

Immunodiagnostic Team

The Immunodiagnostic team was formed in 1992 from the core members of the Immunopathology Laboratory. It was led by Dr. Carmen Stroilă until 1996 and by Biologist Dan Ciotaru since. Its area of activity covers both research and medical services for the Diagnostic Center. The team's interest in research focused on autoimmune diseases and tumor immunity.

Between 1992-2001 the following topics were addressed:

- Hematoporphyrin photodynamic therapy: using He-Ne laser irradiation
- Serum autoantibodies in diseases with immune deregulation
- Study of humoral and cellular immune responses in postviral chronic hepatitis
- Evaluation of the immune status in chronic hepatitis treated with interferon
- Investigation of immunological markers in autoimmune hepatitis

After 2001, the team research focus was widened to include a more diverse pathology, being directly involved in or participating to projects that addressed topics such as:

- Immune response in ocular inflammation
- Evaluation of immune status in superficial bladder tumors
- Study of the immune tolerance in cochlear implants
- Assessment of cellular response in autoimmune hepatitis and malignant tumors of the digestive tract
- Study of the Th1/Th2 ratio in autoimmune diseases
- Evaluation of T-regulatory lymphocytes in autoimmune diseases and malignant tumors

Since 2007 the team diversified the researched pathology even more, approaching research subjects like:

- Investigation of immunomodulatory factors of tumor development: subpopulations of NK-CD56^{bright}, NK-CD56^{dim/neg} and glycoproteins of the tetraspanin (TS) family
- Identification of a biomarkers panel predictive of the evolution of inflammatory rheumatic diseases during immunosuppressive treatment
- The study of salt cave environmental factors with therapeutic potential in health and speleotherapy tourism
- Study of innovative therapies in hemangiomas in children
- Study of non-invasive markers for diagnosis and prognosis of nonalcoholic steatohepatitis (NASH)

Providing immunodiagnostic testing as health services is a constant, traditional activity of the Immunodiagnostic Team, addressing the investigation of humoral and cellular immunity in the Hematology Diagnostic Center of the Victor Babeş Institute. Also, the team members support the immunodiagnostic activity within the Cytometry Unit, Immunogenomics Unit and the Banc for Tumor Cells and Nucleic Acids or the Microbiology Laboratory.

The Immunodiagnostic Team at present (May 2012):

1. Dan Ciotaru – specialist biologist, Senior Researcher, team leader
2. Mihaela Surcel - chemist, Senior Researcher
3. Radu Huică - physician, Senior Researcher
4. Maria Dobre - specialist biologist, Researcher

5. Cristina Fugariu – laboratory technician

				
Biol. Dan Ciotaru	Chem. Mihaela Surcel	MD. Radu Huică	Biol. Maria Dobre	Lab.tech. Cristina Fugariu

Alumni:

Barac Doina - biologist
Isvoranu Gheorghita - biologist
Băluță Roxana - physician
Belașcu Irena - biologist
Belmega Anamaria - physician
Berendei Ioana - chemist
Chirlomez Simona - physician
Ciotaru Luminița - biologist
Dumitrescu Margareta - biochemist
Gabor Doru - biologist
Isvoranu Gheorghita - biologist
Meteș Diana - physician
Moldovan Ioana - physician
Mustea Anca - biologist
Nicolescu Mihnea - physician
Rotaru Mihaela - physician
Tarnavschi Ruxandra - biologist
Zamfir Gențiana - biologist