

FRANCE

Anne Dejean-Assémat

Molecular biology

Anne Dejean-Assémat is the Director of the Laboratory of Nuclear Organisation and Oncogenesis at the Pasteur Institute, and of the Unit of Molecular and Cellular Biology of Tumours at INSERM (French National Institute of Health and Medical Research).

Her research looks into the mechanisms leading to the development of human cancers. She has identified the genetic and cellular mechanisms responsible for a particular type of human leukaemia (acute promyelocytic leukaemia) and its sensitivity to treatment, which explains why retinoic acid and arsenic therapy is so effective with this disease, achieving a cure rate of over 95%. She discovered mutations in the genes encoding retinoic acid receptors, and the involvement in these genetic defects of a new cellular organelle, basically a protein: the PML nuclear body.

She has received the L'Oréal-UNESCO Award for Women in Science, the Grand Prix INSERM and the Sjöberg Prize.