

*Meet some of our
incredibly talented young
women in Oncology !**



Marion Arnaud



Ludivine Bersier



Laura Cabizzosu



Maria Masid Barcon

**4 out of many more in our department*



Marion Arnaud

- *Research Scientist in Harari and Coukos Lab*
- *Department of Oncology UNIL-CHUV*
- *I've had the privilege of contributing during my PhD to the development of a novel cell culture pipeline which led to a second-generation cell therapy clinical trial.*

Leading Ladies: Paving the way in Science

“Among the many women I admire from the scientific community, is Valérie, my first mentor in immunotherapy. She followed me during a brief internship, when I was just a first-year master's student and she was incredibly supportive when I was searching for a PhD position. During my PhD, I also worked closely with a fantastic team of women, including two of my colleagues and friends, Sara and Johanna. They brought so much to the table with their amazing discussions, constant scientific and moral support, and motivation.”

Fostering Inclusion in Science

“One initiative for fostering a more inclusive environment for women at work would be implementing **more mentoring programs specifically designed by women for women**. Throughout my scientific journey, seeking advice and support from other women scientists has been invaluable and also very inspiring.”

What inspired you to pursue a career in science?

“Despite being stronger in math throughout most of my studies, my true passion has always been biology. I was initially drawn to science by this curiosity, especially immunology and its potential to fight cancer. Almost a decade ago (I can't believe it's been 10 years :D), I was introduced to this field and was instantly captivated by the power of our immune system.”

Advice for Aspiring Scientists

“Well, first off, don't do it! Just kidding (laughs). But seriously, my advice would be to **believe in yourself**. Take it one step at a time and remember to **keep that curiosity alive**. It's what keeps you going, even on the toughest days.”

Nerd Humor in Science

“One thing that always brings a smile to my face is watching the dancing moves of scientists during scientific socializing events. It's a reminder that even in the serious world of science, we can still have fun and enjoy ourselves!”

Your work in Emojis





Ludivine Bersier

- MD-PhD student in Petrova Lab
- Department of Oncology UNIL-CHUV
- I was awarded a Swiss National Foundation MD-PhD fellowship

Leading Ladies: Paving the way in Science

"I deeply admire all the women who have broken through the glass ceiling and forged new paths of opportunity, not only for themselves but also for our generation (and we have many in our department). I also admire women who face significant barriers to education and the pursuit of their dreams due to governmental/political oppression and systemic injustices."

Fostering Inclusion in Science

"**Affordable and accessible childcare and shared parental leave** are crucial in my opinion because, despite societal norms evolve, many women still find themselves pausing their careers more often. I also think that **equal pay policies, such as salary transparency** are essential for narrowing the pay gap."

Advice for Aspiring Scientists

"Be patient, don't be afraid to speak up and believe in yourself."

What inspired you to pursue a career in science?

"I knew I wanted to study medicine to help people. During our second year of medical school, we have a lot of molecular, tumor biology courses. These courses fascinated me and made me realize that better understanding tumor biology is essential to develop new therapeutic strategy and improve patient care in oncology. "

Questioning the Norm

"A common misconception about women in science, or careers in general, is that women cannot successfully balance a career and family, but this assumption is rarely applied to men. When I encounter this type of ordinary sexism, I make sure to speak up and emphasize the significant contributions of women scientists who are also mothers. And of course, women don't need to be mother to be happy!"

Nerd Humor in Science

"Why did the stomach break up with the intestine? It just couldn't handle all the crap!"



Your work in Emojis





Laura Cabizzosu

- *PhD student in Corria and Coukos Lab*
- *Department of Oncology UNIL-CHUV*
- *A serendipitous encounter with an immunotherapy class sparked my passion for engineering T cells to fight cancer, and now, three years later, I'm fully immersed in this exciting field!*

Leading Ladies: Paving the way in Science

"I'm genuinely inspired by the many remarkable women in my research group and in general in the Department of Oncology who effectively balance between their personal and professional lives. Witnessing their dedication and achievements serves as a powerful reminder of the steps we're making towards gender equality in the field. Despite the persistent presence of implicit biases, encountering these real-life examples reinforces my belief in the limitless potential of women in science."

The weirdest question you were asked

"A friend from Italy, jokingly suggested proposed the idea of engineering his T cells to produce caffeine, inspired by his long workdays. Not a bad idea, considering!"

What inspired you to pursue a career in science?

"It's always been a natural part of who I am. Ever since I was a kid, I've been fascinated by understanding the intricate workings of things. If my research can play even a small part in advancing cancer therapy and help patients, it would make every hour of hard work worthwhile."

Advice for Aspiring Scientists

"**Seek mentorship** from supportive mentors who can offer guidance, advice, and encouragement along your journey. **Embrace resilience** - view setbacks as stepping stones for growth."

Nerd Humor in Science

THE ERIC ANDRE SHOW



Your work in Emojis





Maria Masid Barcon

- Research scientist in Coukos Lab
- Department of Oncology UNIL-CHUV
- I develop mathematical models to simulate the tumor microenvironment, enabling us to understand cancer cell metabolism changes and identify potential targets for improving immunotherapies.

Leading Ladies: Paving the way in Science

"I've been fortunate to have numerous examples of successful women whom I profoundly admire. From the women in my family to my school teachers, and from my professors during my bachelor and PhD to those in the department of oncology where I now work. Many of them are international leaders in the fields of mathematics, systems biology, and oncology, serving as inspirational figures and role models for me"

Fostering Inclusion in Science

"Provide **equal opportunities** and support to all individuals in the workplace, as well as family-friendly policies to support the **career advancement of parents in science**. Additionally, promoting a **supportive work culture** where everyone feels valued and empowered to voice their ideas is essential."

Nerd Humor in Science

"Why did the mathematician become a biologist? Because she realized that life is the most challenging equation to solve!"

$$m = \frac{f(x_2) - f(x_1)}{x_2 - x_1}$$

Your work in Emojis



What inspired you to pursue a career in science?

"A combination of curiosity, passion for innovation, and a desire to make meaningful contributions to society. As a kid, I already loved science, and now I'm passionate about using mathematical models to understand cell behavior and predict outcomes, which guides us in shaping the future. Working in science makes me feel like I'm always at the forefront of discovery."

Advice for Aspiring Scientists

"Science can be challenging, but overcoming obstacles is part of the learning process, you should embrace failure as an opportunity for growth, and don't be afraid to try again if things did not work the first time. Stay curious, ask questions, and be fearless in pursuing your passions. Finally, I would also stress the importance of networking and building relationships within the scientific community."

Questioning the Norm

"I'm fortunate to say that personally I haven't encountered any misconception about women in science. This reflects the inclusive and supportive culture that we are building in the scientific community."