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 microtechnologies 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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About Institut Curie

Institut Curie, France’s leading cancer center, combines an internationally-renowned research center with a cutting-edge hospital group, treating all types of cancer, including the rarest. Founded in 1909 by Marie Curie, Institut Curie employs 3,700 researchers, physicians, and health professionals across three sites (Paris, Saint-Cloud, and Orsay), all of whom contribute to its three missions of treatment, teaching, and research. A foundation with public utility status, Institut Curie is authorized to accept donations and bequests, and thanks to the support of its donors, is able to accelerate discoveries and improve patient treatment and quality of life.

Find out more at: www.curie.fr, Twitter, Facebook, LinkedIn, Instagram

Since 2011, Institut Curie has been certified “Carnot Curie Cancer”. The Carnot certification is a recognition of excellence awarded to academic research organizations whose quality and involvement in partnership-based research have been demonstrated. Curie Cancer offers industrial partners the opportunity to implement research collaborations utilizing the expertise of Institut Curie’s research teams to develop innovative therapeutic solutions for cancer, from therapeutic target to clinical approval. Curie Cancer is a member of the Carnot FINDMED network, a group of thirteen Carnot institutes, to facilitate access to their technological platforms and to their innovations for very small and medium-sized companies in the pharmaceutical industry. Find out more: http://www.instituts-carnot.eu/fr/institut-carnot/curie-cancer - https://findmed.fr