

Appointment

Dr. Claire Rougeulle, new Director of the Research Center of Institut Curie



On July 3, 2024, the Executive Board of Institut Curie appointed Dr. Claire Rougeulle Director of the Research Center for a 5-year term. She will take up her duties on a part-time basis from September 1, 2024, then on a fulltime basis from January 1, 2025.

"I'm delighted and honored to be joining this wonderful organization. Rich in history, values - many of which I share - and talented employees. Research at Institut Curie is acclaimed worldwide. I'm very excited to be able to make my contribution and promote collaborative, inclusive and integrated research," explains Dr. Claire Rougeulle.

CNRS Research Director, Claire Rougeulle is a molecular biologist specializing in epigenetics. She is the author of numerous publications in prestigious journals and the winner of several awards in France and abroad (see biography below).

Her plans for Institut Curie's Research Center are particularly relevant to the continuity of the strategic plan Curie 2030. She aims to **promote interdisciplinary and creative basic research, while strengthening the research-care continuum by reinforcing synergies with the Hospital Group.** She will support the implementation of a medical-scientific program that will place Institut Curie among the leading European and global players in the fight against cancer, and plans to capitalize more on the interpretation of data and the deployment of translational research. Consolidating the Research Center's university, academic and societal links will also be among the priorities guiding her tenure.

"Claire Rougeulle is a remarkable researcher whose vision convinced the authorities in charge of this nomination. Her project for the Research Center of Institut Curie is in line with the roadmap set out in our strategic plan Curie 2030 - Hope against cancer, while at the same time suggesting new approaches", adds Prof. Alain Puisieux, Chairman of the Executive Board of Institut Curie.

Among her favorite topics, Dr. Claire Rougeulle wishes to initiate a reflection on the **implementation of ethical and sustainable research, which is more respectful of the environment and more compatible with today's healthcare challenges.**

The Executive Board, with the Ministry of Research's assent and following approval from the Supervisory Board, the International Scientific Advisory Board of the institute and the Scientific Commission of the Research Center, has appointed Dr. Claire Rougeulle as Director of the Research Center for a five-year term, renewable once. She succeeds Prof. Alain Puisieux, who has been Chairman of the Executive Board since May 23. During his 5 years at the head of Institut Curie's Research Center, Prof. Alain Puisieux has strengthened the Center's excellence in basic research in the life sciences, developed translational research and stimulated innovation in the context of a Comprehensive Cancer Center, through a scientific program based on interdisciplinarity and strengthened links with clinicians in the institute's Hospital Group.

Claire Rougeulle's biography

Claire Rougeulle holds a PhD in Molecular and Cellular Genetics from the Université Pierre et Marie Curie. After completing her post-doctorate at Harvard Medical School (Boston, USA), she joined the CNRS and worked at Institut Pasteur for 8 years. In 2009, she set up her **own Non-coding RNA, differentiation and development research team within the Epigenetics and Cell Fate Unit (CNRS/Université Paris Cité)**, of which she was a founding member, and became Deputy Director in 2019. Since 2020, she has been coordinating the Who Am I? laboratory of excellence.

Her work focuses on the mechanisms at work in X chromosome inactivation, the evolutionary aspects of this process and its consequences in various fields (embryonic development, sexual dimorphisms, the link with certain pathologies such as autoimmunity, etc.).

Claire Rougeulle is the author or co-author of nearly 70 publications in some of the world's most prestigious journals, including *Cell Stem Cell*, *Nature Structural & Molecular Biology* and *Molecular Cell*. A member of EMBO, she is also involved in a number of learned societies, such as the French Society for Stem Cell Research, and sits on the national and international scientific committees of various institutions and associations, including the Fondation pour la Recherche Médicale and the Paris Committee of the Ligue contre le Cancer.

Winner of the CNRS bronze and silver medals, as well as numerous awards including the Jean-Pierre Lecocq prize from the Académie des Sciences and the Antoine Lacassagne prize from the Collège de France, she has also received an ERC Starting Grant and is currently funded by an ERC Advanced Grant from the prestigious European Research Council. Claire Rougeulle has also been named Knight in the National Order of Merit in 2021.

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About Institut Curie

Institut Curie, France's leading cancer center, combines an internationally-renowned research center with a cutting-edge Hospital Group, treating all types of cancer, including the rarest. Founded in 1909 by Marie Curie, Institut Curie employs 3,700 researchers, physicians, and caregivers across three sites (Paris, Saint-Cloud, and Orsay), all of whom contribute to its three missions of treatment, teaching, and research. A private foundation with public utility status, Institut Curie is authorized to accept donations and bequests, and thanks to the support of its donors, is able to accelerate discoveries and improve patient treatment and quality of life.

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