



# Institut Pasteur de Tunis

*Public Health*

*Research and training*

*Manufacturing  
of vaccine and sera*

*« The inventor switches to the  
virgin domain in a single jump  
and, in doing so, he conquers it»*

**Charles Nicolle**



More than 100 years dedicated to the Public Health



## Mission and status

The Institut Pasteur de Tunis (IPT) is a public health institution under the guardianship of the Ministry of Public Health. It is mandated to carry out all inquiries, missions, analyses and research activities pertaining to human and animal health. IPT produces vaccines, sera, and antigens for the local need. It contributes to higher education at both the national

and regional level. It is officially affiliated to the University of Tunis El Manar.

IPT is internationally well established and collaborates with several foreign scientific institutions. The Institute is also member of the Institut Pasteur International Network, which consists of 32 institutes throughout the world.

Founded in 1893, the IPT was headed, from 1903 till 1936, by Charles Nicolle, Nobel Prize of Medicine, in 1928. Upon the country independence, the honorable Professor Amor Chadli became the first Tunisian-born director of IPT, to whom we also owe the first Faculty of Medicine of the country. Since 1988, the Institute reestablished its position as the main public health Research Institute in the country. IPT accessed to the administrative status “Public Institution of Health” in 1995, a critical step that provided the institute with more flexible managing procedures.



## Public Health

- The international vaccination service ensures vaccination for the citizen, provides travelers with advices on health issues of the visited country, carry out post-exposure anti-rabies treatment, and mobilizes its during epidemics or during the periods preceding Umrah or Hajj seasons.
- The intitute offers a multidisciplinary activity dedicated to biomedical analyses related to human and animal infections, biochemistry, hormonology, toxicology, hematology, immunology, genetic diseases, cellular pathology and food control. Aside from centralizing biological samples forwarded by hospitals and various medical centers, IPT has also its own outpatient center for biomedical analyses.
- IPT hosts National and International reference centers in many diseases (Leishmaniasis, Measles, Poliovirus, HPV, Salmonella, Shigella et Vibrio Cholera, Rabies, Malaria). It also conducts epidemiological investigations and clinical trials.



## Research and training

120 post-graduate students  
7 research laboratories and 4 research units involving a scientific staff of 70 members, (PhDs University hospital Professors and assistants, Public Health physicians, veterinarians)  
A library of 4000 books and 250 periodicals

IPT devotes a large part of his activity to research on public health issues of importance for the Tunisian citizen. This research activity is mainly carried out in the context of national- and international-funded projects (EC-FP, NIH, TDR/WHO, Institut Pasteur International Network...).

### Research areas

- Epidemiology and molecular biology of infectious diseases
- Immunology of human and animal infectious diseases
- Molecular basis of genetic diseases
- Biochemistry / immunology of poisons venoms and toxins
- Biotechnology development



## Manufacturing

The Institut Pasteur de Tunis produces vaccines and serums for the needs of the country. Its premises of 700 m<sup>2</sup> are in accordance with International standards of good practices and manufacturing. It is the only unit of this type in the country.

### Serums and vaccines actually produced

- Intradermal vaccine BCG
- Fresh BCG for immunotherapy
- Therapeutic serums

### Vaccines in Development

- Anti-rabies vaccine for human use
- Anti-rabies vaccine for veterinary use
- Bacterial vaccines for veterinary use



## Core facilities

Animal breeding and experimental unit  
Unit of metrology  
FACS service  
Unit of biofermentation  
Unit of nucleic acids sequencing and typing

Just like the pet shop created in 1905, IPT developed core facilities to serve the research community by providing technical and expertise resources for research/training, diagnostics, and production of bioproducts.



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## International Partners of Institut Pasteur de Tunis

**12** funding agencies  
**66** ongoing research projects  
More than **75** partner institutions in **28** countries



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