

CALL FOR APPLICATION

INSERM CHAIR Recruitment

Pre-conceptional obesity and child development

The Inserm chair recruitments opened to Inserm are intended for researchers with strong potential to manage and lead research teams and participate in national, European or international projects.

This recruitment, based on research and teaching projects, is aimed at researchers with a doctorate or equivalent and a first post-doctoral experience. The position is offered on a fixed-term contract (CDD) with a view to tenure in the Inserm Research Directors personnel at the end of the contract.

How apply: <https://pro.inserm.fr>



Supporting institution:	Inserm : Institut national de la Santé et de la recherche médicale
Name of the head of the institution:	Pr. Didier Samuel
Academic region:	PARIS
Location/ Site concerned:	INSERM U1153 - Center for Research in Epidemiology and Statistics (CRESS)
Partner institution:	Université Paris Cité, INRAE, Université Sorbonne Paris Nord,
Research contact:	Barbara HEUDE: barbara.heude@inserm.fr Pierre-Yves ANCEL : pierre-yves.ancel@inserm.fr
Administrative contact:	chaires-professeur-junior@inserm.fr
Research fields EURAXESS:	Epidemiology (Medical Science)
Keywords:	Epidemiology, Obesity, Weight loss therapies, Child's health and development, Birth cohorts

Job title to be filled:	Chaire - Pre-conceptional obesity and child development
Body after tenure:	Research Director
Anticipated duration of the contract:	4 years
Scientific domains/fields:	Health and Biology

Corresponding specialized scientific commissions (CSS):	Public Health, population health – CSS6
Project name:	Pre-conceptional obesity and child development
Remuneration package	3 500€ - 5 000€ according to research experience
Quota	Full Time

Strategy of the host institution:

The French National Institute for Health and Medical Research (INSERM) is the primary public institution dedicated to biomedical and health research. Inserm conducts research with a focus on translating research findings into clinical and therapeutic applications that address current public health challenges. Partners include universities, hospitals, and international research organizations.

INSERM is the primary organization responsible for research in human health in France, whose work encompasses biomedical, fundamental, and applied research, at the heart of the healthcare system and public health expertise. The institution aims to establish a Junior Professor Chair in Epidemiology focused on the study of obesity in women and its potential impact on subsequent child development, with the goal of addressing a significant public health challenge. This initiative is part of the Health Innovation 2030 Plan and is based on several objectives: To establish a national and international center of excellence. The position will contribute to strengthening the institution's expertise, increasing its academic visibility, and consolidating its strategic positioning; To strengthen innovation and analytical capacities. The recruited researcher will enhance the institution's capacity to produce high-impact knowledge by developing advanced methodological approaches and leveraging large databases; To support the development of strategic partnerships with university hospitals, health authorities, European networks; To increase the societal impact and public utility of research. The work carried out will contribute to informing public policy, supporting the improvement of care pathways, and strengthening health equity.

To date, two Junior Professor Chairs have been awarded within the CRESS (2023): François Petit (Inserm), mathematician, whose applied mathematics project, "Mathematical approach for the individualization and evaluation of treatments," led to his appointment as an INSERM research director in January 2026; Bernard Srouf (INRAE, pending), pharmacist and epidemiologist, studying the links between the "non-nutritional" aspects of diet (circadian rhythms, food processing, additives, etc.), chronic diseases, and metabolic health.

Strategy of the host laboratory:

The CRESS, recognized for its scientific excellence, is dedicated to studying the determinants of health at different ages, developing innovative methods, and evaluating interventions to improve clinical practices and public health policies. Among its five teams, the OPPaLE team, focused on maternal and child health, adopts a holistic approach from the preconception period to adulthood to prevent major health problems and translate scientific findings into health promotion action for women and children. The research team has strong expertise in perinatal epidemiology and maternal and child health, and coordinates national and European infrastructures (cohorts, registries, etc.). The team is leading the

development of a new large-scale pediatric cohort, FILOMENE, with the goal of following 100,000 children and parents from pregnancy to adulthood, creating a sustainable platform to study obesity and its effects on health and care management, within the framework of the 2030 Health Innovation Plan.

Summary of the scientific project:

Obesity affects more than 14% of pregnant women in France and has significant consequences for child development. Beyond its potential effects, the impacts of its management remain largely unexplored. This project aims to study how obesity from the preconception period onward influences the long-term health and development of the child, integrating the effects of surgery, new drug treatments. It will also address the potential impact of the release of chemical contaminants during massive weight loss, to better understand the interactions between the metabolic and chemical exposome in the early programming of health. The project will require the design and analysis of cohort studies (i.e. ELFE) or other large databases, such as the SNDS, multidisciplinary research, and the contribution of original data to inform public health policies. The candidate must have expertise in maternal and child epidemiology and will be responsible for coordinating working groups within FILOMENE.

Summary of the teaching project:

The Chairholder will be involved in the training of future epidemiologists. he/she will teach 60 hours per year (in French or English) for the duration of their term, and:

- Coordinate the Master 2 Epidemiology and Population Health Interventions (EPIPOP) track, Advanced Methods in Epidemiology module, Environmental Health (35 hours)
- Participate in the CRESS International Summer School of Public Health: Methods and Tools in Epidemiology Applied to Maternal and Child Health, Introduction to Statistical Approaches for Longitudinal Data Analysis (10 hours)
- Develop teaching modules related to the research theme for perinatal health professionals (15 hours), and/or for the ED393 doctoral school.

He/she will supervise and co-supervise doctoral students (following the required Habilitation à Diriger des Recherches - Habilitation to Supervise Research) during the program.

National Research Agency package: 200k€

Other package: 0k€

Co-funding*

*source et montant

Scientific dissemination/ Open Science:

Scientific communication and dissemination: This original and interdisciplinary research project will generate new scientific evidence to inform health policies on maternal obesity management. The chair holder will publish findings in top international peer-reviewed journals, complying with the National Plan for Open Science, and will present results at national and international conferences. The individual will organize a seminar for the scientific community to disseminate research results and may create webinars for healthcare professionals or contribute to the drafting of clinical practice guidelines. They will also communicate results to a wider audience, including patient associations, expectant parents, practitioners, and public health policymakers. The candidate must demonstrate their ability to apply for and obtain competitive fundings (ANR, ERC, etc.).

Open Science: This project will fully respect the principles of Open Science to maximize transparency and reproducibility. Publications arising from this work will be disseminated in open-access journals ensuring unrestricted availability of results to the scientific community and the wider public. Manuscripts will be published through the institutional HAL repository, an open institutional archive in France for the open dissemination of its research results. All study protocols and questionnaires will be openly accessible. Datasets generated during and/or analyzed during the current study with individual data will not be publicly available (as they fall within the scope of GDPR) but are available from the corresponding author on reasonable request. By implementing these practices, my project will contribute to advancing scientific rigor and enhancing societal trust in research.

Science and society: The aim of this project is not only to publish scientific articles, but also to produce relevant information to guide public health decisions. The work carried out within this project will be communicated to public decision-makers (Ministry of Health, European Obesity Association, or French National Authority for Health) so that they can contribute to improving support and personalizing the care of women with obesity. The results of this project will also provide useful information to healthcare professionals, guiding changes in clinical practices and prevention. The research and results of the chair will also be communicated to patients and the public. In this context, the original results obtained will be shared with the public or patient associations through mainstream media, at scientific events such as World Obesity Day, Science Week, or through the creation of podcasts or scientific events on the impact of nutrition (for example, at the Cité des Sciences et de l'Industrie).

Indicators:

Number and quality of publications,
Number of students supervised (Master's, PhD, etc.),
Funding obtained through national, European, and international calls for proposals
- Integration of the project within the institution: participation in seminars, teaching, and cross-disciplinary projects, collaborations with other CRESS teams (EREN specializing in nutrition, or METHODS)
- Societal impact: communication to the public, science outreach
- Pedagogical indicators: teaching hours delivered
The project's development will involve the drafting of annual activity reports, periodic meetings with the Chair's supervisory members, and bibliometric analysis.

Selection of candidates:

It is expected the recruited researcher to become rapidly a group leader in the GAD team. So the candidate should demonstrate ability to supervise Ph.D students, post-doctoral fellow and technical support staff. She/he should have the capacity to obtain competitive funding to manage her/his group.

Successful candidates are chosen by a selection commission composed of six to ten members, the majority of whom are specialists in the fields of research concerned.

The commission carries out an initial examination of the applications, focused in particular on candidate experience and skills relative to the research and teaching project presented above. A shortlist of candidates is then selected for interview.

Only candidates selected by the selection committee on the basis of their applications will be invited to interview.

The interviews are followed by a deliberation during which selection commission will discuss the quality, originality and, where appropriate, the interdisciplinarity of the research and teaching projects presented by the candidates, their motivation and their scientific and teaching supervision capacity.

The candidates selected at the end of the selection process will be offered a researcher contract, following approval from the President and CEO of Inserm.

Required profile:

Education Level: **Phd**

Researcher Profile: R3/R4

R3 Established researcher A stage in a researcher's career describing those who have developed a level of independence and can be described as an established researcher

R4 Leading Research A stage in a researcher's career where they can be termed a 'leading researcher'. This would include the team leader of a research group or head of an industry R&D laboratory.

Your application will be evaluated according to the following criteria:

- Relevance and originality of the project related to the research field
- International exposure in research projects
- Your ability to raise funds
- Participation in editorial and reviewing activities
- Your teaching experience
- Your ability to lead a team...

Application instruction:

Applications can be submitted online at [EVA](#).

Deadline application: **September 2, 2026**

Please complete the scientific file in English.

It is imperative to contact the laboratory corresponding to the Chair you have applied for in order to build the project with them.

Position also open to 'Bénéficiaires de l'Obligation d'Emploi' (disabled persons), as defined in article 27 of law no. 84-16 of January 11, 1984 on statutory provisions for the civil service.