Olaparib: the journey of a world-first drug

The pioneering cancer drug olaparib is a perfect example of how the ICR and The Royal Marsden take innovative science to patients. Here, we chart its evolution from laboratory concept to clinical treatment.

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"The first licensed cancer drug directed against an inherited genetic mutation is a real breakthrough"

Professor Paul Workman, Chief Executive of the ICR

The gene

Cancer patients carrying BRCA mutations had strong, sustained responses when treated with olaparib

The idea

The drug

The future

We hope that the licensing of olaparib is the first step in it making a real difference to the lives of patients with ovarian cancer worldwide

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