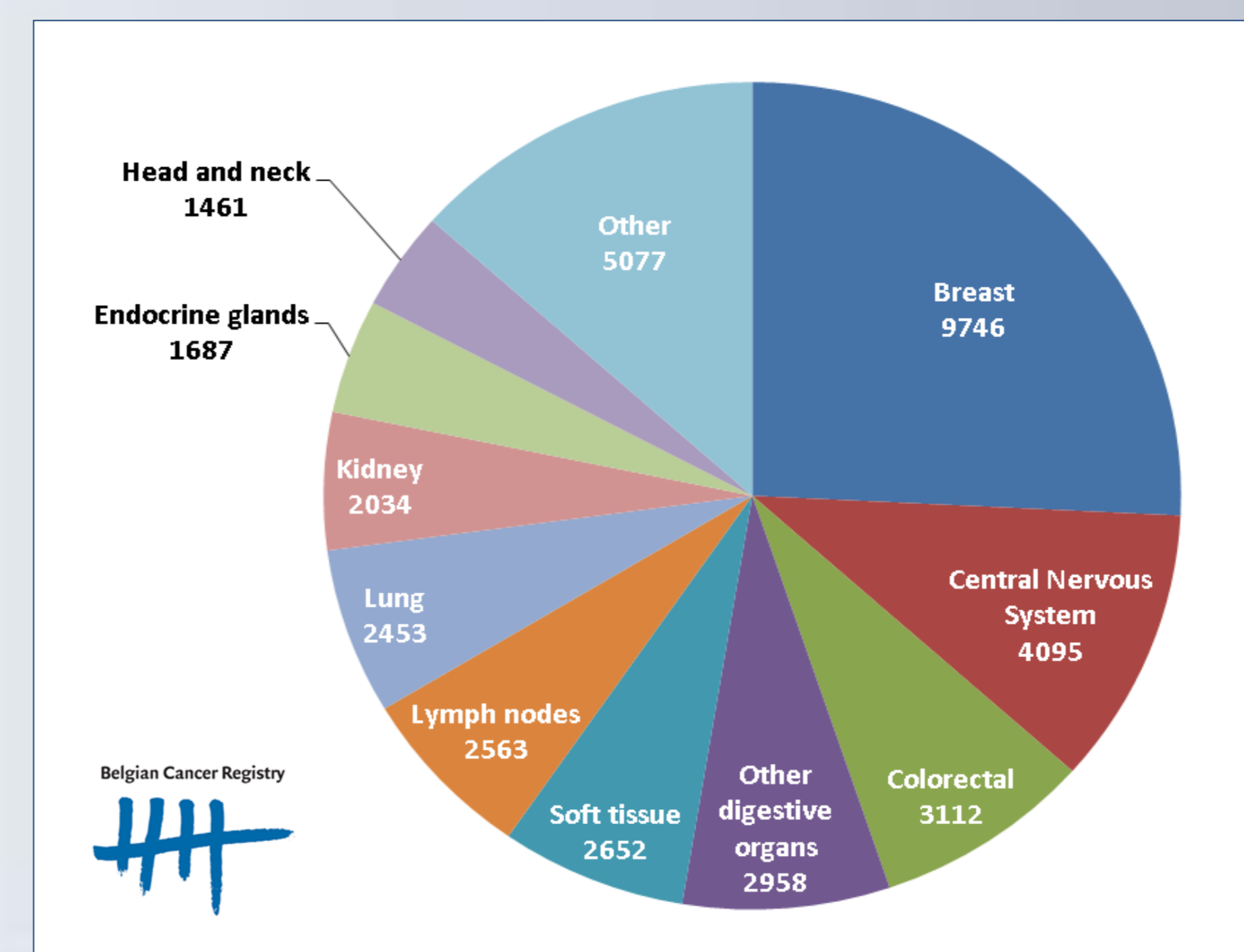


Figure 3: Registrations of primary tumours available in the BVTc according to sample localisation on August 1st 2016

- Two procedures for sample requests: www.virtualtumourbank.be
 - Access to the catalogue with sample level information (only for Belgian residents)
 - Online sample request: quick search for sample availability

Biothèque de la Fédération Wallonie-Bruxelles (BWB)

- The BWB initiative aims at promoting bio-medical research in Wallonia and Brussels, with a strong emphasis on collaboration with bio-medical industries.
- Agreement of collaboration with 8 university hospitals (Fig.1)
- The BWB biobanks keep a vast set of samples, not restricted to oncology, at the disposal of research projects and partnerships.
- Sample requests via <http://www.biotheque-wallonie-bruxelles.be/>

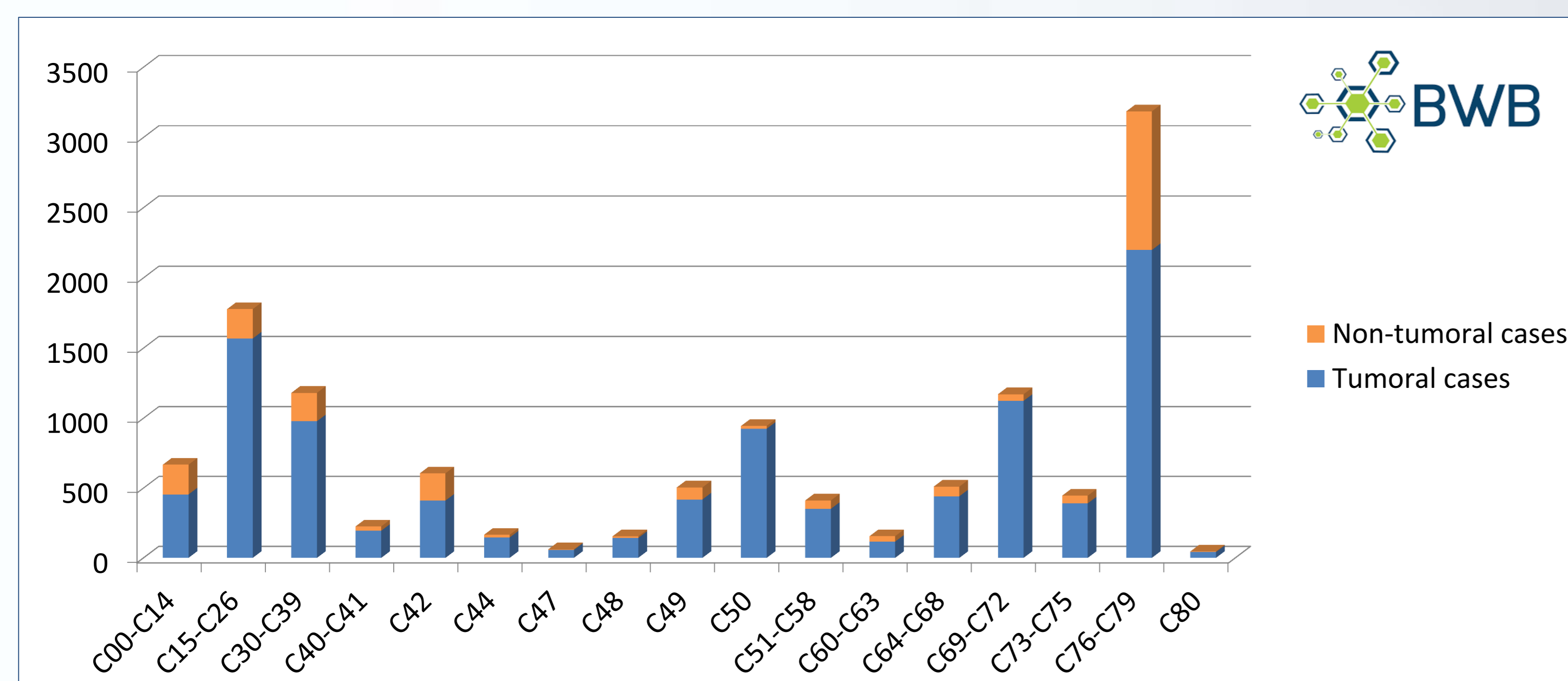


Figure 2: Available cases in the BWB biobanks according to location of the tissue (ICD-O-3) Non-tumoral cases include both tumor-associated normal tissue and non-tumoral tissue.

Flemish Biobank Network (CMI)

- Biobank initiative with disease oriented research-networks
- Agreement of collaboration with 9 academic institutes (Fig.1)
- Inter-academic quality handbook developed
- Several inter-academic and public private research projects
- Integrated interuniversity catalogue of available samples: <https://vlaamsebiobank.cmi-vzw.be/>

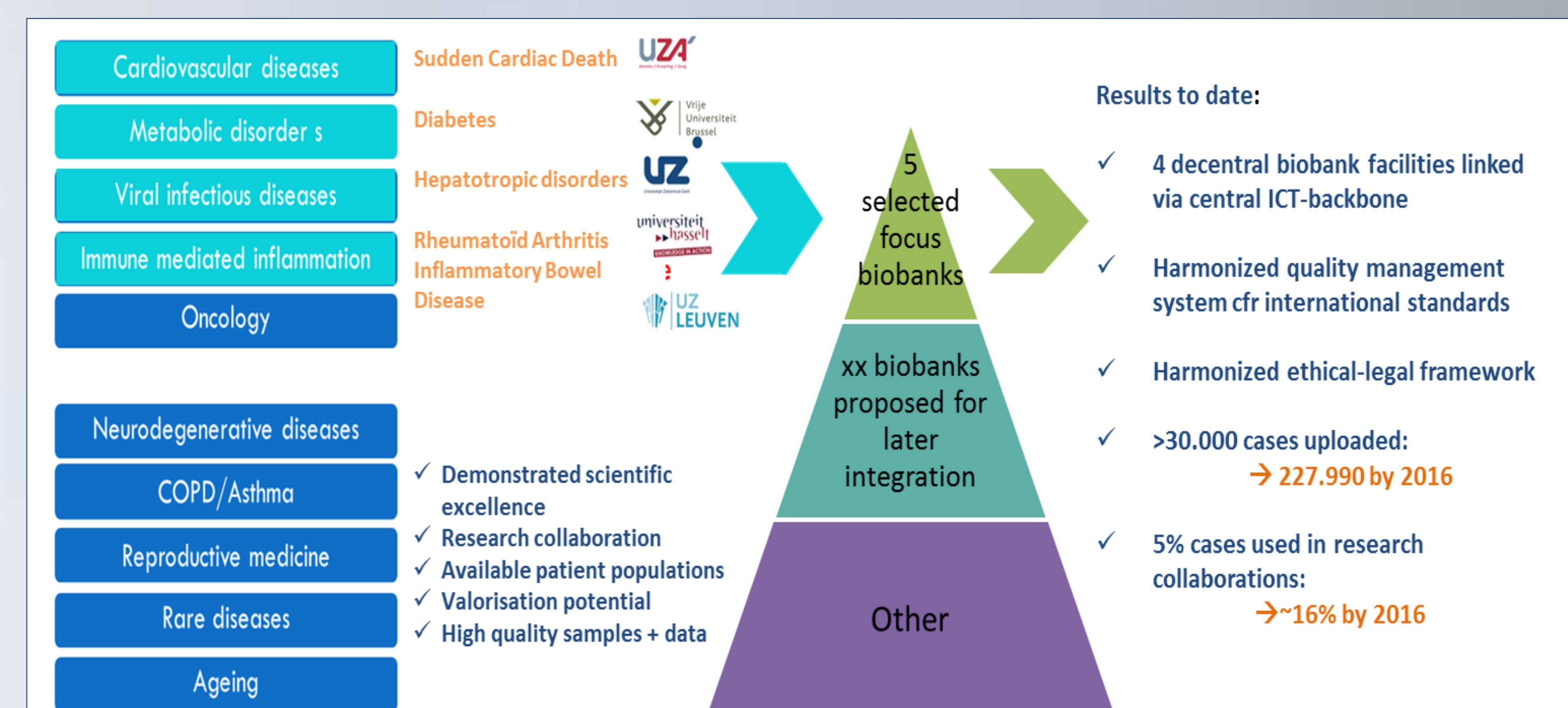


Figure 4: The Flemish Biobank Network