Pr. Abdelaziz SEFIANI

Professor of Medical Genetics,
Faculty of Medicine and Pharmacy,
Mohammed V University of Rabat, Morocco

He earned his MD from Mohammed V University in Rabat in 1984, followed by a PhD in human genetics from the University Paris VII in 1989. After completing his medical genetics training at U-12 National Institute of Health and Medical Research (INSERM) in Paris, he returned to Morocco, pioneering the integration of genetics into medical practice. As a trailblazer in Moroccan public healthcare, Pr. Sefiani introduced genetic testing to enhance the diagnosis and prediction of hereditary diseases. Presently, he serves as a Professor of Genetics at the Faculty of Medicine and Pharmacy of Rabat and heads the Department of Medical Genetics, which he established in 1990 at the National Institute of Health in Rabat. This department marked the inception of the first integrated Center of Genomic Medicine in Morocco, offering services like genetic counseling, cytogenetic, and molecular testing. Throughout his career, Pr. Sefiani has dedicated himself to advancing the diagnosis and prevention of genetic diseases, contributing significantly to understanding the genetic diversity in the Moroccan population. His research team, accredited by Mohammed V University, played a crucial role in discovering numerous genes and mutations associated with genetic disorders. He served as the co-director of the International Associated INSERM Laboratory on child genetics disabilities from 2008 to 2014. Pr. Sefiani is a co-author of over 175 peer-reviewed papers published in international journals, with a notable h-index of 30 (Complete list on Scopus). Among his academic achievements, he initiated a graduate training program in medical genetics for young physicians and was a founding member and the first president of the Moroccan Society of Medical Genetics. As a resident member of the Academy Hassan II of Science and Technology, Professor Sefiani continues to make significant contributions to the field of genetics and medical research.

Pr. Isabel Maria Marques CARREIRA

Full Professor, Faculty of Medicine, University of Coimbra (FMUC), Portugal.

She got her PhD in Human Genetics, 1992 by the University of the Witwatersrand with its recognition in Biomedicine, 1993 by the University of Coimbra Faculty of Medicine. She is a Sub-Director for Services, Management, Organization and Human Resources of FMUC since 2017. She is also Head of the Cytogenetics and Genomics Laboratory in FMUC (LCG-FMUC), since 1992.
Researcher and member of the Scientific Council of the Coimbra Institute for Clinical and Biomedical Research (iCBR), Coordinator of CIMAGO (Centre of Investigation in Environment, Genetics and Oncobiology) of FMUC, since 2009. She is the PI of one research line in the consortium Center for Innovative Biomedicine and Biotechnology (CIBB) - Biomarkers in Translational and Clinical Oncology. Member of several scientific societies, namely: - Portuguese Society of Human Genetics (SPGH) where was president twice (2006 and 2019) and is the coordinator since 2015 of the Commission for the Specialties of Clinical and Laboratory and Medical Genetics; - European Cytogenomics Association (ECA) - European Society of Human Genetics (ESHG) where she integrates as Co-Chair of the branch of Clinical Laboratory Genetics of the European Board of Medical Genetics (EBMG) of which she was president 22/2021. She is also Member (titular) of the National Academy of Medicine of Portugal. She had a long diagnostic laboratory genetics activity (LCG-FMUC) at the Faculty of Medicine of the University of Coimbra that goes from Cytogenetics, Molecular Cytogenetics, Cytogenomics and Molecular Genetics. She created at FMUC a Masters in Clinical Laboratory Genetics that is currently in its 4th edition. She has supervised and/or co-supervised over 10 PhD Thesis and more than 60 Master Thesis, coordinator/collaborator of 52 Investigation Projects. She published over 130 papers (H-index=30; citations 2946), more than 200 abstracts in international and national journals with peer review, 11 Book Chapters. She performed 200 invited talks in congresses and seminars, received over 20 prizes and awards and presented over 450 presentations in Congress.

Pr. Thomas LIEHR

Head of the molecular cytogenetic group at the Institute of Human Genetics, Jena Germany.

He is working in cytogenetics since 1991. He is head of the molecular cytogenetic group at the Institute of Human Genetics, Jena, Germany since 1998. Before he was coworker and PhD-fellow of the Herbert Quandt Stiftung der VARTA-AG at the Institute of Human Genetics, Erlangen, Germany. Concerning diagnostics, he signs out personally hundreds of (molecular) cytogenetic reports per year. Since 2002, he is clinical laboratory geneticist (Germany), and since 2015, ErCLG (European registered clinical laboratory geneticist. The results of his research are published in >15 books, >100 book chapter, >850 referred papers, and ~1000 abstracts. His particular expertise is development and application of multicolor-FISH probe sets for the characterization of marker chromosomes. He is specialist for the characterization of small supernumerary marker chromosomes (sSMC) and he collected all available literature on this special field on the freely available sSMC homepage. Also he received multiple prices, two invited professorships (see also http://cs-tl.de/).

Dr. Saïd ASSOU

PhD, HDR, University of Montpellier, France

He graduated in science from the University of Montpellier, where he also obtained his Ph.D. in Health biology and HDR. Dr. Assou is a permanent researcher at the Institute for Regenerative Medicine & Biotherapy where he studied the genetic stability of human pluripotent stem cells and their differentiation into lung organoids. S.A is expert in the development of tools to translate basic research findings into clinical applications for regenerative medicine. He is an internationally recognized expert in single cell and bulk transcriptomic analysis as well as scientific director of transcriptomics platform. He is the author of more than 84 publications (H-index: 5364 ;38 citations), co-inventor of 6 patents and co-founder of start-up and author of two books. He has already been iLab (2018), iNov (2019) laureate and also obtained the 2019 Innovation Prize – Montpellier University of Excellence.
For several years, he has been very invested in reproductive medicine and more particularly in the development of non-invasive tests to identify embryos with high implantation potential. These tests will help infertile couples increase their chances of having a baby after in vitro fertilization. He teaches stem cell biology and high-throughput sequencing analysis techniques at the universities of Montpellier, Franche-Comté, Brest and Paris and supervises several theses.