Biosketch

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Gudrun Schleiermacher is a pediatric oncologist and researcher who works as a physician-scientist at Institut Curie, Paris, France, where she is Delegate Director for Translational Research of the SIREDO Integrated Pediatric Oncology Center, a group leader of the RTOP (Translational Research in Pediatric Oncology) team of the U1300 INSERM research unit (Director : Olivier Ayrault).

Gudrun Schleiermacher studied medicine in Heidelberg, including a final year in the USA, and obtained her basic medical training as a pediatrician in Paris, France and Edinburgh, UK. She then returned to Paris, to complete her training as a pediatric oncologistat Institut Curie, including also additional training in intensive care (Hôpital Necker). She became involved translational research early on in her training. In 2004, she obtained a PhD in Olivier Delattre's laboratory (INSERM U830, Genetics and Biology of Cancer, Institut Curie, Paris). Since 2004, she holds a position as a phycisian-scientist at Institut Curie, where she has been working both as a pediatrician and as group leader of INSERM U1330's RTOP team (Director: Olivier Ayrault) with activities strongly involving both clinical and translational research.

In addition to a broad activity in patient care, she is actively involved in many clinical trials at Institut Curie. She is principal investigator of the European opsoclonus-myoclonus trial, a joint trial from GPOH (German Pediatric Oncology and Hematology Society), EPNS (European Pediatric Neurology Society) and SIOPEN (Société Internationale d'Oncology Pédiatrique-Europe-Neuroblastoma). She is main investigator, in France, of the SIOPEN LINES trial and responsible for the Low Risk section and for the biology of this international trial which for the first time uses genomic copy number profiling for treatment stratification. She also contributes actively to many other national and international clinical trials. She was chair of the Neuroblastoma Committee of the SFCE (Société Française de lutte contre les cancers de l'enfant et de l'adolescent) from 2014 to 2024, and is now members of its steering committee.

At a European level, she is a founding member of SIOPEN, chair of the SIOPEN biology group and chair of the SIOEPN Translational research Steering Committee. She is the lead of SIOPEN'S Bioportal initiave. More recently she has joined the ITCC (Innovative therapies for children with cancer) solid tumor steering committee.

Having particated in INRG (International Neuroblastoma Risk Group) activities since 2005, she was chair of the genomics committee of INRG until recently , and she is now co-chair of INRG. She was President of Advances in Neuroblastoma Research Association (ANRA) from 2018 - 2023.

She is strongly involved in personal and precision medicine approaches at a national level, as co-PI of the Mappyacts/Mappyacts 2 trial (PI : Birgit Geoerger, I Gustave Roussy, France) which aims at performing whole exome sequencing and RNAseq on an on purpose biopsy obtained at relapse in order to identify predictive biomarkers and to orient towards targeted treatment approaches according to the molecular characteristics in high risk pediatric relapsed cancer.

She became team leader of the RTOP team (Recherche Translational en Oncologie Pédiatrique, Laboratoire « Gilles Thomas », a translational research team created withi the SIRIC (Integrated Cancer Research Center of Institut Curie) in 2012. Her main contributions to translational research concern the active contribution to the discovery and characterization of activating ALK mutations in neuroblastoma. Furthermore the discovery of the correlation between an overall genomic copy number profile and

outcome has led to treatment stratification based on a genomic copy number in particular in low risk neuroblastoma patients as for instance in the current European LINES protocol. Her work has led to the identification of accumulation of new genetic events such as segmental chromosome alterations, or ALK mutations, at neuroblastoma relapse. Further studies focus on clonal evolution based on next generation sequencing techniques. Ongoing work aims at further study of molecular mechanisms involved in neuroblastoma progression, based also on more detailed biomarker studies using liquid biopsies and on single cell analysis of neuroblastoma.

She is particularly interested in the integration of circulating tumor DNA studies for the study of clonal evolution. Future aims are to integrate both prognostic and predictive biomarkers into integrative treatment approaches for high risk pediatric cancer patients, while working towards a better understanding of the underlying genetic and epigenetic modifications involved in the oncogenesis and tumor progression.

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