

Profile of Dr. Stéphanie Descroix, microfluidics specialist



Dr. Stéphanie Descroix

- CNRS Research Director at Institut Curie
- Head of the Macromolecules and Microsystems in Biology and Medicine team in (UMR168 CNRS/Sorbonne University/Institut Curie).
- Scientific Co-founder of the start-up Inorevia created in 2016, a MedTech company that exploits a microfluidics technology to miniaturize and automate sample preparation protocols.
- Her long-standing work: multi-patented tumors-on-chips.
- Chair of Institut Curie's Tech Transfer Committee

The worlds of research and entrepreneurship are sometimes only a step apart. A transition that seemed entirely natural to Dr. Stéphanie Descroix. She is specialized in microfluidics. A new generation of micro-technologies used to carry out complex biochemical analyses in low volumes, more easily reproducible and less costly, or develop organ models *in vitro*. *"It is a field that straddles science and technology. Our students know that start-ups are a possible avenue of opportunity for them."*

Along with her team, Dr. Stéphanie Descroix conducts various activities around microfluidics, particularly in the field of bio-engineering with the development of organ models on chips, and in particular tumors on chips. Thanks to the TTO it has completed the first steps towards exploitation of its research. *"We were very comfortable with the idea of filing patents and doing research in parallel."* But filing patents just for the sake of it makes no sense. The TTO challenged us and asked why it was inventive. Why us? *"How do we do it? How can we be mature and really good?"* explains Dr. Descroix.

Surrounded by Institut Curie's teams, it was necessary to determine the utility of these patents: creating a license for a manufacturer rather than creating a start-up? For part of her work, the choice was made to create a company, Inorevia. Once on the path to entrepreneurship, the team then looked at the application that would serve to highlight the entire potential of the technology. *"Using Institut Curie's internal innovation maturation program, which provides flexible funding to strengthen patents, we supplied a decisive proof of concept through complementary work."*

With a clientele and partnerships forged throughout the world, the start-up Inorevia is now speeding up its commercial expansion.

Dr. Descroix is now scientific advisor at Inorevia. She also shares her expertise in her role as Chair of the Tech Transfer Committee, which aims to create strong ties between the community of researchers and health professionals and

the TTO. *"By reporting the problems encountered in the field and sharing our strategies, this complementarity between care and research, ingrained in Institut Curie's DNA, becomes all the more relevant"*, concludes Dr. Stéphanie Descroix.

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