



Institute for Follicular Lymphoma Innovation (IFLI) and Follicular Lymphoma Foundation (FLF) Announce \$350K Award for Professors Sandrine Roulland and Karin Tarte to Advance Follicular Lymphoma Research

[The Institute for Follicular Lymphoma Innovation \(IFLI\)](#), a global, multi-arm, non-profit, private foundation committed to accelerating the development of treatment options for follicular lymphoma (FL) and the Follicular Lymphoma Foundation (FLF), a global non-profit on a mission to cure follicular lymphoma and fast, proudly announce their grant of \$350,749 to fund a three-year research project with The Institut National de la Santé et de la Recherche Médicale (INSERM), a French public institution dedicated to research in the field of health and medicine. The three-year study will be led by co-principal investigators: Dr. Sandrine Roulland from the French National Institute of Health (Inserm) and the Centre d'Immunologie de Marseille-Luminy (CIML—AMU/CNRS/Inserm) in Marseille, France, along with Prof. Karin Tarte from Rennes University and the U1236 MOBIDIC research unit (Inserm/Univ Rennes/EFS) in France.

This three-year project, titled “*Characterize and Harness our Relevant Preclinical FL Models to tackle novel CPC (cancer precursor cell) vulnerabilities,*” focuses on understanding key sensitivities in the underlying biology of FL. The goal is to create preclinical models that closely resemble the characteristics of FL, including how the tumor grows and interacts with its surroundings – also known as the TME (tumor microenvironment). By studying the tumor’s complexity and environment, researchers aim to discover new weaknesses in the cancer cells that drive FL (CPCs, or cancer precursor cells) and cause it to resist current treatments. These innovative models will be leveraged to test new therapies, such as anti-CD20 treatments, to see how effective they are, and lay the groundwork for translating the most promising findings into clinical trials. Ultimately, the research aims to identify potential targets for treatment within this complex interplay between cancer cells and their environment, accelerating the discovery of new treatments for FL patients.

“IFLI remains dedicated to supporting innovative research initiatives, including these significant studies at INSERM aimed at advancing the understanding of follicular lymphoma and improving treatments and patient outcomes. This marks our second grant awarded to Drs. Roulland and Tarte, and we are pleased to continue our collaboration in exploring the roles of CPC and FL models with the goal of ultimately curing follicular lymphoma,” said Michel Azoulay, MD, MBA, Chief Medical Officer of IFLI.

“This collaboration reflects our mission to speed up research and deliver real-world impact for patients. By bringing together brilliant researchers and focusing investment on the most



promising science, we can shorten the timeline from discovery to clinical trials. Every project we fund must help lay the groundwork for new treatments and ultimately bring us closer to a cure. That is why collaboration and strategic investment are essential, they are the driving force behind accelerating progress for people living with follicular lymphoma.” said Emma France, Global CEO, Follicular Lymphoma Foundation

“We are deeply honored to once again receive the generous support of IFLI and FLF for our ongoing efforts to investigate the therapeutic vulnerabilities of FL CPC and to develop novel strategies aimed at preventing disease recurrence. The continued partnership and trust of both foundations represent an invaluable endorsement of our research and play a pivotal role in driving progress within the FL field” said Sandrine Roulland, PhD.

“This represents an exciting and unique opportunity to model, understand, and target the signals within the tumor microenvironment that support the resistant tumor cells responsible for relapse in Follicular Lymphoma,” said Karin Tarte, PhD.

For more information, visit i-fli.org.

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About IFLI

The Institute for Follicular Lymphoma Innovation (IFLI) is a global, multi-arm, non-profit, private foundation dedicated to accelerating the development of innovative treatment options for people with follicular lymphoma. IFLI supports cutting-edge research and technology to lead to the development and commercialization of novel technologies, therapeutics and/or biomarkers for the treatment of follicular lymphoma (FL), and to understand the biology of follicular lymphoma in patients at high risk of progression and transformation. The foundation deploys its annual budget across grants, project-based partnerships, and venture philanthropy investments to achieve its innovation goals. IFLI aims to promote data sharing among researchers and institutions working on different aspects of FL research, fostering collaboration, and enabling the exchange of knowledge and expertise. Learn more at i-fli.org.

About The Follicular Lymphoma Foundation

The Follicular Lymphoma Foundation (FLF) is a global non-profit with one mission: to cure follicular lymphoma, and fast. We design and lead international research programs, connect scientists and clinicians around the world, and drive collaboration to ensure discoveries are



rapidly shared and translated into real-world impact. Our approach speeds up the entire process, moving innovation from bench to bedside so patients benefit as quickly as possible.

Patients are at the heart of everything we do. Their experiences guide our priorities and keep our focus on what matters most: developing treatments that change lives. By uniting researchers, clinicians, industry partners, and the patient community behind a single goal, FLF is accelerating progress toward a future where no one has to live with follicular lymphoma. Learn more at www.theflf.org

About Inserm – French National Institute of Health and Medical Research

Inserm (Institut national de la santé et de la recherche médicale) is the french leading public research organization entirely dedicated to human health. Under the dual authority of the Ministry of Higher Education and Research and the Ministry of Health, Inserm plays a key role in advancing biomedical science and improving public health and partners with the most prestigious research institutions in the world that are committed to scientific challenges and progress in these fields.

With over 350 research units across France and abroad, Inserm supports and coordinates the work of more than 15,000 researchers, engineers, technicians, and administrative staff. Its mission is to produce, promote, and translate scientific knowledge into medical innovation, in close collaboration with hospitals, universities, and industry. Our goal: improving health for everyone, through a better knowledge of living organisms and diseases, innovating treatments and conducting public health research.

Inserm research spans a broad spectrum, from fundamental biology to clinical and public health, and addresses major health challenges such as cancer, infectious diseases, neurodegenerative disorders, rare diseases, aging, and emerging health risks.

Recognized internationally for the excellence of its science, Inserm is a driving force behind the advancement of translational research, scientific integrity, and open science. Learn more at <https://www.inserm.fr/en/home/>

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