

PRESS RELEASE

OPEN-ReMIE: a "*plan blanc*" for clinical research to cope with future epidemics

Lyon, 7 April 2025

Inserm/ANRS Emerging infectious diseases and the *Hospices Civils de Lyon* (HCL) are announcing the launch of the OPEN-ReMIE platform to strengthen the country's preparedness in the event of a new health crisis. The aim of this nationwide initiative is to prepare and organise hospital-based interventional clinical research in order to speed up the implementation of clinical trials in response to emerging or re-emerging infectious diseases, in liaison with the European level. This project is part of France 2030's strategy to accelerate the response to emerging infectious diseases and nuclear, radiological, biological and chemical threats, with funding of €10 million over five years from the French National Research Agency (ANR).

An operational crisis tool, serving public health

OPEN-ReMIE (*réseau OPE*opérationnel National de REcherche clinique pour les Maladies Infectieuses Emergentes *) is a **national interventional clinical research network** for emerging infectious diseases in France. It is co-directed by two infectious diseases specialists who were heavily involved during the Covid-19 crisis, Prof. Florence ADER (*Hospices Civils de Lyon*) and Prof. Karine LACOMBE (AP-HP). Structured around a network of healthcare facilities, research laboratories and institutional partners, the OPEN-ReMIE platform aims to speed up the implementation of clinical trials in response to epidemics and pandemics, with a view to optimising patient care.

Inspired by the concept of crisis management, OPEN-ReMIE operates like a "*plan blanc*" for clinical therapeutic research, enabling resources and infrastructures to be mobilised immediately in the event of a public health crisis. **The whole point of OPEN-ReMIE is to create optimal and appropriate conditions for an accelerated testing of the efficacy and safety of new treatments in hospitalised patients, in the event of an epidemic or potential pandemic**, whether these treatments come from academia or industry.

"The experience of the Covid-19 pandemic showed that France had a powerful and highly resilient hospital system in many areas, including research, but that it could be improved in the event of a crisis. OPEN-ReMIE is an operational tool born out of this experience and this observation, which should enable us, collectively, to rapidly identify the right therapeutic option for hospitalised patients during a health crisis. The alliance between ANRS-MIE and France's two largest university hospitals is a real asset in the building of an operational infrastructure to support healthcare

Professor Florence ADER, infectiologist at HCL and head of the OPEN-ReMIE network

Working together for a national and European response

In the wake of the Covid-19 crisis, France is one of the few countries to have set up a system to prevent and combat emerging infectious diseases, investing massively in research and innovation through its Health Innovation Plan 2030.

As part of a coordinated and organised global response to future epidemics, **OPEN-ReMIE works with other national platforms** receiving France 2030 funding, such as:

- **EMERGEN 2.0**, launched on 19 March 2025: a genomics research and monitoring platform created as an extension of the EMERGEN consortium launched in 2021 in response to the Covid-19 pandemic.
- **I-REIVAC EMERGENCE**, launched on 31 March 2025: a network dedicated to clinical research in vaccinology, with a goal and a way to operate similar to that of OPEN-ReMIE.
- **OBEPINE+**: a national platform for monitoring, research and development in epidemiology via wastewater.

The OPEN-ReMIE platform is also part of a dynamic of international collaboration, working with research networks such as the PROACT EU-Response project (*European Proactive Adaptive Clinical Trials Network within EU-Response*) led by Prof. Karine LACOMBE, a proactive European network of adaptive clinical trials as a component of the European Union's response. It is helping to improve the coordination of clinical trials on a European and global scale.

"Open-ReMIE was designed to perpetuate and strengthen the research infrastructure for hospital clinical trials set up during the Covid-19 pandemic. This national network is part of the European PROACT EU-Response network, with the aim of responding effectively to future health crises. By consolidating the achievements of this period, it acts as a veritable '*plan blanc*' for clinical research. Thanks to the collaborative dynamic between ANRS MIE and the HCL, OPEN-ReMIE will enable effective coordination between the various stakeholders involved in clinical research in France.

Prof. Yazdan YAZDANPANA, Director of ANRS Emerging infectious diseases

Roll-out and timetable

The project began on 1st March 2025 and will run for 5 years, with funding provided by the French National Research Agency (ANR) as part off the France 2030 plan. The kick-off meeting was held on 21 March, bringing together all the partners to formalise the next steps and activities to be implemented.



** National operational network for clinical research on emerging infectious diseases*

About Hospices Civils de Lyon

The *Hospices Civils de Lyon* (HCL) has 13 public hospitals, all driven by a triple mission: care, research and education. HCL includes a staff of 24,000 men and women, nurses and non-nurses, who share a single vocation: to care for and look after every patient, indiscriminately and for all conditions, 365 days a year and 24 hours a day.

From care offering to disease treatment (from the most benign to the rarest), and in liaison with all the healthcare stakeholders in the Lyon area, HCL places research at the heart of its approach to respond to today's medical advances and anticipate tomorrow's therapeutic challenges. As France's second-largest university hospital complex, HCL provides support and training for tomorrow's medical and non-medical staff through its 10 schools and institutes.

- + More information on infectious diseases research at HCL [on our website](#)
- <https://recherche.chu-lyon.fr/>

About ANRS Emerging infectious diseases

This Inserm agency is responsible for facilitating, evaluating, coordinating and funding research into HIV/AIDS, viral hepatitis, sexually transmitted infections, tuberculosis and emerging infectious diseases.

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