

SIRIC MONTPELLIER CANCER

# Newsletter

Director's Note

## Towards 2025!

Dear teams and partners of the SIRIC Montpellier Cancer,

*What a year 2024 has been!*

With our **20 research teams** (INSERM, CNRS, University of Montpellier) and **25 clinical teams** (ICM/CHU Montpellier), we have successfully achieved our dual mission: to **strengthen the care-research continuum** and **accelerate the transfer of scientific advances** for the benefit of patients.

*The year 2025 will be a year of innovation.*

We will bring **innovative solutions** to our patients, notably in paediatric radiotherapy with the arrival of the Miroki robot (*Enchanted Tools*), while **further structuring the technological equipment within our scientific community**. We will continue to innovate in scientific animation and the **organisation of high-level meetings**, addressing bold and relevant topics. Very soon, we will unveil a new chapter in our **Health Democracy strategy**, focusing on peer support in research.

Enjoy reading and all the best for 2025.

Pr David Azria

Director of SIRIC Montpellier Cancer



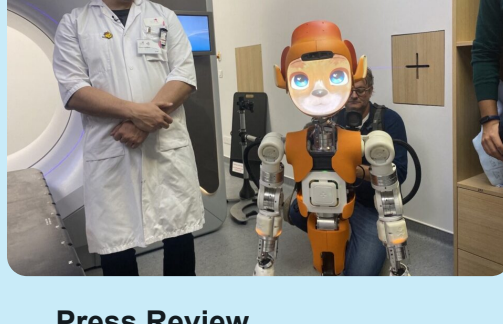
## Top News

### Welcome Miroki !

We are proud to announce that ICM is launching the integration of the **humanoid robot Miroki** within the **pediatric radiotherapy department**.

This project, initiated by **SIRIC Montpellier Cancer, Dr. Julien Welmant**, and **Enchanted Tools**, is a world first.

[Read More](#)



### Press Review

[Les Echos](#) • [France 3](#) • [France Bleu Hérault](#) • [Midi Libre](#) • [Métropolitain](#) • [La Tribune](#)

## Save the Date

The 10th SIRIC Montpellier Cancer Annual Meeting will take place on **April 10th, 2025**, in Montpellier

### "CANCER RESEARCH AND INNOVATION CONFERENCE"

In collaboration with the Biology-Health Division of the University of Montpellier, the event will highlight our three research areas, with presentations from international scientific experts.

[Register now](#)

## Results of our Project Calls



JUNE 2024

### Project Call SIRIC x FHU EVOCAN 2

With a total budget of **€10,000**, the 'Master Scholarships' Project Call funded **two Master students'** internships.

[Results](#)



JULY 2024

### Project Call SIRIC x CHU de Nîmes

With a total budget of **€100,000**, the 'Translational Research Occitanie Méditerranée' Project Call awarded **three projects**.

[Results](#)



AUGUST 2024

### Project Call SIRIC x GEFLUC OCCITANIE

With a total budget of **€60,000**, the Project Call awarded **three projects** that fall within one of SIRIC's three main research areas

[Results](#)

## SIMCAT Platform (IRCM) winner of European Development Fund

Cofinancé par l'Union européenne

SIMCaT= Spatial Imaging Mass Cytometry and Transcriptomics

The FEDER/ERDF and the Occitanie Region support the **SIMCAT platform** for the acquisition of the latest mass cytometry imaging equipment, **HYPERION XTI**.

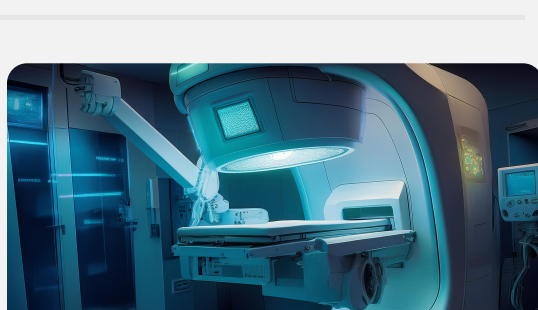
This equipment will enhance the technological capabilities of the spatial biology platform



## Our Integrated Research Programs

### PRIORITY

PRIORITY aims to optimise internal and external radiotherapy treatments using a multimodal approach integrating tumour biology, radiobiology, dosimetry and AI-driven next-generation imaging



### EDUCATION

#### PINKCC Lab welcomes two PhD candidates

To advance the future of AI-guided precision imaging research, the **PINKcc Lab**, under the leadership of **Pr. Stéphanie Nougaret** (IRCM/ICM), welcomes two PhD candidates:

1. **Charles Berger**, doctoral student at the **I2S doctoral school (University of Montpellier)**. This thesis is co-financed by **ANITI/University of Toulouse** through the 'AI for Health' program, the **Occitanie Region**, and **INSERM**.

Thesis Topic: **"Unveiling Tumor Biology in Ovarian Cancer with Radiomics-Based Features."**

2. **Florent Tachenne**, CIFRE contract (Industrial Agreements for Training through Research), co-financed by **Siemens Healthineers** :

Thesis Topic: **"Visualization of Hypoxia and pH Maps (CEST) in Low Magnetic Field MRI (3T) to Better Characterize Pancreatic Tumors."**



### PANACEA

PANACEA aims to improve prevention and supportive care strategies to reduce high-risk behaviors and cancer-related complications

### INNOVATION

#### New App for the ICM sporting challenge: cancer prevention through physical activity

SIRIC Montpellier Cancer teams are proud to support the development of **Epidaure/ICM Super Challenge App**. Epidaure, the Cancer Prevention Department at ICM, annually mobilizes ICM employees and industrial partners to participate in its sporting challenge, promoting cancer prevention through physical activity.

The idea is simple: participants collect energy cubes through their daily physical activity, making it a fun and engaging way to monitor their progress.

The app, launching in 2025, will enhance this experience and promote the benefits of physical activity.

### MEET THE SIRIC COMMUNITY

#### Spotlight on... Elodie Desplanche

Elodie Desplanche, **Research Officer in Adapted Physical Activity** at the ICM Supportive Care Department presents the **APAMuS** project. Supported by **SIRIC Montpellier Cancer** and **GEFLUC Occitanie**, and in collaboration with **Beatmove**, this forward-thinking initiative aims to promote physical activity among women undergoing hormone therapy for breast cancer.

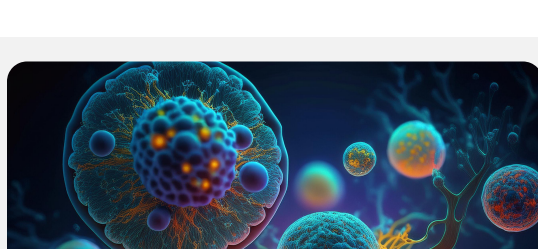
Learn about her journey, her commitment to SIRIC, and her goals for 2025!

[Read Elodie's Story](#)



## ENERGY

ENERGY aims to develop innovative therapeutic strategies based on a better understanding of the metabolic alterations in cancer cells



### TECHNOLOGY OFFER

#### The new ATAC-seq platform is here!

From January 2025, **SIRIC Montpellier Cancer** will launch a new experimental platform dedicated to epigenomic analysis based on **ATAC-seq technology**. This platform will be available to all SIRIC teams and will respond to specific needs to complete the characterisation of their experimental models and patient-derived biological collections.

To mark this launch, a **training session on ATAC-seq data analysis** will be held from **March 24 to 26, 2025** in Montpellier.

Learn how the platform works and register for the training session!

[Read more](#)

### SCIENTIFIC EVENT

#### 1st International Immun4Cure Immunotherapy Symposium & Journée Jacques Courtin Arthritis



On **November 28 and 29, 2024**, a symposium dedicated to autoimmunity and immunotherapies took place at the Corum in Montpellier, co-organized by **IHU Immun4Cure**, the **Arthritis Foundation**, and **SIRIC Montpellier Cancer**.

One of the key highlights was a **panel on metabolism and immunity**, co-organized by SIRIC, with **Laurent Le Cam**, Program Coordinator of the Energy program, and **Nathalie Bonnefoy**, Scientific Director of SIRIC, as moderators.

[Back to the event](#)

## Patient Empowerment

### HEALTH DEMOCRACY

#### Clinical research training

Driven by **SIRIC Montpellier Cancer**, the clinical research teams at ICM recently organized a **training session** dedicated to clinical research for patient partners.

The goal of this initiative is to promote **peer support** in clinical research, as part of SIRIC's health democracy efforts.



## 2025 Agenda

### January 21

Annual meeting of the SIRIC  
Paris (INCA)

### March 24-26

ATAQ-seq Training Course  
Unlocking Epigenomic Insights: ATAC-seq  
Data Analysis in Practice  
Montpellier (Genopolys)

[Register](#)

### April 9

Scientific Advisory Board Meeting of SIRIC  
Montpellier Cancer  
Montpellier (IRCM)

### April 10

10th SIRIC Montpellier Cancer Annual Meeting  
Montpellier

[Register](#)

### June 13

PINKCC LAB CHALLENGE  
Datachallenge: Revolutionizing Ovarian Cancer Research with AI  
Montpellier

### June 20

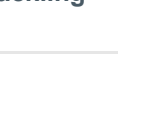
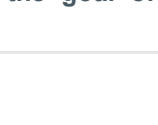
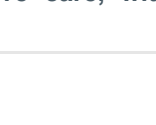
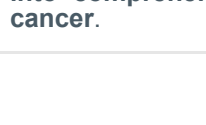
Tumourids Workshop  
Tumor Ecosystems: Tumouroids and explants for precision medicine  
Montpellier (IRCM)

### ABOUT US

#### Integrating medical, scientific and societal medical research excellence in oncology

**SIRIC Montpellier Cancer** is one of the eight **French National Cancer Institute**-designated integrated cancer research sites (SIRIC) and the only certified site in the South of France.

We bring together **20 research groups** and **25 clinical teams**, in collaboration with **two University Hospitals** and leading **academic research institutions** (CNRS, INSERM, and the Universities of Montpellier). Our sole mission is to transform **world-class cancer research** into comprehensive care, with the goal of tackling cancer.



With the financial support of **INCA**, **DGOS** and **INSERM**



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