



1st *RING* Newsletter
December 31, 2013

Dear friends,
Dear investigators,

RING has started!

So far, Belgium is the only country where *RING* has successfully passed all the pitfalls of the IRB, Medical National Agency, not to mention availability of rituximab... Three patients have been randomized in Brussels and a fourth is in the screening period in another Belgian center.

Most of you are still trying to sort out some critical steps but several centers are truly on the verge of success. I am confident that 10 additional countries will be able to join the trial within the next 6 months.

Please tell me if I can help from my side. I tried everything (almost...) to convince Roche International to provide us with RTX samples. As you know, they declined. I shall never forget their decision but this will not prevent us to go ahead. Fortunately, we received a lot of support from other sides, including from some Roche national affiliates.

I can not thank you enough for your ever renewed interest in the trial and for all your efforts to push the study in your country (through your National Coordinator). The start is always difficult but when the trial is kicked off, life becomes easy.

I also take this opportunity to thank Ron van Vollenhoven's team at Karolinska (*RING*'s Data Base Center) for their help in trial monitoring.

I wish you the best for 2014!

Frédéric