

CRCHUM

CENTRE DE RECHERCHE
Centre hospitalier
de l'Université de Montréal

A large blue circle containing the text 'UNIT FOR INNOVATIVE THERAPIES'. The background of the entire page features a complex graphic design with a blue and green color palette. It includes a dotted world map, various charts (a bar chart, a pie chart, a line graph), and abstract geometric shapes like circles and lines, all set against a white background.

UNIT

**FOR INNOVATIVE
THERAPIES**

Giving access to promising treatments

Since June 2019, the Unit for Innovative Therapies (UIT) has been on the front lines of early clinical research and has followed the standards of a world-class clinical research centre.

Its goal: to offer patients in therapeutic failure the most advanced treatment options in oncology, neurology, immunopathology and cardiometabolic, among others, including medicine that is being administered to humans for the first time.

The UIT directly promotes innovative treatments in the health care system, a priority established by the Stratégie québécoise des sciences de la vie 2017-2027.

110
clinical trials
have been conducted
at the UIT since it
opened in the
summer of
2019

57

investigators to conduct
phase 1 and 2 clinical studies

4 research
priorities

- Cancer
- Neuroscience
- Immunopathology
- Cardiometabolic science

Today, the largest pharmaceutical companies offer phase 1 clinical trials at UIT.

Through their expertise and dynamism, those at UIT put Quebec on an international level when it comes to early clinical research.

State-of-the-art infrastructure

The UIT's one-of-a-kind expertise allows researchers to undertake projects that require vigilant monitoring of participants. It is a secure facility for the administration of cellular, genetic and biological therapies.

Under the supervision of Dr. Rahima Jamal, CHUM hemato-oncologist, this 16-bed secure unit is staffed by a team of 40 people and more than **55 investigators** to conduct phase 1 and 2 clinical studies.

These scientists rely on the CHUM's support, clinical services, the [18 other core facilities](#), a research pharmacy, a secure laboratory dedicated to sample processing and translational research laboratories.

In this 680-metre² space, equipped with 24-hour surveillance, **110 clinical studies** have been conducted since the UIT opened in the summer of 2019, **approximately three quarters** of which were done in collaboration with pharmaceutical companies.

Major player for innovative therapies

Microbiome and cancer

Launched in 2020, a study done at the UIT with 20 patients diagnosed with stage 4 melanoma showed that fecal microbiota transplantation increased treatment efficacy of the melanoma by 20%—very promising results.

This is the **first study** led by Dr. Rahima Jamal, Dr. Arielle Elkrief and Dr. Bertrand Routy showing that we can modify, at least in the case of melanoma, one's response to immunotherapy using microbiota.

Cellular immunotherapy

In August 2022, a lung cancer patient was treated in a clinical trial of immunotherapy based on tumour infiltrating lymphocytes (TIL therapy).

Carried out by the Unit for Innovative Therapies and Dr. Simon Turcotte, this trial included nearly 40 CHUM and CRCHUM personnel.

The CHUM is the **1st hospital centre in Quebec** to have administered a patient's own tumour infiltrating lymphocyte T cells or "TILs" as part of a clinical lung cancer clinical trial.



KEY DATES

- UIT opening — June 2019
- First-in-human trial — July 2019
- First intestinal microbiome trial — September 2020
- First oncolytic virus trial — October 2020
- First patient treated with a medical device — February 2024

“ Thanks to the UIT,
our patients in Quebec
can access world-class
treatments that they
would not be able to
receive otherwise. It’s
a great advantage
for Quebec. ”

— *Dr. Rahima Jamal*



Recognition of the pharmaceutical industry

Thanks to their medical and scientific expertise, state-of-the-art infrastructure and environment favouring early clinical research, the UIT and its team are first-rate partners for the **major international pharmaceutical companies** that choose to conduct clinical trials here.

Many of them have entrusted the UIT with their studies in recent years.

Any questions?

Contact the UIT team

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