Focus on breast cancer: to improve the prospects of recovery, the scientists first have to gain a precise understanding of the processes taking place in the malignant cells.

**Joint support for cancer research**

Drugs to treat cancer are expected to have a more targeted effect in future. To this end, researchers at Bayer HealthCare are analyzing the specific disease courses of individual patients in order to develop tailor-made therapies. They also receive support in the form of tumor tissue samples from patients suffering from cancer.
Every tumor is different. What’s more, the disease can take very different courses, from complete recovery to rapid death. A detailed understanding of these differences is vital to develop more effective treatments that are tailor-made to the individual tumor and patient.

That’s why Bayer is working together closely with the PATH (Patients’ Tumor Bank of Hope) foundation in the case of breast cancer, a disease which affects more than 1.6 million women worldwide and is still on the rise.

“A few years ago, we heard about the PATH foundation. It was set up by breast cancer patients with the aim of increasing the chances of recovery,” explains Dr. Joachim Reischl, Head of Biomarker Strategy & Development at Bayer HealthCare. Working together with the PATH foundation gives the scientists access to numerous deep-frozen tissue samples along with the corresponding anonymized clinical data. This has advantages for all the parties involved.

“Advance testing of the individual efficacy will lead to better chances of recovery.”

Dr. Joachim Reischl, Head of Biomarker Strategy & Development at Bayer HealthCare

Have you had any initial successes?
Yes, a study by the German Cancer Research Center that we helped to launch. It has come up with one potential explanation of why some tumors develop resistances, and as such has delivered new approaches for drug development. The interaction with Bayer is likewise very close and fruitful. We have already presented the initial findings at one of the world’s largest conferences on cancer research and the response was extremely positive. That is something we are very proud of.