Annual Symposium of the Infection & Immunity Axis - 05/02/2026

Amphithêatre Balard, 1919 route de Mende, Montpellier

Interferons in health and disease

8h40-8h45 **Introduction**

Session I - Chairs: Karim Majzoub & Yasmine Messaoud-Nacer

8h45-9h15 **Lucile Espert, IRIM, BIOLuM**
Autophagy dampens the innate immune response during the first steps of CD4+ T lymphocytes infection by HIV-1

9h15-9h30 **Isabelle Vila** (N. Laguette's team), IGMM, BIOLuM
Buffering cytosolic cGAMP to tune STING signaling: DNA-PK a gatekeeper of immune homeostasis

9h30-10h **Nicolas Bidère, Inserm, Nantes**
CYLD proteolysis by Caspase-3, a checkpoint to balance inflammation during mitochondrial apoptosis

10h-10h30 **Antoine Rebendenne (Caroline Goujons's team), IRIM, BIOLuM**
Deciphering the interferon-induced antiviral state against RNA viruses in physiologically-pertinent models of primary airway epithelia

10h30-11h00 **Coffee break (& Visit to the sponsors' booths)**

Session II - Chairs: Adeline Augereau & Jimmy Cadènes

11h00-11h30 **Philippe Pasero, IGH, Montpellier**
Signaling DNA replication stress beyond cell boundaries

11h30-11h50 **Sponsor's short talks**

11h50-12h50 **Keynote: Ben Hale**, Institut für Medizinische Virologie, Zurich University
Autoantibodies targeting interferons in human disease

12h50-13h50 **Lunch buffet (& Visit to the sponsors' booths)**

Session III - Chairs: Fabien Blanchet & Justine Lagisquet

13h50-14h20 **Guillaume Bossis, IGMM, BIOLuM, Montpellier**
SUMOylation controls interferon-dependent anti-leukemic immune response

14h20-14h35 **Zoé Denis** (K. Majzoub's team), **IGMM, BIOLuM**
A human ISG gain-of-function screen uncovers TRIM14-mediated antiviral restriction of Deltaviruses

14h35-15h05 **Roger J Eloiflin (Nadine Laguette's team), IGMM, BIOLuM**
Single stranded DNA sensing is associated with activation of inflammatory and DNA damage responses

15h05-15h20 **Jimmy Cadènes** (C. Goujon's team), **IRIM, BIOLUM**
New insights on the mechanism of action of the human broadly acting restriction factor MX1 against influenza A virus

15h20-15h50 **Eloi Verrier, Strasbourg University**
The complex interplay between HDV and the innate immune response

15h50-16h15 **Coffee break (& Visit to the sponsors' booths)**

Session IV - Chairs: Lise Chauveau & Elodie Bishop

16h15-16h45 **Céline Gongora, IRCM, Montpellier**
STING-ATF3/type I IFN crosstalk: A potential target to improve anti-tumor immunity in chemotherapy-treated urothelial carcinoma

17h-17h30 **Julie Constanzo, IRCM, Montpellier**
Role of extracellular vesicle in antitumor immunity

17h30-17h45 **Jim Zoladek** (Arhel/Nisoleteam), IRIM, BIOLuM
MITD1 in the microglial innate immunity: a broad regulator of neurotropic virus restriction

17h45-18h15 **Monsef Benkirane, IGH, Montpellier**
cGAS-nucleosome interactome: Bridging epigenetics, genome organization and innate immunity

18h15 **End of the symposium Drinks**

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Caroline Goujon
Nadine Laguette
Olivier Moncorgé
Isabelle Vila

Biosketches of Invited Speakers
based outside Montpellier

Ben Hale completed his PhD in Molecular Virology under the supervision of Rick Randall at the University of St. Andrews, Scotland, and was a post-doctoral scientist with Adolfo Garcia-Sastre at the Mount Sinai School of Medicine, New York, USA. In 2011, he started his own research group at the MRC-University of Glasgow Centre for Virus Research, Scotland, and in 2015 relocated to the University of Zurich, Switzerland, where he is currently Full Professor of Medical Virology. Ben's research has mainly focused on studying the molecular biology of human pathogenic respiratory RNA viruses (e.g. influenza viruses), and in particular how virus-encoded virulence factors manipulate host cell defences. In recent years, however, his group has expanded its interests into further understanding the interferon (IFN) cytokine system. Beyond fundamental studies, his group has been actively developing a molecular and clinically-associated programme to study infectious disease severity associated with IFN system deficiencies, in particular with respect to the development and consequences of human autoantibodies that bind and neutralise IFNs

Nicolas Bidère earned his PhD from the Paris-Saclay University, where he focused on programmed cell death in human T lymphocytes. He then joined Mike Lenardo's laboratory at the NIH for a post-doctoral fellowship, investigating the molecular basis underlying NF-κB activation in lymphocytes and lymphoma. In 2008, he was appointed permanent researcher by the French National Institute for Health and Medical Research INSERM. Currently, he co-leads the "Signaling in Oncogenesis, Angiogenesis, and Permeability" team at the Cancer and Immunology Research Center of Nantes, France. He has long-term experience exploring in studying cellular fate decisions in both normal and pathological conditions, with a particular focus on post-translational modifications.

Eloi Verrier is a tenured Inserm researcher and group leader at the Institute of Translational Medicine and Liver Disease in Strasbourg (Inserm U1110). He earned his PhD in 2013 from AgroParisTech, where his work focused on host–virus interactions in fish models. His research group investigates the molecular interplay between hepatotropic viruses, particularly Hepatitis B virus (HBV) and Hepatitis D virus (HDV), and hepatocyte host factors, with the goal of identifying new therapeutic targets for viral hepatitis. A major part of his work focuses on deciphering the complex interactions between these viruses and the innate immune response, with the aim of improving or replacing current IFN-based therapies. Dr Verrier has made significant contributions to the field, notably through the identification of novel host dependency factors for HDV, the development of advanced cellular models for HBV/HDV infection, and integrative transcriptomic and functional genomics approaches to understand antiviral restriction mechanisms. Beyond his research activities, Dr Verrier serves as Chair of the ANRS MIE Coordinated Action 42 (AC42), which oversees and supports fundamental and translational research on viral hepatitis across France.