

M4R Master's

« Repair, Replace, Regenerate, Reprogramme »



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INTRODUCTION

The **M4R Master's programme (Repair, Replace, Regenerate, Reprogramme)** is an international training programme dedicated to new therapeutic strategies and the development of innovative health products in 4R medicine. The program is supported by two high-level research laboratories: **RMeS¹ and TarGET²**.

These approaches aim to replace, repair, regenerate, or reprogram cells, tissues, or organs in order to restore their biological functions. They include regenerative medicine (tissue engineering products, cell therapies, and gene therapies), biotechnologies (biopharmaceuticals), and medical devices.

By nature interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary, the M4R master's programme integrates cell biology, molecular biology, gene therapy, biomaterials science, chemistry, physics, and pharmaceutical formulation.

Over the two-years programme, students can tailor their training by selecting among three possible tracks: clinical research, experimental research, omics data research and analysis.

Experimental research track: Designed for students wishing to pursue careers in academic research or biomedical research in industry

- It develops key skills in scientific reasoning, experimental methodologies and critical analysis of data in life and health sciences.
- It emphasises experimental design, mastery of laboratory techniques, and rigorous interpretation of scientific results.

Clinical research track: Designed for students wishing to transform today's knowledge into tomorrow's treatments

- It develops the skills required to design and conduct clinical trials, and to evaluate new therapies or medical devices.
- It focuses on clinical trial methodology, clinical data analysis and regulatory aspects of health.

Research and analysis of omics data : Designed for students wishing to specialise in bioinformatics and omics data analysis

- It develops the skills required to explore complex relationships among genes, proteins, metabolites and other biomolecules.
- It focuses on multidimensional approaches, cutting-edge computational tools, and integrative interpretation of omics datasets.

Why choose this Master's programme?

- A **multidisciplinary and versatile** training programme dedicated to innovative health products
- Research **immersion from the first year (M1)**: join a research laboratory from the beginning of the program and develop strong practical and theoretical skills
- Join an **excellence track labeled Master-Doctorate Programme**, supported by internationally recognized research laboratories
- A high-level scientific environment
- Training in research methodology and cutting-edge technologies
- Guidance and support for pursuing a PhD

¹ <https://rmes.univ-nantes.fr/home/latest-news>

² <https://umr1089.univ-nantes.fr/fr>

Programme Expertise

- **Master** the development, regulation, and investigation tools related to innovative health products in 4R medicine
- **Develop** Advanced Therapy Medicinal Products (ATMPs) that open new perspectives in regenerative medicine, including: cell therapy, tissue engineering (biomaterials and bioprinting strategies), gene therapy
- **Design and evaluate** biopharmaceuticals, such as recombinant proteins and monoclonal antibodies
- **Contribute** to the development of Medical Devices

Students gain a comprehensive understanding of the entire innovation pipeline, from the design to the evaluation of innovative therapies.

MASTER'S PROGRAMME COORDINATORS

- Angélique Galvani
- Claire Vinatier
- Johann Clouet
- gpm4r@univ-nantes.fr

TEACHING LOCATION

Teaching takes place at **Nantes Université**, within:

- the Faculty of Science and Technology,
- the Faculties of Medicine and Pharmacy.

SKILLS ACQUIRED AND CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

At the end of the M4R Master's programme, students will master the following skills:

- **Conduct research** and analysis of bibliographic and technological resources in M4R field
- **Designing** a research project in M4R field
- **Developing** an experiment in M4R field
- **Analysing complex scientific data**
- Promote results and scientific production (To communicating in science in writing and orally and to learn to write an article in English)
- Understand the clinical investigation methods for innovative therapy products

Upon completion of the M4R Master's, graduates can pursue a wide range of roles depending on their chosen specialisation :

Experimental research : Biological engineer, project manager, R&D engineer.

Clinical research: Clinical research associate, clinical trial coordinator.

Omics research and analysis of omics data : Biological engineer, project manager, multi-omics data processing engineer, bioanalyst, R&D engineer.

Sectors of activity : Academic laboratories, R&D companies, start-ups, hospitals

Students may pursue a career in **research** by undertaking a PhD.

PhD training can be undertaken in France or abroad, with various funding opportunities available, including:

- Partnership with company collaborative agreements
- Funding from calls for proposals by [Graduate school Health Sciences and Technologies](#) and its network,
- Other institutional or private funding sources.

JOIN THE M4R MASTER'S PROGRAMME

Scholarship

A **welcome grant of €1,500** is awarded to international students enrolled in our programme.

They may also apply for:

- The Eiffel Excellence Scholarship,
- Other scholarships offered by their embassies or national organisations.

Students on the **M4R** programme undertaking an **internship abroad** may be eligible for a mobility grant, in the form of a monthly allowance of **€500 to €700**, subject to eligibility.

How to apply?

The admission requirements and application procedures are detailed in the **programme information sheet**, available on the **Nantes University website**³.

³ <https://medecine.univ-nantes.fr/formation-initiale/master-1-biologie-sante/medecine-4r-repair-replace-regenerate-reprogramme-master-level>

Teaching units specific to the M4R programme (18 ECTS)

■ Biomaterials and additive manufacturing

Number of hours: 24 hrs

Year/Semester: Master's Year 1 / Semester 1

Language: French/English

Objectives

- Understand the main classes of materials, their general chemistry and their general properties.
- Understand the areas of application of biomaterials in regenerative medicine
- Identify the different biomaterials that can be used in regenerative medicine

Select a biomaterial for 4R medicine based on its properties

Content

This module addresses the need to understand the issues and challenges in healthcare in general, and in 4R medicine in particular, regarding the use of biomaterials and additive manufacturing. The aim is to understand the specifications and formulation of biomaterials according to specific needs, to be able to understand and apply the definition of biocompatibility and the related fields of application, to understand the challenges of biofabrication, and finally to consider applications in tissue engineering, in conjunction with the other modules of the M4R programme. The combination of lectures and tutorials will enable students to engage with the issues and challenges of biomaterials and additive manufacturing in the field of 4R Medicine.

Teaching methods

Lectures and tutorials

■ Cell Therapy in Regenerative Medicine M4R

Number of hours: 24 hrs

Year/Semester: Master's 1 / Semester 1

Language: French/English

Objectives

- Identify the research question
- Draw on external resources to supplement one's knowledge of the subject under study
- Identify the most appropriate study designs
- Assess the advantages and limitations of the approaches used
- Develop an experimental protocol to test a simple hypothesis or research question
- Give an oral presentation of one's experimental protocol.

Content

- Cell therapies: key concepts and applications in regenerative medicine (10 hours 40 minutes): introduction, concepts, challenges. Practical examples of cell therapy applications in regenerative medicine, with seminars covering different cell types and applications.

- Extracellular vesicle (EV)-based therapies: key concepts and applications in regenerative medicine. (2 hours 40 minutes). The concept of acellular therapy, involving the use of extracellular vesicles, will be explored through examples. The strengths and weaknesses will be discussed in the light of existing cell therapy strategies that have been developed.
- Study and case analysis of cell and acellular therapy strategies. (4 x 2 hours 40 minutes) The work will take place in groups over the course of four tutorial sessions, during which students will learn, through article analysis, to understand the various aspects of an experimental approach to cell and acellular therapy (research question, choice of model, limitations, etc.). The final output will take the form of a written report and a presentation.

Teaching methods

Face-to-face lectures and tutorials.

■ Tissue Engineering and Biotechnology M4R

Number of hours: 24 hrs

Year/Semester: Master's 1 / Semester 2

Language: French/English

Objectives

- Carry out an experimental protocol using the documentation provided
- Independently perform the calculations required to set up protocols
- Organise your workspace in accordance with GLP guidelines
- Describe the relevant experimental methods

Content

- Tissue engineering: (12 hours) The tissue engineering module will cover the fundamental principles required to understand the key issues in this discipline. Part of the course will also be dedicated to illustrating the concepts or experimental strategies developed according to the target tissue or the chosen tissue engineering tool. Part of the course will take the form of tutorials, enabling students to explore certain issues in tissue engineering in greater depth through simulation and problem-solving.
- Biotechnology: (12 hours) The Biotechnology module will cover the main categories of molecular biotherapies, the key stages of design and small-scale production of these biopharmaceuticals, as well as the evolution and role of the biotechnology industry in healthcare. These concepts will be introduced during the lectures and explored in greater depth during the tutorials, during which students will give oral presentations in pairs or groups of three, providing a more detailed overview of the key points from the lectures:
 - Chemical drugs vs biological drugs
 - Choice of host cell
 - Production strategy for monoclonal antibodies
 - Production strategy for recombinant proteins
 - Production strategy for peptide hormones
 - Companion diagnostics and biopharmaceuticals
 - Biosimilars

Teaching methods

Lectures and Tutorials (design of an experimental protocol and oral presentation).

■ M4R Gene Therapy

Number of hours: 24 hrs

Year/Semester: Master's 1 / Semester 2

Language: French/English

Objectives

To design a structured and educational presentation: an oral and visual summary of a gene therapy article

Content

To provide M4R Master's students with basic knowledge of gene therapy strategies in the context of rare human diseases

Teaching methods

Lectures and tutorials

Cross-disciplinary Teaching units, Master's 1 (24 ECTS)

■ Scientific Presentation 1

Number of hours: 0

Year/Semester: Master's 1 / Semester 1

Language: French/English

Objectives

To gain a broad overview of a disciplinary field.

Develop a critical perspective following a scientific presentation. Be able to engage with a specialist in a given field. Design a structured and educational presentation.

Be able to answer scientific questions in a reasoned manner, drawing on the relevant literature.

Build a professional network.

Content

Each GP offers several scientific events during which students will attend lectures by specialists, present their results in the form of oral and poster presentations, and take part in various scientific workshops. These events will provide an opportunity to interact with professionals (academic, clinical and industrial), with students from other GP levels (M2, PhD students), and with alumni. Some of these events may take place remotely.

Some events may be specific to a particular GP with a very distinct thematic focus, whilst others may be shared across all GPs, or some of them, at the discretion of the GP coordinators.

■ Big Data 1-1 — Introduction to Biological data analysis

Number of hours: 24 hours (16 hours lectures, 8 hours practicals)

Year/Semester: Master's 1 / Semester 1

Language: French/English

Objectives

By the end of this Teaching unit, students will be able to:

- **Identify** the key steps in modelling a biological system.
- **Use** different data structures and algorithms to analyse biological data.
- **Use** a digital environment dedicated to biological data analysis.

Content

Lectures

- History and principles of modelling living systems
- Introduction to scripting languages
- Algorithms and data structures
- Manipulation of biological files (FASTA, CSV)
- Sequence manipulation (DNA, RNA, proteins)
- Handling randomness in programming

Practical work

- Extracting biological information from FASTA sequences
- Automated alignments to produce a similarity graph

Teaching methods

Face-to-face lectures, tutorials and practical sessions, with applied exercises.

■ Big Data 1-2 – Introduction to Biological data analysis

Number of hours: 24 hrs

Year/Semester: Master's 1 / Semester 1

Language: French/English

Objectives

- To practise algorithms and programming,
- Analyse genomic sequences,
- Implement IT tools for the representation and analysis of biological data

Content

Use of computational and mathematical concepts for the analysis and visualisation of biological data (sequence analysis and descriptive and inferential statistics) alongside familiarisation with a computing environment.

Lectures:

- Introduction to the computing environment
- Introduction to univariate statistical tests
- Introduction to different types of data visualisation

Practical work:

- Analysis of genomic sequences
- Development of scripts to analyse biological data
- Representation and visualisation of biological data

Teaching methods

Face-to-face lectures and practical sessions enable students to acquire theoretical knowledge, put it into practice and implement it on a computer.

■ Omics 1: Introduction to Omics Technologies

Number of hours: 24hrs

Objectives

- Outline the main historical milestones in 'omics' technologies and identify the major issues and challenges of the coming decades in terms of population biology and human health.
- Identify and describe high- and ultra-high-throughput technologies enabling the generation of data analysable by bioinformatics tools: Next-Generation QPCR, Next-Generation Sequencing (1st to 4th generation, DNA-seq, RNA-seq), various microarrays and chip-on-chip technologies, and proteomics techniques.
- Gain an introduction to the basic strategies of omics data analysis and be able to list the various experimental or predictive approaches used to interpret this data: classification methods, Gene Ontology, promoter identification, and the identification of regulatory mechanisms.
- Understand the basic principles of human genetics (modes of inheritance, different types of variations in the human genome), and methods for identifying genetic factors associated with rare and common diseases.
- Explore the databases and resources that a biologist uses on a daily basis.

Contents

- Introduction / history of knowledge on genomes, the challenges and prospects of current 'omics' projects and those of the coming decades.
- Medium- and high-throughput omics technologies: Microarrays, Next-generation QPCR, Next-Generation Sequencing (1st to 4th generation, ChIP-seq, RNA-seq, single-cell, spatial).
- Strategies for analysing omics data (clustering methods, GO, identification of promoter regions/transcription factors)
- High-throughput proteomic approaches (two-dimensional electrophoresis, mass spectrometry, protein chips, single-protein) and an introduction to metabolomics
- Genomic variation and concepts in human genetics.

Teaching methods

Face-to-face sessions and practical exercises

■ Scientific writing workshops

Number of hours: 24 hrs

Year/Semester: Master's 1 / Semester 1

Language: French

Objectives

- **Analyse** raw biological data.
- **Present** results in graphical and statistical form.
- **Compile** complete figures for publication.
- **Write** the various sections of a scientific article.

Content

All stages of producing a scientific publication :

1. Introduction to the principles of publication
2. Processing and analysis of raw data
3. Statistical analysis and graphical representations
4. Organisation of figures
5. Drafting of sections:
 - Results

- Introduction
 - Discussion
 - Abstract + graphical summary
6. Finalising the article
 7. Individual feedback interviews

Teaching methods

- Competency-based learning
- Small-group work and personalised support

■ Genome editing tools — Course

Number of hours: 24 hours

Year/Semester: Master's Year 1 / Semester 1

Language: French/English

Objectives

This Teaching unit introduces genetic engineering tools for manipulating and modifying genomes and gene expression. Students will be required to:

- **Select** appropriate expression vectors.
- **Design** a viral vectorisation strategy
- **Design** a KD/KO/KI strategy
- **Write** recombinant protein production systems (prokaryotes and eukaryotes).

Content

- Enzymes and cloning vectors
- Modern cloning methods
- Recombinant protein production (prokaryotes & eukaryotes)
- Viral vectors for gene transfer
- Knockdown / Knockout / Knock-in
- CRISPR-Cas9

Teaching methods

Lectures and active participation.

■ Genome manipulation tools — Workshops

Number of hours: 24 hrs

Year/Semester: Master's 1 / Semester 1

Language: French/English

Objectives

Introduction to genetic engineering tools for manipulating and modifying genomes and gene expression.

- **Select** vectors suited to a gene expression strategy.
- **Design** a viral vectorisation strategy.
- **Design** a knock-down, knock-out or knock-in strategy.
- **Develop** oligonucleotide design strategies for: cloning DNA into an expression vector, modifying DNA through directed mutagenesis or the addition of tags.

Contents

- Cloning of a sequence encoding a protein or small RNA (plasmids/viral vectors, constitutive/inducible expression, stable/transient expression, etc.)
- Choice of strategies: Restriction enzymes and modification/PCR/Gibson/Golden Gate/Gateway cloning...
- Expression of native, fused or labelled proteins
- Knockdown (siRNA, shRNA)
- Genome editing via CRISPR-Cas9

Teaching methods

- Setting up a toolkit
- Small-group work
- Use of specialised web tools
- Submission of continuously assessed reports

■ Bibliographic research tools

Number of hours: 0 hours (introductory Teaching unit)

Year/Semester: Master's 1 / Semester 1

Language: French

Objectives

- **To search** effectively for scientific articles.
- **Use** databases (PubMed, etc.).
- **Manage** references using dedicated software (Zotero).

Content

Introduction to research and bibliography management tools (PubMed, Zotero, etc.). Guidance on formatting and organising bibliographic data within the context of a project

Teaching methods

Training materials + exercises

Library workshops tailored to students' needs

■ Foundations of Organisations and Management I

Number of hours: 24hrs

Year/Semester: Master's 1 / Semester 1

Language: French

Objectives

- **Describe** an organisation.
- **Identify** an organisational problem.
- **Analyse** managerial challenges.
- **Organise** a project.
- **Implement** appropriate management practices.

Content

Two parts:

1. Theoretical and practical foundations for understanding the diversity of organisations and managerial challenges (16 hours)

- Culture, power, strategy, decision-making, management tools
- 2. Introduction to project management
 - Objectives, planning, internal/external communication

Methods

Lectures and case studies.

■ Foundations of Organisations and Management II

Number of hours: 24 (tutorials)

Year/Semester: Master's Year 1 / Semester 2

Language: French

Objectives

- **Work** within a highly interdisciplinary group
- **Understand** and use tools for team leadership and collective intelligence
- **Master** the theoretical challenges of in situ design

Content

- Acquire project management and entrepreneurial skills through an intensive two-day interdisciplinary project. Each year, students tackle a theme linked to a major transition (or technological challenge), to which they must provide a response in a format defined by the teaching team (e.g. business project, initiative project, future scenarios, creation of a work of art, etc.)
- In addition to the project work, students will attend various course Teaching units over the two days to acquire new knowledge
- Introduction to the use and challenges of 'Canva'-type tools (economic model, circular model, impact models, etc.). Innovative design course to develop reflexes and the ability to produce prototypes and/or artefactual solutions to a given problem.

Teaching methods

Face-to-face

■ Scientific Communication and English

Number of hours: 24 hours (tutorials)

Year/Semester: Master's 1 / Semester 2

Language: English

Objectives

- Give a presentation in English on a topic of your choice,
- Read an article in English, identify the key points and present them in English.
- Listen to audio or video materials on biology and health issues and summarise them in writing or orally.
- Acquire and use technical vocabulary relating to biology and health.

Methods

Face-to-face and distance learning

Teaching units for the Experimental Research (RE) track (9 ECTS)

■ Biological Data Management: Semantic Web

Number of hours: 24 hrs

Year/Semester: Master's 1 / Semester 2

Language: French/English

Objectives

- Access biomedical data available on the web
- Formulate queries to explore this data
- Modelling medical knowledge using formal languages that can be understood by machines
- Symbolic reasoning based on medical data

Content

The lessons in this course focus on biomedical knowledge graphs:

- Modelling knowledge graphs
- Linked data concepts
- Querying knowledge graphs
- Ontology concepts in biomedicine
- Inference of new knowledge
- Applications of ontology in biomedicine

Teaching methods

Teaching will take the form of lectures based on scientific publications. It will also include the sharing of knowledge, expertise and practical scenarios.

■ Introduction to Clinical Research

Number of hours: 24hrs

Year/Semester: Master's 1 / Semester 2

Language: French/English

Objectives

- To understand the main types of clinical research
- To understand the methodological foundations of clinical studies
- Understand the sequence of stages in a clinical research project
- To learn about the different roles in clinical research and their respective functions within a project.

Content

- Principles and types of clinical research (academic, industry-sponsored, translational)
- Specific features of clinical research compared to other life sciences experiments (IR/NIR, patients and research, ethics)
- Methodological foundations of clinical research
- Introduction to clinical pharmacology (development phases) The conduct of a clinical trial from start to finish.

Teaching methods

Face-to-face lectures and tutorials enable students to acquire theoretical knowledge and put it into practice.

■ Exploring metabolism in diseases

Number of hours: 24hrs

Year/Semester: Master's 1 / Semester 2

Language: French

Objectives

- To gain a general understanding of integrated and cellular metabolism
- Be able to distinguish between homeostatic and pathological metabolism Be familiar with current approaches to the study of metabolism
- Propose an appropriate approach based on the question posed
- To present this information in a short oral presentation

Contents

General concept of energy metabolism (2 hours 40 minutes) Xavier Prieur: Fundamental principles of cellular metabolism, energy substrates and cellular phenotype (examples from metabolic diseases, oncology and immunology), energy supply and exchange, and inter-organ communication; concept of metabolic flexibility

Assessment of cellular metabolism (2 hours 40 minutes) (Claire Pecqueur): Various techniques for analysing mitochondrial activity and oxygen consumption. Exploration of fluxomic approaches to decipher the active metabolic pathway. Analysis of a cell's dependence on and preferences for substrates in different situations (fasting or post-meal, normal or tumourigenic, activated or at rest, etc.)

An integrated view of in vivo metabolism (4 hours):

Kinetic studies of labelled molecules – In vivo fluxomics (Khadija Ouerram) PET and metabolic imaging (18-F glucose tracking) (see Françoise Kraeber Bodéré)

In vivo metabolic phenotyping (Xavier)

Systems biology of metabolic data (4 hours) (Mikael Croyal, Yann Guitton, Damien Eveillard): Metabolomic, lipidomic and high-throughput metabolite analysis: principles of analytical chemistry (mass spectrometry, NMR, etc.), analysis of metabolic networks using big data.

Metabolic stress and cellular remodelling (4 hours): Cellular stress and metabolism (Xavier Prieur), Hypoxia resistance and metabolic switching (Claire Pecqueur), overview of immunometabolism (Aurélie Moreau)

Tutorial: 6.40 am

An integrated approach: A typical Cell Metabolism or Nature Metabolism article examining a key phenomenon. Students will be able to choose from a selection of articles based on their specialisation (cardiometabolic, nutrition/health, immunometabolic, or oncometabolic)

Tutorial 1: 1 hour 20 minutes after reading, summarise the scientific question in a graphical abstract (1 hour 20 minutes)

Tutorial 2: highlight a method

Presentation session: 4 hours, flash poster

Exam: a scientific question is posed -> propose an experimental design to answer the question.

Teaching methods

Lectures – Tutorials: analysis of articles and flash poster presentations

■ Genome manipulation tools: practical sessions

Number of hours: 24 hrs

Year/Semester: Master's 1 / Semester 2

Language: French/English

Objectives

This Teaching unit aims to illustrate and enable the use of tools for manipulating and modifying genomes.

- Design a knockout strategy
- Implement a CRISPR/Cas9 strategy (2020 Nobel Prize) to achieve a genetic knockout.
- Analysing and presenting experimental results
- Integrate their experimental results into a broader context

Content

Gene editing using the CRISPR/Cas9 technique has transformed research practices in many laboratories. It is currently used to deactivate or manipulate genes. This technology is employed in these practical exercises to knock out a gene in *E. coli*.

The steps are as follows:

- Analysis of the GFP sequence
- Definition of crRNA sequences enabling the silencing of GFP.
- Construction of an expression plasmid enabling the expression in bacteria of an sgRNA targeting GFP and Cas9.
- Co-transformation of *E. coli* bacteria with plasmids encoding GFP, an sgRNA targeting GFP and Cas9.
- Induction of GFP expression with or without sgRNA and Cas9 in bacteria
- Observation and analysis of differences in GFP expression.
- Performing a T7 endonuclease assay to analyse the silencing of the eukaryotic P53 gene

Teaching methods

Practical work in pairs in a fully equipped laboratory allowing experiments to be carried out under professional conditions

Stem Cells and Organoids

Number of hours: 24 hrs

Year/Semester: Master's 1 / Semester 2

Language: French/English

Objectives

Identify the hypothesis and experimental approach in an article

Search for bibliographic resources

Analyse and interpret scientific results

Content

Lecture section

- Human stem cells (General concepts: developmental biology and cell fate – Pluripotency – foetal and adult stem cells)
- Multicellular systems derived from stem cells (introduction to organoids, impact of environmental changes on organoids, complex organoids derived from pluripotent stem cells, 3D culture models)

Tutorial section:

- Application of stem cell culture processes
- Identification of hypotheses and the experimental approach in a selected article
- Analysis of the results of a scientific study, selection of articles following a literature review

Teaching methods

Lectures and tutorials, both face-to-face and online

Innovative Strategies in Therapy

Number of hours: 24hrs

Year/Semester: Master's 1 / Semester 2

Language: French

Objectives

- identify the key stages of proof-of-concept studies in the clinical development of a biotherapy
- form a reasoned opinion on a range of therapies, including gene therapies, cell therapies, drug therapies and immunotherapies
- assess the need for multidisciplinary knowledge in developing a healthcare treatment
- summarise a research topic and discuss it with students and academic staff as part of a summary presentation based on the analysis of two scientific articles.

Content

Lecture component – 14.67 hours

Following an introductory lecture, two examples of therapeutic strategies currently in use will be presented for each of the associated topics:

Cell therapies following allogeneic haematopoietic stem cell transplantation

Gene therapy for SCID-X

Generation of monoclonal antibodies for therapeutic use

Transfer of genetically modified lymphocytes

From skeletal pathophysiology to reconstruction

Duchenne muscular dystrophy

Faecal transplantation

Phage therapy

Cardiovascular stem cells

Cardiovascular pharmacotherapy

Tutorial session – 9.33 hours: Two articles related to a given topic will be distributed to a group of 2 to 3 students, who will be required to present them in the form of graphic summaries.

Teaching methods

All classes will be delivered face-to-face.

Face-to-face or online surveys will be conducted at the start of the semester to assess prerequisites in immunology and/or physiology, and then regularly during the course to ensure that students understand the key concepts. Videos and photos (toolkit) will be made available on Madoc to illustrate the lectures and techniques.

Self-assessment tests and sample exam questions will be provided, and an online forum will be set up to facilitate a Q&A exchange between teaching staff and students. Students will work independently and prepare summaries of two articles in both written and graphical formats.

Teaching units for the Clinical Research (RC) track (9 ECTS)

■ Practical Approach to Clinical Research

Number of hours: 24hrs

Year/Semester: Master's 1 / Semester 2

Language: French/English

Objectives

- To understand the context of research involving human subjects
- Grasp the specific characteristics of different therapeutic specialities
- To be familiar with the different types of clinical trials
- Understand the organisation and structure of academic and industrial teams conducting clinical research
- Write a scientific paper in the field of clinical research

Content

Introduction to the context of healthcare, clinical reasoning, human experimentation and evidence-based medicine

Industrial clinical research

Clinical research projects in different contexts

Careers in clinical research

Organisation and activities of a clinical research team

Scientific writing in clinical research

Teaching methods

Face-to-face lectures and tutorials

■ Introduction to Biostatistics

Number of hours: 24hrs

Year/Semester: Master's 1 / Semester 2

Language: French/English

Objectives

- To understand the concept of sampling
- Master the standard parametric statistical tests
- Introduce the limitations of these tests
- Begin to critically evaluate the methods used in the literature

Content

Mathematical basics and probability concepts

Introduction to statistics (concepts of sampling variation, concepts of random variables),

Descriptive statistics and confidence intervals

Introduction to parametric inference tests (Student's t-test, Chi-squared test, Pearson's correlation, etc.)

Teaching methods

Face-to-face lectures and tutorials

■ Introduction to Clinical Research

Number of hours: 24hrs

Year/Semester: Master's 1 / Semester 2

Language: French/English

Objectives

To understand the main types of clinical research

To understand the methodological foundations of clinical studies

Understand the sequence of stages in a clinical research project

To learn about the different roles in clinical research and their respective functions within a project

Content

Principles and types of clinical research (academic, industry-sponsored, translational)

Specific features of clinical research compared to other life sciences experiments (IR/NIR, patients and research, ethics)

Methodological foundations of clinical research

Introduction to clinical pharmacology (development phases)

The conduct of a clinical trial from start to finish

Teaching methods

Face-to-face lectures and tutorials

Teaching units: Research and Analysis of omics data (RA) track (9 ECTS)

■ Omics 2-1: Genomic data analysis

Number of hours: 24hrs

Year/Semester: Master's 1 / Semester 2

Language: French/English

Objectives

Use a computing server by learning simple commands in the Bash language

Use tools to analyse raw data from high-throughput DNA sequencing

Align sequences (reads) to a reference genome using the appropriate tools

Identify and interpret genetic variations using detection methods

Content

Part 1: Epidemiological genetics

· Genome-wide association studies (GWAS)

Part 2: Analysis of high-throughput genomic data ("NGS")

· Introduction to bioinformatic analysis of NGS data

· NGS file formats and key Bash commands

· From fastq files to VCF files: Alignment, visualisation of reads and detection of genetic variants

· Interpretation of genetic variants

· Introduction to rare variant association studies and enrichment tests (burden tests)

Rare variant association studies

Teaching methods

Lectures and practical sessions in the computer lab

■ Omics 2-2: Functional genomics analysis

Number of hours: 24hrs

Year/Semester: Master's 1 / Semester 2

Language: French/English

Objectives

- To understand and apply experimental designs for transcriptome, proteome and metabolome exploration protocols.
 - Carry out and evaluate primary analyses, i.e. conversion of raw data, annotations, sample quality assessment, selection of tools, and testing for batch effects, specific to transcriptomics, proteomics and metabolomics.
 - Generate and evaluate exploratory data analyses (PCA, clustering, correlations).
- Assess and perform differential analyses and evaluate the results obtained.
- Formulate hypotheses on differential factors using enrichment methods (Gene Oncology, Gene Set Enrichment Analysis, MetaboAnalyst, etc.) and association with covariates (cellular, clinical, etc.).
 - Through group presentations in English, students will develop an appreciation for the scientific method, cultivate an ability to synthesise information, share and exchange information with colleagues, and summarise and communicate the main objectives and results drawn from scientific articles.
 - Apply the knowledge acquired on advanced omics analysis methods by carrying out a small-group educational project based on this learning.

Content

Lectures (4 x 1 hour 20 minutes)

1) Introduction to the analysis of 'omics' data:

- Introduction/refresher on the basic methods of functional genomics analysis;
- Gaining an overview of an analysis protocol and an introduction to interpreting the expected results;
- Development of an experimental design for a standard "omics" exploration protocol.

2) So-called "bulk" transcriptomic analysis:

- Presentation of the "bulk RNA sequencing" method and the format of the data generated;
- Understanding the specific analytical aspects of this type of protocol and the expected results.

3) So-called "single-cell" transcriptomic analysis:

- Presentation of the 'single-cell sequencing' method and the format of the data generated;
- Understanding the specific analytical considerations for this type of protocol and the expected results.

4) Proteomic and metabolomic analyses:

- The different modes of analysis;
- Interpretation of results from proteomic and metabolomic methods;
- Introduction to the processing of these types of data.

Tutorials (2 hours 40 minutes)

Presentation of an article (multi-omic data) at the end of the semester.

Practical sessions (4 x 4 hours)

- Primary analyses and experimental designs
- Exploratory analyses and formulation of functional hypotheses
- Differential analyses and interpretations
- Completion of a sub-group project with presentation.

Teaching methods

Lectures and practical sessions in the computer lab

Biological Data Management – Semantic Web

Number of hours: 24 hrs

Year/Semester: Master's 1 / Semester 2

Language: French/English

Objectives

By the end of this course, students will:

- Be able to access biomedical data available on the web
- Formulate queries to explore this data
- Model medical knowledge using formal languages that can be understood by machines
- Reason symbolically about medical data

Content

The teaching for this Teaching unit focuses on biomedical knowledge graphs available on the web:

- Modelling knowledge graphs
- Concepts of linked data
- Querying knowledge graphs
- Concepts of ontology in biomedicine
- Inference of new knowledge Applications of ontology in biomedicine

Teaching methods

Lectures and practical sessions: face to face

Work experience (9 ECTS)

Study and research work for the placement, and presentation

Number of hours: 0

Year/Semester: Master's Year 1 / Semester 2

Language: English

Objectives

Students must find their own placement, which requires them to put their communication skills into practice (CV, cover letter, interview). However, a number of placements in laboratories (mainly university laboratories in Nantes) and hospital departments (mainly the Nantes University Hospital) will be offered to students. The aim of the placement is to enhance the student's professional profile.

By the end of this course, students will be able to:

- **conduct** research and produce a literature review on a given topic (analysis of articles from scientific journals in English)
- **carry out** experimental protocols, having understood all the steps involved
- independently **master** the techniques learnt during their placement
- **keep** a laboratory notebook in accordance with good laboratory practice
- **critically analyse** the results of their experiments
- **present** their work clearly, accurately and rigorously in the form of an oral presentation
- **answer** questions from the examination panel.

This 'Work Placement' Teaching unit is designed as an introduction to the professional world, under the supervision of a placement supervisor, researcher or lecturer-researcher in an academic or industrial setting, in France or abroad. It takes place at the end of the second semester, over an eight-week period that forms part of the study programme.

This professional training Teaching unit takes several forms, depending on the student's career path:

- either an internship in a research laboratory or in a company whose field of activity is related to the biological sciences and the career profile chosen by the student (experimental research, biological data analysis)
- or an internship in a hospital department for students who have chosen the Clinical Research career path.
- or a literature review on a research topic in biology

Teaching methods

Students are supervised by a placement supervisor within the host organisation.

Each student is supported by a tutor from the teaching team who ensures the internship runs smoothly.

To help students write their placement report, a thesis writing guide is available on the university's Moodle learning platform.

The year comprises:

- specialised Teaching units,
- the design of a research project,
- a 6-month placement
- and work placements.

Teaching units specific to the M4R programme (12 ECTS)

■ Keys to success for healthcare students

Number of hours: 24 hrs

Year/Semester: Master 2 / Semester 3

Language: French

Objective: to bring students up to standard in key subjects for the validation of their Master 2 degree

Content

- The aim of this Teaching unit is to provide students (in the health sciences) entering the programme with the necessary revision and foundations for their success.
- Concepts relating to data handling will be delivered via a blended learning approach. Specific refresher courses (cell biology, biochemistry, molecular biology, immunology, animal models) will be offered to students.

Teaching methods

Hybrid, face-to-face, round table

■ Cell and Gene Therapies

Number of hours: 24hrs

Year/Semester: Master's 2 / Semester 3

Language: French / English

Objectives

Developing an experimental project in health biology.

By the end of the course, students will be able to independently design a simple experimental protocol in the field of gene therapy, cell therapy or tissue engineering within the context of regenerative medicine.

Content

Gene therapy

- CRONIN Thérèse (PhD, TARGET) : Gene therapy for the retina
- SZERMAN Nathan (PhD, TARGET) : Vector production: Development of protocols for pre-clinical or clinical use
- HUCHET Corinne (PU, Nantes Université, TARGET) : Update Thérapies DMD
- TRICHET Valérie (PU, Nantes Université, RMeS) : Cell and gene therapy for osteogenesis imperfecta. Exemple : Sickle cell anaemia

Cell Therapy

- CAMUS Anne (CR CNRS, RMeS) : IPS application to the intervertebral disc
- DUPONT Jean-Baptiste (CR INSERM, TARGET) : IPS Muscle and organoids
- GALVANI Angélique (MCU, Nantes Université, RMeS) : Extracellular vesicles
- VINATIER Claire (MCU, Nantes Université, RMeS)
- GUIHO Romain (PhD, RMeS) : Mouse model of cartilage and intervertebral disc

Implementation: 4 hours

Course shared with the two other specific teaching units of the M2 M4R programme (Regulation of Health Products in 4R Medicine – Level II” / “Cell Therapy and Gene Therapy”).

Teaching methods

Lectures and tutorials.

- PowerPoint presentation
- 15-minute group oral presentation + 10 minutes of questions
- Random selection of the presenter within the group

Assignment topic

The project proposed to students is based on the following scenario:

‘It is your first day of your M2/PhD placement in your research laboratory. The laboratory is developing an innovative therapeutic strategy for the management of a disease. In order to fully understand how this new therapeutic approach compares with existing treatments, your supervisor/PhD supervisor asks you to:

Part 1 - describe the disease, incorporating some epidemiological data;

- briefly outline the conventional therapeutic approaches for managing this disease;
- outline the therapeutic strategies derived from 4R healthcare products (MTI, biomedicines, medical devices) that may be indicated for this disease;
- outline your thoughts on the regulatory aspects required for the marketing authorisation/CE marking of these 4R medical health products (MTI, biomedicines, MDs);

Part 2 – identify the specifications for biomaterials that could potentially be used in these strategies and develop an experimental approach;

Part 3 – identify and describe in detail a specific cell therapy or gene therapy strategy, including its advantages and disadvantages.

■ From biomaterials to advanced medical therapies in M4R context

Number of hours: 24 hrs

Year/Semester: Master’s 2 / Semester 3

Language: French

Objectives

Developing an experimental project in health biology.

Content

- Biocompatibility Level II
- Physicochemical characterisation Level II
- Mechanical characterisation
- Material-cell interfaces

Benefits and risks associated with the use of biomaterials/medical devices/implantable devices – polymer degradation (phthalates)

Formation of wear particles (cobalt, nickel), metal corrosion

- Biofabrication Level 2

Laboratory visit

Application

Soft tissue topic, Hard tissue topic

Study of the influence of sterilisation processes

- Implementation : 7x1h20

Courses shared with the other two specific modules of the M2 M4R (Module: Regulation of 4R Medical Health Products Level II / Cell Therapy and Gene Therapy)

Teaching methods

Lectures and practical sessions

- PowerPoint presentation

- 15-minute group oral presentation + 10 minutes of questions

- Random selection of the presenter within the group

- Assessment of skills: 2 marks awarded

Regulation of medical products

Number of hours: 24 hrs

Year/Semester: Master's/Semester 3

Language: French/English

Objectives

- Highlighting research findings and scientific output.
- Scenarios/Development levels (M2 level): Outlining a scientific approach
- Final learning outcomes (M2 level): Contextualise a research problem based on existing scientific data + Formulate a scientific approach, including the research question and a multidisciplinary experimental approach + Critique the results obtained in light of the literature + Propose ideas for the future direction of the project and/or the dissemination of results

Content

Regulation of Advanced Therapy Medicinal Products (ATMPs): Cell Therapy Medicinal Products, Gene Therapy Medicinal Products, and Tissue Engineering. Dr. Mina Benjelloun

This course component will cover the regulations (European Regulation No. 1394/2007) governing Advanced Therapy Medicinal Products (ATMPs) and their marketing authorisation procedures (MA). ATMPs include cell therapy medicinal products, tissue-engineered products, gene therapy medicinal products, and combined products incorporating medical devices. Both European and non-European regulatory frameworks will be addressed.

- Lectures: 3 hours
 - General presentation of the requirements for submitting investigational medicinal product dossiers (specific to ATMPs) and review of key definitions
 - Presentation of scientific guidelines (ICH, EMA/FDA guidelines) required for pharmaceutical development (preclinical development, etc.)

- General overview of the following concepts:

ICH Q8: Pharmaceutical Development

ICH Q9: Quality Risk Management

ICH Q10: Pharmaceutical Quality System

ICH Q14: Analytical Procedure Development

➤ Tutorials / Directed Teaching: 2 hours

(2 sessions: 1 hour of group work + 1 hour of presentations and feedback) : Risk assessment applied to laboratory analyses, investigation methodology in response to deviations, implementation of a Quality Management System (QMS) in a laboratory setting, additional practical case studies and applications

Regulation of Biotechnology-Derived Medicinal Products: Monoclonal Antibodies and Recombinant Proteins : Dr.

Sophie Fougeray

This course component focuses on the regulations governing biotechnology-derived medicinal products (biopharmaceuticals), such as monoclonal antibodies and recombinant proteins. Both European and non-European regulatory frameworks will be addressed.

- Possible exemptions from standard regulatory procedures

- Investigational Medicinal Product Dossier (IMPD)

- A more in-depth presentation than in Year 1 (M1), including analysis of guidelines issued by the EMA, FDA, and other regulatory authorities

- ICH guidelines, Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP), and Pharmacopoeia standards followed by industry throughout the different stages of: development, production, characterization, quality control, clinical trial authorization applications, product registration and marketing authorization procedures.

Regulation of Medical Devices (CE Marking) : Prof. Johann Clouet, Dr. Fabien Nativel

This course component focuses on the regulations (Regulation (EU) 2017/745) governing Medical Devices (MDs). Non-European regulations will also be covered, particularly those applied in the United States through the Food and Drug Administration (FDA).

- CE marking course

The medical device industrial sector

Listening to the podcasts “*CE Marking*” and “*Why the MDR?*”

From the Directives to MDR 2017/745: historical background and regulatory evolution

- Materiovigilance and SCAC

- Risk management from an industrial perspective, including device classification. Focus on evidence requirements and conformity assessment procedures → MDR 2017/745, Article 52

- Standardisation : General overview with a final focus on ISO 10993 and ISO 13485 standards

- International regulations: United States and Asia.

Cross-Disciplinary Supervised Project for the Specific M2 M4R Teaching Units

Course component shared with the two other specific M2 M4R teaching units: Cell Therapy and Gene Therapy, From Biomaterials to Advanced Medical Therapies in the M4R Context

Teaching Methods

Lectures and tutorials

PowerPoint presentations

15-minute oral presentation in groups, followed by 10 minutes of questions

Random selection of the presenting group member

Skills assessment: two grades awarded.

Cross-disciplinary Teaching units (6 ECTS)

■ Journal Club

Number of hours: 24 hrs

Year/Semester: Master 2 / Semester 3

Language: French / English

Objectives

- Conduct a literature review in biomedical research;
- To design a research project in this field;
- Determine the most appropriate strategies for its implementation;
- Present this project and a relevant scientific publication orally;
- Defend and argue in favour of the project presented and the chosen scientific publication.

Content

The student will give an oral presentation of the research project they will develop during their placement, placing it (1) in an international context, supported by a relevant scientific publication (not from their host laboratory), and (2) in the context of their host team.

Teaching methods

The requirements will be clarified during an introductory lecture.

■ Interdisciplinary Project – Management I

Number of hours: 21hrs

Year/Semester: Master 2 / Semester 3

Language: French / English

Objectives

- Acquisition of specific tools for project management in uncertain situations
- Responding to a call for proposals
- Knowing how to plan and organise over time
- Managing a team in a situation of uncertainty
- Knowledge and understanding of the technological, human and societal challenges associated with transitions
- Critical and analytical perspective on technologies
- Basic knowledge of local, national and international innovation systems.

Content

As part of this Teaching unit, students will deepen their knowledge and skills in project management and explore the major contemporary challenges of innovation and technology management, as well as transitions.

Two themes will be covered:

- Contemporary project management practices (tutorials/practical work): you will build on the knowledge acquired during semesters 1 and 2: an in-depth understanding of research organisation through calls for proposals and the inherent difficulties, discovering and applying contemporary project management tools, discovering agile methods for operating in conditions of uncertainty, etc.

- Innovation management in transitions (lecture): you will explore key concepts through elements of general culture, and will also develop a critical and relevant perspective on both theoretical and more topical subjects (the role of technology in transitions, understanding innovation processes, the challenges of disseminating and gaining acceptance for innovations and technologies in society, taking ecological constraints into account in innovation models, etc.). In particular, you will address three themes in this course: the question of the definition and feasibility of managing innovation; the question of spatial anchoring within innovation ecosystems; and the question of paradigm shifts (growth, ecology, frugality, etc.) through innovation.

Teaching methods

Face-to-face

■ Interdisciplinary Project – Management II – Professional Integration

Number of hours: 24 hrs

Year/Semester: M2 / S3

Language: French / English

Objectives

The learning outcomes are achieved in two stages:

- interview with a professional in a real-life scenario (recruitment agency): preparing a CV based on a job description
- debriefing of stage 1 with the course leaders via an individual appointment

Content

Teaching unit on support for professional integration – preparing for and conducting interviews with professionals.

Teaching methods

Role-play and individual interviews

Teaching units for the Experimental Research (RE) track (12 ECTS)

■ Big Data 2 – Multivariate Analysis

Number of hours: 24 hrs

Year/Semester: Master's 2 / Semester 3

Language: French / English

Objectives

- To learn multivariate analysis techniques
- To learn data discrimination techniques
- To learn data regression techniques
- To learn data classification techniques

Content

Implement data analysis techniques in Python

Using the results of the implementation to identify relevant biological findings

Introduction to multivariate data analysis

Introduction to Python programming libraries for applying multivariate analyses

Innovative Therapeutic Strategies II

Number of hours: 24 hrs

Year/Semester: Master's 2 / Semester 3

Language: French / English

Objectives

- Identify the key stages of proof-of-concept studies in the clinical development of a biotherapy
- Form a reasoned opinion on a range of therapies, including gene therapies, cell therapies, drug therapies and immunotherapies
- Appreciate the need for multidisciplinary knowledge to develop a medical therapy

Content

Lectures: presentation of new strategies currently being developed to treat a disease in fields related to the various postgraduate programmes.

Speakers will be invited to begin by tracing the history of the development of treatments and tools:

New bioactive microbial metabolites for therapy, next-generation CAR-T cells for cancer, enhancement of anti-cancer therapies

Tutorial: introductory/presentation session

Practical work: preparation sessions during which students must read the articles, submit a detailed outline, and then prepare their poster. The poster is to be handed in at the end of the practical work.

Teaching methods

All teaching will take place in person.

Video and photographic material (toolkit) will be made available on Madoc to illustrate the lessons and techniques.

Self-assessment tests and sample exam questions will be provided, and an online forum will be set up to facilitate a Q&A exchange between teaching staff and students. Students will work independently and prepare a poster.

Industry and Technology

Number of hours: 24hrs

Year/Semester: Master 2 / Semester 3

Language: French / English

Objectives

- Select the information required to develop an appropriate experimental approach based on their knowledge and the literature
- Identify the most appropriate complementary research techniques to develop a research project
- Apply these techniques to a research project
- Determine their limitations in the implementation of a research project.

Students will also gain an understanding of careers within the industry and how the skills acquired during the Master's programme can be applied in practice.

Content

The aim of this Teaching unit is to present innovative technologies in biomedical research within the context of research projects conducted by various laboratories in Nantes. It will focus on two main areas:

- a technological component: new technological approaches in biomedical research, such as transgenesis using the CRISPR/Cas9 approach, high-throughput sequencing and its applications, multi-parameter analysis via cell imaging or flow

cytometry, and IPs, through various research projects;

- an industrial component: various speakers will be invited (former students of the Nantes Master's programme, start-ups, biotechnology companies, etc.) to present their professions and career paths.

Teaching methods

Lectures and round-table discussions

■ Animal Models and Integrated Physiology

Number of hours: 24 hours (lectures)

Year/Semester: Master's 2 / Semester 3

Language: French / English

Objectives

- To provide students with a solid foundation in integrative biology and the essential knowledge for an ethical and scientific approach to the use of animals in biomedical research (in the fields of anatomy, behaviour, ecology, environmental footprint, evolution, genetics, genomics and pathophysiology).
- To promote the integrative analysis of animals, particularly in the context of the post-genomic era, at the interface of organoid, in vitro and in silico approaches.
- To understand the latest fundamental and methodological advances, as well as the most recent conceptual principles, for the study of genes and their products, including their integrated regulation, their pathophysiological implications, and their use as therapeutic targets and in innovative therapies.

Content

Introduction

From the genome to integrative biology/The rational use of animals/Legislation and ethics in experimental animal research/From the genome to integrative biology

Integrated genomics

- Transgenic, Knock-Out and Knock-In rodents and immunophenomics.
- Spontaneous genetic model for aetiological, pathophysiological and therapeutic approaches to human genetic diseases
- High-throughput study of gene function (zebrafish, Xenopus)
- Genetic modelling and evolution (animal and human phylogeny, choice of animal model) Models of environmental and post-transcriptional regulation
- Epigenetic mechanisms of gene expression control and programming
- MicroRNAs, physiological and pathological roles
- Roles of extracellular vesicles in intercellular communication
- Nutritional imprinting
- Nuclear medicine and phenotypic imaging
- Cognitive models of pathophysiology and therapeutic approaches
- Interface between the autonomic nervous system and the immune system
- Environmental factors
- Large animal models (translational and precision medicine, osteoarticular repair, transplantation)
- In vivo approaches in animal imaging

Teaching methods

Lectures/Courses

Teaching units for the Clinical Research (RC) track (12 ECT)

■ Design, implementation and conduct of a clinical trial

Number of hours: 48hrs

Year/Semester: Master's 2 / Semester 3

Language: French / English

Objectives

- To understand the major developments (current or anticipated) in various fields of healthcare and health research
- Master the fundamental knowledge required to understand and implement a clinical research protocol using innovative concepts in the fields of healthcare, biomedical research and clinical research practice
- Integrate innovative clinical research approaches in an appropriate and relevant manner into a protocol currently being designed
- Master the scientific process for designing a clinical trial
- Incorporate regulatory compliance into the design of a clinical trial
- Understand and master good clinical practice for the conduct of a clinical trial

Content

Introduction (The value and benefits of clinical research)

Essential tools for clinical research

Technical and regulatory approach

Compiling a bibliography

Good clinical practice: the complete FORMEDEA course (to be completed and validated independently)

Developing a clinical research protocol (in response to a call for tenders)

Sources of funding for a clinical trial

Letter of intent (LOI) and clinical research protocol

Protocol design (formulation of the research question, choice of experimental design, evaluation criteria, appropriate statistical analyses based on the objective, inclusion and exclusion criteria, drafting of the flow chart)

Knowing how to draw up a study budget

Implementation and conduct of a clinical trial:

Evaluation and preparation

Conducting a clinical trial: Promotion and Investigation

Personal project: drafting a letter of intent

Innovations in healthcare

Scientific innovations: Genetics, epigenetics, genomics, transcriptomics, microbiota

Organisational innovations: 4P Medicine, pharmaceutical industry, drug development models, ethical and legal aspects

Innovations in clinical research practice: Patient-centred outcomes, telemedicine, innovative study design, pharmacoepidemiology, imaging, electronic case report forms and data management, big data, remote study monitoring, assessment of tolerability and toxicity

Teaching methods

Lectures, seminars, small-group workshops, e-learning... Face-to-face, student-led seminars

Distance learning: Course preparation/summary and role as facilitator for mini-seminars (application of organisational skills, summarising scientific topics, coordination, communication, critical thinking)

■ Methodology for Clinical Research

Number of hours: 48hrs

Year/Semester: Master's 2 / Semester 3

Language: French / English

Objectives

- Be able to interpret the results of descriptive statistical analysis
- Be able to interpret the results of statistical modelling

- Be able to identify key findings in a statistical analysis report
- Be able to create the visual elements of an article (tables, figures) and write the results section
- Be able to outline the advantages and limitations of statistical methodologies used in clinical research

Contents

Collecting information: Database, Data management, Review, Reconciliation

Preparing data – Planning

Database creation, Handling missing data, Study design, Analysis population(s), Estimands, Superiority, Non-inferiority and equivalence.

Analysing data, Interpreting results

Interim analyses and multiple testing

Descriptive analysis of results, Concordance, correlation, causality, association, variable selection, Common regression models (interpretation: fit and interaction, propensity scores), bias

Validation of results

Medical, scientific, hospital, administrative and patient perspectives, Writing and publishing an article, Conference presentations, Intellectual property (patents, commercial exploitation), Scientific and economic impact.

Teaching methods

Lectures, seminars, small-group workshops, e-learning...

Teaching units for the Research and Analysis of omics data (RA) track (12 ECTS)

■ Omics 3: Epigenomics

Number of hours: 24hrs

Year/Semester: Master's 2 / Semester 3

Language: French / English

Objectives

By the end of this course, students will:

- identify and integrate a new level of gene expression regulation, epigenetics, through theoretical lectures and scientific talks.
- be able to define and describe DNA methylation processes, post-translational modifications of histones, and the roles of non-coding RNAs, and be able to assess the consequences of these mechanisms on gene expression and their implications in pathophysiology.
- will be able to identify and describe methods for analysing epigenetic modifications.
- will be able to use tools for analysing raw data from various applications of NGS (Next Generation Sequencing): CHIP-Seq and/or ATAC-seq, through practical work.

Content

- Epigenetics lecture / Non-coding RNA
- Introduction and epigenetic mechanisms (2 hours 40 minutes)
- Methods for analysing epigenetic modifications (1 hour 20 minutes)
 - Non-coding RNAs (3 hours)
 - miRNAs (2 hours 40 minutes)
- Lectures (4 x 1 hour 20 minutes): examples of topics covered in the lectures
- Post-GWAS, Mendelian randomisation and epigenetic approaches

- Nutrition and epigenetics
 - Epigenetic mechanisms in cancer
 - Multi-omics integration
- Practical sessions : Data analysis (3 x 3 hours)
- Practical: ChiP-Seq data analysis
 - Practical: ATAC-Seq data analysis
 - Practical: Post-GWAS data analysis (Polygenic Risk Score / Mendelian randomisation)

Teaching methods

Lectures, talks, practical scenarios

Systems Biology 1

Number of hours: 24hrs

Year/Semester: Master's 2 / Semester 3

Language: French / English

Objectives

- Learn how to model a metabolic network
- Learn how to use optimisation methods to analyse metabolic networks
- Learn how to model a simple biological phenomenon using ordinary differential equations
- Learn how to model a biological network using a graph
- Learn how to analyse a biological network from a graph structure perspective
- Learn how to manipulate a graph using the Python language

Content

- Introduction to graphs and characterisation of graph structure (global properties and centralities)
- Introduction to metabolic networks
- Introduction to modelling methods, including those derived from physical models such as ODE models, and the manipulation and solution of these models in Python.

Systems Biology 2

Number of hours: 24 hrs

Year/Semester: Master's 2 / Semester 3

Language: French / English

Objectives

- To learn how to use constraint-based approaches for metabolic engineering.
- Model a gene regulation problem using Boolean logic and probabilistic models
- Apply Boolean models to infer models from data.
- Define a biological pattern and investigate its statistical significance in biological networks
- Understand graph clustering algorithms applied to biological networks

Content

- Logical models for studying gene regulatory networks and signalling networks (Petri nets, Boolean networks)
- Probabilistic models for studying gene regulatory networks and signalling networks (Probabilistic Boolean Networks, Bayesian Networks)
- Pattern analysis in biological networks and clustering algorithms for networks

■ Big Data 2: Multivariate Analysis

Number of hours: 24 hrs

Year/Semester: Master's 2 / Semester 3

Language: French / English

Objectives

To learn multivariate analysis techniques

To learn data discrimination techniques

To learn data regression techniques

To learn data classification techniques

Content

Implement data analysis techniques in Python

Using the results of the implementation to identify relevant biological findings

Introduction to multivariate data analysis

Introduction to Python programming libraries for applying multivariate analyses

Work experience (30 ECTS)

■ Master 2 Oral work experience

Year/Semester: Master's 2 / Semester 4

Language: French / English

Objectives

- Conduct a review of relevant literature;
- Apply the theoretical knowledge acquired to the development of a research project;
- Design scientific protocols;
- Select the most appropriate methodologies for implementing a research project;
- Critically analyse scientific results;
- Write and present an informative internship report;
- Defend hypotheses and results effectively during a discussion with an examination panel.

Content

Oral defence

Teaching methods

Immersion

■ Master 2 Report

Number of hours: 8

Year/Semester: Master 2 / Semester 4

Language: French / English

Objectives

- Conduct a review of relevant literature;
- Apply the theoretical knowledge acquired to the development of a research project;
- Design scientific protocols;
- Select the most appropriate methodologies for implementing a research project;
- Critically analyse scientific results;
- Write and present an informative internship report;

- Defend hypotheses and results effectively during a discussion with an examination panel.

Content

The student will undertake a 6-month placement in a university or private laboratory.

■ work experience Assessment

Number of hours: 16 (Lectures: 8, Tutorials: 8)

Year/Semester: Master's 2 / Semester 4

Language: French / English

Objectives

Learners will receive an assessment from the professional who supervised them during their placement, providing detailed feedback on their work.

Content

The purpose of this placement assessment form will be explained to students and supervisors. This form, completed by the supervisor, will be used to assess the work carried out by the student during their placement. This assessment will be taken into account in the final placement mark.