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Inserm

La science pour la santé
From science to health

Inserm International Prize Ceremony

October 27th, 2025

at the Residence de France

11 Kensington Palace Gardens, London

Program

13:30 Opening Remarks

Didier Samuel, Chairman and CEO of Inserm

13:40 Building high-quality cohorts : International Challenges and Opportunities

Chair: **Robert Barouki**, Director, Thematic Institute of Public Health at Inserm

Speakers:

- **Naomi Allen**, Chief Scientist for UK Biobank and Professor at the Nuffield Department of Population Health, University of Oxford: "*How UK Biobank is transforming future health"*
- **Paul Elliott**, Director of MRC Centre for Environment and Health:*"The REal-time Assessment of Community Transmission (REACT) Cohort of over 3 million people across England"*
- **Archana Singh Manoux**, Research Director at Inserm, U1153 CRESS: *"The Whitehall II study: from social determinants to ageing"*
- **Antoine Duclos**, Professor at Paris Cité University, Inserm U1153 CRESS: *"The Constances cohort: one of the largest epidemiological studies in France"*
- **Amaria Baghdadli**, Montpellier University, Inserm U1018 CESP: Director of the Montpellier Center of Excellence for Autism and Neurodevelopmental Disorders: *"MARIANNE Cohort – Understanding Developmental Trajectories in Neurodevelopmental Disorders, from Pregnancy to Childhood"*
- **Barbara Heude**, Research director at Inserm, U1153 CRESS: *"FiLOMENE - A new large couple-child cohort to study the relations between the exposome and children's health"*

14:50 Showcasing the Inserm–UK collaboration in cancer research

Chair*:* **Bruno Quesnel**, Professor of Hematology, Director, Research and Innovation Division at the French National Cancer Institute (INCa) and Thematic Institute for Cancer at Inserm

Speakers:

- **Sophie Postel-Vinay**, Oncologist and team leader at Inserm - Gustave Roussy: "*Harnessing genetic vulnerabilities in immuno-oncology: therapeutic opportunities at the DNA damage response – anti-tumor immunity interface"*
- **Thomas Mercher**, 'Pediatric Leukemia Biology' team leader, Inserm - Gustave Roussy: *"Pediatric myeloid leukemia: models, molecular bases and clinical implications*"
- **Dominique Bonnet**, Hematopoietic Stem cell laboratory team leader at The Francis Crick Institute: *"The opposite role of clonal hematopoietic mutation on stemness and immunity"*

16:00 Tackling antimicrobial resistance

Co-Chairs: **Yazdan Yazdanpanah**, Director, Thematic Institute for Immunology and Infectious Diseases at Inserm and ANRS EID and **Jean-Yves Madec**, AMR program coordinator, Inserm/ANRS-MIE

Speakers:

- **Marie-Cécile Ploy**, Professor at Limoges University & CHU, Director of Inserm U1092 RESINFIT: "*The global landscape of AMR"*
- **Till Bachmann**, Deputy Head of Infection Medicine & Personal Chair of Molecular Diagnostics and Infection, University of Edinburgh: *"How to fill the Research Gaps on AMR: from JPI AMR to One Health Partnership"*
- **Alison Holmes**, Director of the Fleming Initiative and the Centre for Antimicrobial Optimisation (CAMO), at Imperial College London: *"Optimising antimicrobial use"*

17:00 Conclusions

Didier Samuel, Chairman and CEO of Inserm

17:25 Signatures of French-UK collaborations

- **Fisrt Step** "*CILIAFISH: Cilia Analysis in Zebrafish for Structural and Functional Heterogeneity"*, **Marine Laporte**, Inserm – **Julien Vermot**, ICL
- **First Step** *"AntiTOL: Overcoming antibiotic tolerance for enhanced treatment outcomes"*, **Julien Vaubourgeix**, Inserm - **Eachan Johnson**, Francis Crick Institute
- **International Research Program** – *"ReSync: Prevention of Respiratory tract Infections in Children in Europe through interventions targeting RSV"* , **Ouldali Naïm & Lenglart Léa**, Inserm - **Ruud Nijman**, ICL
- **Joint lab** *"TargetDiscov: Targeting (epi)genetic vulnerabilities in solid tumours of unmet need and sarcoma"* – **Sophie Postel Vinay**, Inserm - **Sergio Quezada**, UCL
- **Biomarkers Mental Health Partnership**, **Marion Leboyer**, Inserm - **Rachel Upthegrove**, Oxford University

18:05 Closing Remarks

Hélène Duchêne, Ambassador of France to the United Kingdom

18:15 Inserm International Award and Keynote of Charles Swanton, laureate of the Inserm international Prize, *"Myeloid Mayhem: Inflammatory Pathways Linking Ageing, Pollution, and Lung Cancer"*

19:00 Cocktail

Opening Remarks

Didier Samuel

Chairman and CEO of Inserm

As physician and researcher, Prof. Didier Samuel was appointed Chairman and CEO of Inserm by the Council of Ministers meeting of February 1st 2023, on the proposal of the Minister of Higher Education and Research and the Minister of Health and Prevention.

He has devoted himself to both fields throughout his career. Professor of hepatology at the University of Paris-Saclay, director of the hepatology and hepatic resuscitation department at the Paul-Brousse hospital and medical director of the liver transplantation program within this same hospital, Didier Samuel took charge of and followed more than 4,500 liver transplant patients.

Dean of the Faculty of Medicine of the University of Paris-Saclay since 2017, Prof. Samuel chaired the Conference of Deans of Medicine between 2022 and 2023. He also chaired the French National Research Coordination Committee, until his appointment as CEO of Inserm.

Since 2005, Prof. Didier Samuel led a research unit within Inserm devoted to physiopathogenesis and treatment of liver diseases. As an active member of the International Society for Liver Transplantation between 2007 and 2015, his expertise in the field of liver diseases and liver transplantation is internationally renowned.

BUILDING HIGH-QUALITY COHORTS : INTERNATIONAL CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

CHAIR:

Robert Barouki

Paris-Cité University, APHP, Director of Public Health at Inserm

Robert Barouki, MD, PhD, is Professor of Biochemistry at Université Paris Cité and head of the Inserm Institute of Public Health. His research is focused on the impact of environmental contaminants on human health, in particular POPs and EDCs and more generally on the links between the exposome and health. He is involved in several EU projects: PARC (linking exposure to health), Heals and Neurosome (exposome), HERA (setting the research agenda in environment climate and health), Oberon (EDC testing), IHEN (setting the agenda for human exposome research) and EIRENE (european exposome infrastructure). He has also been involved in the networking of French and European research in the field of environment and health as well as in communicating scientific data to citizens.

SPEAKERS:

"How UK Biobank is transforming future health"

Naomi Allen

Chief Scientist for UK Biobank and Professor of Epidemiology at the Nuffield Department of Population Health, University of Oxford, UK

UK Biobank is one of the world's most important and widely-used health research resources, containing a wealth of data on genomics, lifestyle factors and health outcomes on half a million participants. Naomi Allen is primarily responsible for co-ordinating the linkage of routine electronic health-related records into the study for long-term follow-up and for helping to define the scientific strategy for the introduction of new enhancements.

Her research background is in cancer epidemiology. She has co-authored over 350 publications investigating the role of diet, adiposity, hormones and other biomarkers on cancer risk using large-scale prospective cohort data.

"The Constances cohort: one of the largest epidemiological studies in France"

Antoine Duclos

Epidemiologist and Professor of Public Health at Paris Cité University

Antoine Duclos' research focuses on health services and the analysis of large-scale databases. As Deputy Director of the CONSTANCES cohort, he facilitates epidemiological studies designed to inform public health policy. CONSTANCES is a large population-based prospective cohort designed as a research platform for the international scientific community. It includes a broad sample of French adults and integrates extensive data on health, medical history, and personal and environmental factors. Repeated data collection and linkage across multiple high-quality sources enable longitudinal analyses and support causal inference. The project is primarily funded by the French government and the National Health Insurance Fund.

“The REal-time Assessment of Community Transmission (REACT) Cohort of over 3 million people across England”

Paul Elliott

Clinical Professor of Epidemiology and Public Health Medicine, School of Public Health, Imperial College London, Honorary Consultant in Public Health, Imperial College NHS Healthcare Trust; Director, Medical Research Council Centre for Environment and Health; Director, National Institute of Health Care and Research, Health Protection Research Unit in Radiation Threats and Hazards; Chair of the Scientific Advisory Board of the German National Cohort (NAKO); member of the International Scientific Advisory Boards of UK Biobank and Our Future Health

Professor Paul Elliott is an established, internationally recognized clinical epidemiologist working in the field of public health, specifically in environmental, molecular and cardiovascular epidemiology, investigating genetic and environmental risk factors and the aetiology of chronic human diseases. He is Director of the MRC Centre for Environment and Health, which has an extensive research programme aiming to advance the understanding of the effects of key environmental exposures affecting population health. As Director of the NIHR HPRU in Radiation Threats & Hazards, he is leading a research programme focused on exploring how radiation exposures are linked to health which aims to inform public health policy. He also co-leads a research programme on social and environmental determinants of disease as part of Health Data Research UK, and a programme on Molecular Epidemiology and Causal Inference in the UK Dementia Research Institute at Imperial College. During the COVID-19 pandemic he led the Real-time Assessment of Community Transmission (REACT) programme that monitored the spread of SARS-CoV-2 viral infections across England. He is also Principal investigator of the REACT-Long COVID study that is identifying the genetic, biological, social and environmental signatures and pathways that underpin Long COVID.

“The Whitehall II study: from social determinants to ageing”

Archana Singh Manoux

Research Professor Inserm, CRESS-UMR1153, Paris, France.
Honorary Professor, co-PI, Whitehall II Study
University College London, UK.

Archana Singh-Manoux heads an Inserm research team (EpiAgeing) and she is the co-PI of the Whitehall II study, based at University College London. She is an epidemiologist, and her research is primarily on ageing and neurodegenerative diseases. This research is undertaken using a lifecourse approach with the aim of identifying prevention targets, and social, behavioural, and biological risk factors that shape health at older ages. She is recipient of several awards, including Chaire d’Excellence, ERC starting grant, Inserm Research Prize, and Prix Coup d’élan pour la recherche française, etc. She is an elected member of the Academy of Europe and is a “Highly Cited” researcher.

“MARIANNE Cohort – Understanding Developmental Trajectories in Neurodevelopmental Disorders, from Pregnancy to Childhood”

Amaria Baghdadli

Psychiatrist, university professor and hospital practitioner, head of the Autism Resource Center and the Center of Excellence for Neurodevelopmental Disorders (NDD) in Montpellier. Inserm Researcher, CESP (Center for Epidemiology and Population Health)

As a specialist in neurodevelopmental disorders (NDD), she has led major clinical, academic, and scientific initiatives for over twenty years. She currently coordinates the MARIANNE cohort, an innovative epidemiological research project following more than 2,000 families from pregnancy, with the aim of identifying early factors that influence developmental trajectories and personalizing care pathways.

Her approach combines clinical expertise, social sciences, and epidemiology in a participatory framework involving families, public stakeholders, healthcare professionals, and researchers. She has also contributed to the development of several regional and national networks in developmental health and to the creation of the School for NDDs within the Montpellier Center of Excellence, whose mission is to widely disseminate interprofessional training on neurodevelopmental disorders.

“FiLOMENE - A new large couple-child cohort to study the relations between the exposome and children’s health”

Barbara Heude

Director at Inserm, based at the Centre for Research in Epidemiology and Statistics – Sorbonne Paris (CRESS)

Epidemiologist and biostatistician, she investigates the early determinants of health using population-based longitudinal studies. She is more specifically recognised for her expertise in growth modeling and in studying the nutritional determinants of children’s health and development. Principal investigator of the EDEN Mother–Child Cohort, she has been involved in numerous international birth cohort consortia, and is now the co-PI of the FILOMENE cohort project.

SHOWCASING THE INSERM–UK COLLABORATION IN CANCER RESEARCH

CHAIR:

Bruno Quesnel

Professor, Director of the Research and Innovation of the French National Cancer Institute (INCa) and of the Cancer Thematic Institute at Inserm

Bruno Quesnel is a clinical hematologist. He received his medical degree in 1994 and his PhD in 1997, and has been Professor of Universities and Hospital Practitioner (PU-PH) at the University of Lille since 2003. He led the clinical activity “acute leukemias and myelodysplastic syndromes” within the Department of Hematology at Lille University Hospital, and since 2005 he is head of the research team “Persistence factors of leukemic cells” (Inserm UMR1277 CNRS UMR9020). One of his team’s major achievements was to demonstrate the role of immune evasion molecules, particularly PD-L1, in tumor dormancy. Bruno Quesnel co-directed the State-Region planning contract of the ONCOLille Institute. In parallel, he has carried out numerous assessments of innovative drugs within the CPOH of the French National Agency for Medicines and Health Products Safety (ANSM), the French National Authority for Health (HAS), and is a member of the EMA Oncology SAG. Since 2022, he has coordinated the national cancer research effort led by the French National Cancer Institute

SPEAKERS:

“Harnessing genetic vulnerabilities in immuno-oncology: therapeutic opportunities at the DNA damage response – anti-tumor immunity interface”

Sophie Postel-Vinay

Clinician Scientist, medical oncologist in early drug development and research group leader, Gustave Roussy, Paris, France and University College of London Cancer Institute, London, UK

Dr. Sophie Postel-Vinay is a medical oncologist who trained at Université Paris V and specialized in Drug Development at the Royal Marsden Hospital in London. She earned her PhD in 2012 from the Institute of Cancer Research (UK), focusing on DNA repair and synthetic lethality. Since joining Gustave Roussy in 2013 as an Assistant Professor, she has led early-phase clinical trials and developed a translational research team, supported by prestigious grants such as the ATIP-Avenir and ERC Starting Grant. She also led the Drug Development Committee (2020–2022) and currently heads the institutional SIRIC program. Her research centers on targeting genetic vulnerabilities in cancer—particularly involving DNA repair, epigenetics, and anti-tumor immunity—with a recent focus on rare, fusion-driven sarcomas in young patients. In 2023, she joined the UCL Cancer Institute to expand collaborative academic research in this field. Recognized by multiple awards, including the Prix Irène Joliot-Curie and Prix Raymond Rosen, Dr. Postel-Vinay is an active member of leading oncology societies and remains committed to patient-centered, translational cancer research.

Pediatric myeloid leukemia: models, molecular bases and clinical implications

Thomas Mercher

Director of research, Inserm U1170, Gustave Roussy, Université Paris Saclay, Team leader "Pediatric Leukemia Biology"

Thomas Mercher received a PhD from Pierre & Marie Curie University (Paris, France) and completed a post-doctoral fellowship at Harvard Medical School & Brigham and Women's Hospital (Boston, USA). He currently leads the INSERM team "Biology of pediatric leukemia" at the Gustave Roussy cancer center (Paris). His work focuses on the genetic and functional characterization of aggressive pediatric acute myeloid leukemia (AML) associated with fusion oncogenes. His team also developed patient derived xenograft models of acute myeloid leukemia to perform preclinical testing of novel therapeutic strategies. He contributed to the understanding of the role of ontogeny in the development of pediatric-specific AML and to the development of human cell-based leukemogenesis model either from primary human fetal hematopoietic cells or from induced pluripotent stem cells. He received the EHA-José Carreras Young Investigator fellowship (2009), the Roy-Vaucouloux french science academy award (2019) and the Fondation Guillaumat-Piel 1 award for pediatric research (2024). He contributed to several European Hematology Association committees. He currrently coordinates the french national pluri-disciplinary PEDIAC research program, addressing the causes and origins of pediatric cancers from the environmental to the molecular levels.

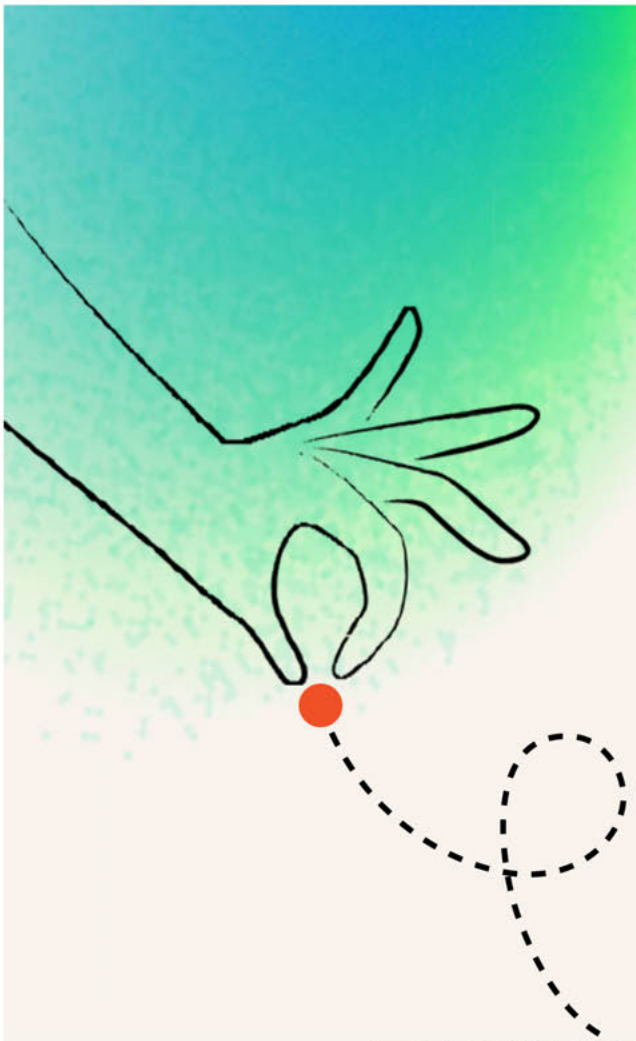
"The opposite role of clonal hematopoietic mutation on stemness and immunity"

Dominique Bonnet

Professor at the University College of London and Senior Lecturer at the Institute of Child Health

Dominique Bonnet obtained her PhD degree at University of Paris VII. She then joined the group of Prof. John Dick's laboratory in Toronto, Canada for a post-doctoral training, before becoming Group Leader at the Coriell Institute for Medical Research, and Associate Prof. of University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey, USA. In 2001, she moved to the Cancer Research UK, London Research Institute where she became a Senior Group Leader in 2006. Since August 2012, she is also Professor, at the University College of London, division of Biosciences, and honorary Prof. at Imperial College and King's College. In 2016, her group moved to the new Francis Crick Institute. She was awarded the fellow of the Academy of Medical Sciences in 2023 for her accomplishment.

Her group is investigating the molecular program that regulates human normal blood stem cells and how oncogenic events impede the normal development both directly and via the stem cell microenvironment. More recently, she developed humanised niche model to further study the interaction of human HSC/LSC with the BM niche.



TACKLING ANTIMICROBIAL RESISTANCE

CHAIRS:

Yazdan Yazdanpanah

Professor of infectious diseases at Université Paris Cité, Director of the Thematic Institute for Immunology and Infectious Diseases at Inserm, and Director of the ANRS EID

Prof. Yazdan Yazdanpanah is Director of the ANRS Emerging Infectious Disease, head of the Institute Immunology, Inflammation, Infectiology and Microbiology at INSERM, and head of the Infectious Disease department at Bichat Claude Bernard Hospital in Paris. He is M.D. specialized in infectious diseases and holds a Master of Science in Epidemiology from Harvard School of Public Health and a Ph.D. degree in public health from Bordeaux University. His main focus are research in clinical science and Public Health of emerging infectious diseases, HIV, viral hepatitis and antimicrobial resistance.

Jean-Yves Madec

Scientific Director on AMR at the French Agency for Food, Environmental and Health Safety (Anses) and AMR Program Coordinator at the Institute for Immunology and Infectious Diseases at Inserm, France

Jean-Yves Madec is Doctor in Veterinary Medicine, PhD in public health, post-graduate on AMR in human medicine, molecular microbiologist and research director at Anses and Inserm. His research interests focus on molecular genomics and epidemiology of AMR in a One Health perspective. As member of several expert groups on policies and strategies on AMR, he provides senior level guidance, expertise and support to the implementation of One Health National Action Plans on AMR, in France and beyond. He is former Vice-Chair, and then Chair, of the Scientific Advisory Board of the JPIAMR and is Head of the FAO Reference Centre for AMR attributed to Anses in 2020.

SPEAKERS:

“The global landscape of AMR”

Marie-Cécile Ploy

Professor of Microbiology at the Faculty of Medicine and Limoges Teaching Hospital, Limoges University, France, head of the Bacteriology-virology-hygiene department at the Limoges teaching hospital and director of the Inserm RESINFIT research unit on antimicrobials

Prof. Ploy is part of numerous Committees on Antimicrobial resistance at the national level. She was the coordinator of the European Joint Action an Antimicrobial resistance and healthcare-associated infections from 2017 to 2021 and she coordinates the second Joint action, EU-JAMRAI 2, from 2024 to 2027. She is an expert in numerous national and international research programmes on antimicrobial resistance. She is a member of the Management Board of the JPIAMR and vice-chair of the JPIAMR steering committee. Her research addresses the mechanisms and dynamics of mobilization and spread of antimicrobial resistance. Her main research topics are i) the role of the SOS response in antibiotic resistance acquisition and expression, and ii) the risk assessment of the antibiotic resistance dissemination in the environment.

“How to fill the Research Gaps on AMR: from JPI AMR to One Health Partnership””

Till Bachmann

Personal chair of Molecular Diagnostics and Infection at the Centre for Inflammation Research, co-Director of Fleming Fund Fellowship Scheme, AMR Strategy Lead Edinburgh Infectious Diseases, University of Edinburgh, UK

Prof. Till Bachmann is an expert in point of care detection of infectious diseases and antimicrobial resistance, conducting research at the interface of biomarkers and rapid diagnostics. Till Bachmann is an experienced network coordinator and strong proponent of transdisciplinary approaches to tackling antimicrobial resistance in a One Health and Global Health context including as coordinator of the UK-India DOSA projects (Diagnostics for One Health and User Driven Solutions for AMR), the JPIAMR Networks AMR Dx Global, AMR-Rapid Diagnostic Tests and as Task Lead in the IMI VALUE-Dx and partner in the JPIAMR network B2B2B AMRDx. Till works closely with international bodies to promote the development and uptake of AMR diagnostics including as Diagnostics Advisor for the AMR Global AMR R&D Hub, founding member of the BEAM Alliance Diagnostics Taskforce, and as the co-Chair of the expert group for the WHO Landscape analysis of commercially available and pipeline IVD for fungal priority pathogens 2025 and the Landscape of Diagnostics for Bacterial Priority Pathogens

“Optimising antimicrobial use”

Alison Holmes

Professor of Infectious Diseases at Imperial College and the David Price Evans Chair of Infectious Diseases & Global Health at the University of Liverpool

Prof. Holmes is the inaugural Director of the Fleming Initiative, which offers an innovative approach to the challenge of antimicrobial resistance (AMR) – combining research, behaviour change, public engagement, and policy to provide real-world solutions that work to protect the health security of local populations around the world. In 2025 she also became Co-Chair of the World Economic Forum’s Global Future Council on AMR. Prof. Holmes is Lead for the Centres for Antimicrobial Optimisation Network (CAMO-Net), a unique international research collaboration funded by the Wellcome Trust. She is an NIHR Senior Investigator and has a longstanding career in the NHS and in national advisory roles. She served as a past President of the International Society for Infectious Diseases and on numerous WHO Expert groups and international panels related to antimicrobial use, AMR, infection prevention, sepsis, and COVID-19. She leads a large international, multidisciplinary infectious disease research programme, including collaborative programmes that have been funded by NIHR, ESRC, UKRI and the Wellcome Trust on the improved management and prevention of infections, particularly focusing on the optimising of antimicrobial use and addressing AMR through the integration of microbiology, bioengineering and social sciences, and the development and application of innovative approaches and technologies for improved use of data, intelligent diagnostics, and precision medicine.

SIGNATURES OF FRENCH-UK COLLABORATIONS

Fisrt Step

The *First Step progam is an exploration tool used to meet the needs of researchers through a call for projects that is open both geographically and thematically. It aims to initiate a collaboration between a young researcher / a young Inserm team and a foreign team in order to foster new international cooperations.*

“CILIAFISH: Cilia Analysis in Zebrafish for Structural and Functional Heterogeneity”

Marine Laporte

Principal investigator at the MeLiS Department, University of Lyon, France
Marine Laporte research brings together cell and developmental biology to explore molecular mechanisms across species, with a particular focus on neuronal and muscular cells. She is especially interested in membrane remodeling mechanisms.
After a postdoctoral fellowship in the Guichard/Hamel lab (University of Geneva), where she studied centriole biogenesis using expansion microscopy, she established her group in Lyon. Her current work investigates how membrane composition and dynamics contribute to ciliary homeostasis and their role in brain-related ciliopathies, combining expansion microscopy with genetic approaches.

Julien Vermot

Professor in Developmental Biomechanochemical Signalling, ICL, London, UK
Julien Vermot leads the biomechanics and signaling lab focusing on the understanding of the impact of mechanical stresses during morphogenetic and regenerative processes. Julien Vermot obtained his PhD in developmental biology from the University of Strasbourg in 2003, where he worked on the role of retinoic acid during embryonic development. He then worked as a visiting scientist at the Stowers Institute for Biomedical Research in Kansas City, USA, followed by a post-doctoral position at the California Institute of Technology in Pasadena where he developed new tools to study the role of mechanical forces during development. He was Research Director at the French INSERM before joining the Department of Bioengineering at Imperial College London in 2019.

Fisrt Step

The First Step progam is an exploration tool used to meet the needs of researchers through a call for projects that is open both geographically and thematically. It aims to initiate a collaboration between a young researcher / a young Inserm team and a foreign team in order to foster new international cooperations.

"**AntiTOL**: Overcoming antibiotic tolerance for enhanced treatment outcomes"

Julien Vaubourgeix

Inserm researcher at Institut de Recherche en Santé Digestive, Pathogeneisis and commensalism of enterobacteria Team, Toulouse, France
After completing his PhD in biochemistry and structural biology (Toulouse, France), Julien moved to Weill Cornell Medicine in New York (USA) in 2009 for post-doctoral studies. He established an independent laboratory at Imperial College London in 2019, earning tenure in 2022. In January 2024, Julien was recruited at Inserm (U1220, Toulouse) where he is leading a research programme on antibiotic tolerance - a mechanism by which bacteria survive for a prolonged time upon exposure to an otherwise lethal concentration of an antibiotic - using a combination of genetic engineering, systems biology and molecular microbiology.

Eachan Johnson

Group Leader at the Francis Crick Institute, London, UK
Eachan Johnson leads a team of microbiologists, molecular geneticists, bioinformaticians, and chemists to develop platform technologies that help us understand biological mechanisms in pathogenic bacteria relevant to infection and acquisition of antibacterial drug resistance. He and his team also develop chemical tools to explore how we might therapeutically interfere with those mechanisms in Mycobacterium tuberculosis (the cause of tuberculosis) and Klebsiella pneumoniae (a cause of urinary tract infection, pneumonia, and neonatal sepsis). He collaborates with INSERM researchers on understanding how some pathogenic bacteria can survive high doses of antibiotics, so that they can re-establish infection after treatment is completed.

International Research Program

International Research Program (IRPs) is a seed funding tool established to meet the needs of researchers through a thematically open call for projects. The ultimate goal is to consolidate a partnership established between an Inserm team and foreign team(s).

"**ReSync**: Prevention of Respiratory tract Infections in Children in Europe through interventions targeting RSV"

Léa Lenglart

Pediatric emergency physician Robert Debré Hospital, Assistance Publique - Hôpitaux de Paris, Paris, France

Dr Lenglart is currently focusing on research while doing a PhD in epidemiology both at the IAME (Infections, Antimicrobial, Modeling, Evolution) laboratory from Paris Cité University and at the Department of Infectious Diseases from Imperial College London. Her research focuses on modeling the impact of public health strategies on respiratory tract infections at pediatric emergency department across Europe. She is involved in various European research network and coordinates Resync, a European network of pediatric emergency physicians focused on respiratory tract infections.

Ruud Nijman

Honorary senior clinical lecturer at Imperial College London, consultant in Paediatric Emergency Medicine at St. Mary's hospital – Imperial College NHS Healthcare Trust in London – and divisional academic lead for Emergency Medicine

Dr Nijman originally trained as a medical doctor at the Erasmus University in Rotterdam, The Netherlands (2007). He completed his PhD in Paediatrics and Clinical epidemiology at the Erasmus MC in Rotterdam, on the topic of diagnostic strategies for children with fever at risk of serious bacterial infection presenting to emergency care (2014). He also completed an MSc in Clinical Epidemiology at the Netherlands Institute of Health Sciences (2011). His academic work has focussed on the recognition and management of children at risk for serious bacterial infections presenting to the emergency department. This includes the development and evaluation of point-of-care tests, the discovery and validation of biomarkers, understanding trends in epidemiology of acute childhood infections, and improving clinical decision making in the emergency care of acute infections. Ruud co-authored two children's books to promote patient education of children presenting to the emergency department. He is an active steering committee member of the Research in European Pediatric Emergency Medicine (REPEM) network and a member of the executive committee of the European Society of Emergency Paediatrics (EUSEP).

Joint lab

The objective of aJoint Lab is to frame the cooperation between two laboratories - an Inserm laboratory and a strategic international partner - and to provide it with enhanced visibility and tailored support. Its establishment is typically conditional on the prior existence of a solid history of collaboration with the partner institute, as well as strong bonds of trust between the scientific leaders on both sides.

"**TargetDiscov**: Targeting (epi)genetic vulnerabilities in solid tumours of unmet need and sarcoma"

Sophie Postel Vinay

Clinician Scientist, medical oncologist in early drug development and research group leader, Gustave Roussy/Inserm Paris, France and University College of London Cancer Institute, London, UK

(see Biosketch page 10)

Sergio Quezeda

Professor of Cancer Immunology and Immunotherapy
Group Leader at University College London Cancer Institute, London, UL

At UCL, Prof. Quezada's research centers on cancer immunology, particularly regulatory T cells, the tumor microenvironment, and immune checkpoint blockade. His team discovered the importance of Fc receptors and the tumor milieu in the function of anti-CTLA-4 antibodies. He holds patents for antibodies targeting VISTA, ICOS, and CD25, and co-led the development of a best-in-class Treg-depleting anti-CD25 antibody, acquired by Roche in 2018 for use in solid tumor trials.

His work also investigates immune responses in human cancers to uncover mechanisms of immunotherapy response and resistance. This research led to the founding of Achilles Therapeutics, a clinical-stage company developing personalized T cell therapies for melanoma and lung cancer, where he served as Chief Scientific Officer from 2020 to 2025.

He has received several honors, including the John W. Strohbern Medal from Dartmouth, the Cancer Research Institute's New Investigator Award, and both Career Development and Senior Fellowships from Cancer Research UK. He was elected Fellow of the European Academy for Cancer Sciences in 2022 and of the UK Academy of Medical Sciences in 2024.

Biomarkers Mental Health Partership

Inserm, the Fondation FondaMental, the University of Oxford and the UK's National Institute for Health and Care Research are signing a Memorandum of Understanding under the UK-French Mental Health Biomarkers Consortium (launched in February 2025). The agreement advances precision psychiatry. It enables reciprocal access to datasets and biosample cohorts and the harmonisation of blood-sampling criteria and multi-omics workflows. It also supports joint projects on genomic and immuno-metabolic biomarkers, researcher exchanges, and coordinated efforts to secure external funding with public- and private-sector partners.

Marion Leboyer

MD, PhD, Professor of Psychiatry at the University of Paris Est Créteil in France, co-chair of the Department of Psychiatry (Hôpitaux Universitaires Mondor, Créteil), head of the Translational Neuropsychiatry laboratory (Inserm), Paris, France

Besides her academic carrier, Marion Leboyer is also CEO of a non-profit foundation, Fondation FondaMental, dedicated to support research in psychiatry. Professor Leboyer has co-authored more than 1000 international publications. In December 2021, she received the Inserm Research Grand Prix. Her research efforts contributed to identification of genetic and environmental risk factors associated with major psychiatric disorders, facilitating better understanding of causal mechanisms. In particular, she found associations between genetic vulnerability factors, immune dysfunctions, environmental risk factors and brain imaging abnormalities in mood and psychotic disorders. She is the Principal Investigator of several international and national research projects, including the Program-project in Precision Psychiatry (80 M€) funded in 2022.

Rachel Upthegrove

Professor of Psychiatry in the Department of Psychiatry, University of Oxford Director of the Oxford Health Biomedical Research Centre, Chair of the NIHR Mental Health Translational Research Collaboration.

Rachel trained in Medicine at the Royal Free Hospital, University of London and completed Psychiatry training in Birmingham. Her research focuses on the identification of novel treatments for early stages of schizophrenia, and she leads the UKRI funded Psychosis Immune Mechanism Stratified Medicine Study (PIMS), a collaborative multi-stage project investigating inflammatory mechanisms of psychosis. Her translational research includes NIHR funded Early Psychosis Informatics into Care (EPICare) registry. She is chief investigator and co-investigator on a number of RCTs for repurposed and targeted treatments. She was recognized in Kings Birthday Honours in 2024 for services to Mental Health Research and Life Sciences.

Closing remarks

Helene Duchêne

Ambassador of France to the United Kingdom

Hélène Tréheux-Duchêne is a French diplomat with an extensive career dedicated to international relations, diplomacy, and cultural cooperation.

Since beginning her career at the Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs in 1989, she has served in numerous key positions both in Paris and abroad. She first worked at the Asia and Oceania Department (1989–1990), followed by the Legal Affairs Department (1990–1994). After a posting to the Secretariat-General of the Interministerial Committee for European Economic Cooperation (1994–1995), she joined the French Permanent Representation to the European Union in Brussels, where she successively served as First Secretary and Second Counsellor (1995–1999).

From 1999 to 2002, she was posted to the Permanent Representation of France to the United Nations Office in Geneva. She then served as adviser in charge of international and European relations in the private office of the Minister of Culture and Communication (2002–2004). Returning to NATO, she was First Counsellor at the Permanent Representation of France to the North Atlantic Council (2004–2008).
In Paris, she took on leadership roles within the Foreign Ministry, including Director of Scientific and Academic Cooperation (2008–2009), Director of Mobility and Attractiveness Policy (2009–2013), and Director of Cultural, Academic and Research Cooperation (2013). From 2013 to 2016, she was Director of Strategic, Security and Disarmament Affairs, overseeing major issues of global security and arms control.

Her international career reached a new dimension when she was appointed Ambassador, Permanent Representative of France to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) in Brussels, a position she held from 2016 to 2019.

Her career has been recognized with several honors. She is Chevalier of the Légion d'Honneur, Chevalier of the Ordre des Arts et Lettres, Officier of the Ordre national du Mérite, and Companion of the Order of St Michael and St George (CMG).

INSERM INTERNATIONAL AWARD AND KEYNOTE OF THE LAUREATE

Inserm International Prize 2025

“Myeloid Mayhem: Inflammatory Pathways Linking Ageing, Pollution, and Lung Cancer”

Charles Swanton

MBPhD, FRCP, FMedSci, FAACR, FRS

Charles completed his MBPhD training in 1999 at the Imperial Cancer Research Fund Laboratories and Cancer Research UK clinician scientist/medical oncology training in 2008. He is a senior Principal Investigator of the Cancer Evolution and Genome Instability Laboratory, and Deputy clinical director at the Francis Crick Institute. He combines his research with clinical duties at UCLH as a Consultant thoracic oncologist, focused on how tumours evolve over space and time. His research branched evolutionary histories of solid tumours, processes that drive cancer cell-to-cell variation in the form of new cancer mutations or chromosomal instabilities, and the impact of such cancer diversity on effective immune surveillance and clinical outcome. Charles is chief investigator of TRACERx, a lung cancer evolutionary study, the national PEACE autopsy program, and the TRACERx EVO study.

Charles was made Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians in April 2011, appointed Fellow of the Academy of Medical Sciences in 2015, awarded the Royal Society Napier Professorship in Cancer in 2016, appointed Cancer Research UK’s Chief Clinician in 2017, elected Fellow of the Royal Society in 2018, Fellow of the Academy of the American Association for Cancer Research in 2020, and appointed Deputy Clinical Director of the Francis Crick Institute in 2023. He is an editorial board member of Cell, Plos Medicine, Cancer Discovery and Annals of Oncology and an advisory board member for Nature Reviews Clinical Oncology and Cancer Cell. In 2016 he co-founded Achilles Therapeutics, a UCL/CRUK/Francis Crick Institute spin-out company, assessing the efficacy of T cells targeting clonal neoantigens.

Charles has been awarded several prizes including the Stand up to Cancer Translational Cancer Research Prize (2015), GlaxoSmithkline Biochemical Society Prize (2016), San Salvatore prize for Cancer Research (2017) and the Ellison-Cliffe Medal, Royal Society of Medicine (2017), recipient of the Gordon Hamilton Fairley Medal (2018), Massachusetts General Hospital, Jonathan Kraft Prize for Excellence in Cancer Research (May 2018), the ESMO Award for Translational Cancer Research (2019), Addario Lung Cancer Foundation Award and Lectureship, International Lung Cancer Congress (July 2020), the Weizmann Institute Sergio Lombroso Award in Cancer Research (2021), International Society of Liquid Biopsy (ISLB) Research Award (2021), the Memorial Sloan Kettering Paul Marks Prize for Cancer Research (2021), UCLH Celebrating Excellence Award for Contribution to World Class Research (2022), Inductee to OncLive’s Giants of Cancer Care awards program (2023), SpringerNature CDD Award (2023), the Jeantet-Collen Prize for Translational Medicine (2024), and the Gustave Roussy Prize (2025).

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