

Rheumatology Department, Brest University Hospital, France

Main research areas of interest

- Epidemiology/Outcomes research - our main recent projects focus on:
 - Outcome definitions for **primary Sjögren's syndrome** and **polymyalgia rheumatica** clinical trials
 - Development of diagnostic tools and **classification criteria** for pSS
 - Design and organization of **multicentre clinical trials** (for example TEARS rituximab study in pSS, TENOR and SEMAPHORE tocilizumab studies in PMR)
 - Analysis of **large longitudinal cohorts** (ESPOIR in early RA, DESIR and ECHOSPA in SpA, ASSESS in pSS, KHOALA in osteoarthritis)
 - **Descriptive epidemiology** (RA, SpA, osteoarthritis, pSS, vasculitides)
 - Description of disease phenotypes in **paediatric rheumatology**
- Immunology
 - Our lab (**INSERM UMR 1227**, "Lymphocyte B and Autoimmunity", director **Pr JO PERS**) is focused on the **role of B cells in systemic autoimmune diseases**: regulatory B cells, autoreactive B cells, epigenetics, BAFF cytokine, calcium signalling, and characterization of the effects of biological therapies on B cells.
 - **Our team** includes 12 academic senior researchers, 3 research engineers, 3 research technicians, 2 post-doctoral fellows, and 10 PhD students.
 - We participate in two large European Council-funded consortium projects (**IMI/H2020 projects**): **PRECISESADS** (large cohort of more than 2500 European patients, aiming at the molecular reclassification of systemic autoimmune diseases, using bioinformatics analyses of big data) and **HARMONICSS** (Harmonization of the European cohorts of pSS).
 - Imaging
 - Development of **salivary-gland ultrasonography** for the diagnosis and monitoring of pSS
 - **US to monitor RA** patients in clinical practice (ongoing large randomized multicentric trial BCD)
 - Definition of simplified scoring systems for **RA radiographic progression**
 - Assessment of **US, PET-CT and MRI** for the diagnosis and monitoring of **PMR** patients
 - Definition of normal sonoanatomy in kids and description of ultrasonographic abnormalities in paediatric rheumatic diseases

Main musculoskeletal and rheumatic diseases investigated: Ankylosing spondylitis/axial spondyloarthritis, Pediatric rheumatology, Rheumatoid arthritis, Systemic lupus erythematosus / Anti-phospholipid syndrome, Osteoarthritis, Sjögren's syndrome, Systemic vasculitis (ANCA-associated vasculitis, large-vessel vasculitis) Polymyalgia rheumatica

Clinical practice: The Rheumatology department includes 28 dedicated beds for rheumatologic inpatient care, an ambulatory care unit for diagnosis and follow-up of systemic autoimmune diseases and biologic therapies administration, daily outpatient clinics (general rheumatology), specific multidisciplinary clinics dedicated to pSS, SLE, vasculitis, spine diseases. Ultrasonography, interventional rheumatology and research consultations are also scheduled every week.

Practical information: The centre can provide research opportunities for: PhD students, clinical research fellows, medical students, specialty trainees, basic scientists, clinical internship/fellowship
Duration of stay: 3-4 years (eg PhD) is the maximum duration of stay
Funding: Some funding might be available via institute.

Website: <http://www.univ-brest.fr/Immunologie/>

<https://www.chu-brest.fr/fr/recherche-universite>

Contact persons for possible research collaborations /clinical internship and mentorship:

	Contact details person 1	Contact details person 2	Contact details person 3
Research area	Immunology	Epidemiology	Imaging
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Clinical internship/fellowship	Rheumatology	Paediatric Rheumatology	
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* Can be contacted for mentorship