



Particule contenant de l'ARN complexé avec des lipides montrant une organisation supramoléculaire lamellaire.

## Etude de l'immunogénicité de l'ARN messenger aux Prix Nobel: exemple d'application de la recherche

Heterologous protein expression for therapeutic or vaccination applications requires efficient delivery mRNA into cells. Although ionizable lipids are the most commonly used synthetic delivery vectors, a clear need still exists for better delivery of any types of nucleic acids molecules to improve and control their biological activity and especially after local in vivo delivery. To optimize the transfection efficiency, a molecular approach consisting in optimizing each part of the different domains of a given cationic

lipid (cationic polar headgroup, linker and hydrophobic moiety) is usually performed. Although this approach has allowed synthesizing new generations of ionizable lipids, currently used in the two licensed mRNA COVID-19 vaccines, no particular lipid has really emerged as universal in vivo delivery vectors for therapeutic applications using mRNA molecules. We therefore hypothesized that modulating the supramolecular assembly of the nucleic acids complexes, rather than modifying the cationic lipid molecule itself, may have a greater impact on the in vivo transfection efficiency. To validate this supramolecular approach, we synthesized novel classes of amphiphilic molecules made of polymers rather than lipids. Combinations of amphiphilic block copolymers with nucleic acids led to the formation of particles where nucleic acids are not entrapped inside particles characterized by a lamellar structure sandwiching nucleic acids molecules between lipids bilayers, like observed with cationic lipids. Results show that amphiphilic block copolymers led to the dramatic improvement of messenger RNA transfection efficient after delivery in the muscle allowing efficient protein replacement therapy or heterologous antibody therapy.



## Dr. Bruno PITARD

Directeur de Recherche CNRS, fondateur IN-CELL-ART  
[UMR\\_S 1302 Immunology and New Concepts in ImmunoTherapy](#)

Il est ingénieur de l'UTC (Compiègne) et a obtenu son doctorat de l'Université de Paris pour ses travaux sur la reconstitution des protéines membranaires dans les liposomes au CEA (Saclay). Il a commencé sa carrière en 1995 chez Sanofi, sur le programme de thérapie génique (Vitry sur Seine). Ensuite, il a travaillé chez Sanofi-Pasteur sur le programme de vaccins à ADN (Marcy l'étoile).

Il a inventé de nouveaux concepts pour la livraison intracellulaire d'acides nucléiques (ADN, ARNm, siRNA), utilisés dans le développement clinique de vaccins ou de thérapies à ARNm ou ADN. En 2005, il a co-fondé InCellArt. Il a contribué à plus de 100 publications et 16 brevets sur les formulations d'acides nucléiques. Il a écrit un chapitre de livre dans la nouvelle édition de "Comprehensive Supramolecular Chemistry" Elsevier (Oxford, UK). Il est rédacteur associé de la revue "Current Gene Therapy" (Bentham science). Il a été membre du conseil scientifique consultatif de la fondation française de la mucoviscidose pendant plus de 13 ans.