The Institute of Experimental and Clinical Research is a Translational Research Institute. It conducts research in all areas of clinical and experimental medicine aiming at a better understanding of the mechanisms underlying diseases as well as a discovery and development of new therapeutics. The Institute gathers multidisciplinary researchers (clinicians, fundamentalists), technological platforms and a Clinical Trial Center, in close collaboration with the « Cliniques Universitaires Saint-Luc », thereby constituting a critical mass of expertise that meets the challenges of the medicine of tomorrow.

The research activity is conducted by 21 research Poles organised around the following 11 Thematic Groups and the Clinical Trial Center:

- Clinical Immunology: uclouvain.be/en/research-institutes/irec/immunologie-clinique.html
- Acute Medicine: uclouvain.be/en/research-institutes/irec/medecine-aigue-0.html
- Nephrology
- Oncology: uclouvain.be/en/research-institutes/irec/anciologie.html
- Medical Microbiology
- Clinical Trial Center: uclouvain.be/en/research-institutes/irec/clinical-trial-center.html

As of January 2019, IREC comprises about 257 faculty members, 4 research logisticians, 100 administrative and technical staff members, 62 PhD students, 15 post-doctoral researchers. In the last academic year, about 25 PhD theses have been submitted, more than 1000 research articles published and 30 seminars organised hosting local and international speakers. In the last academic year, members of the institute received numerous prizes and awards, including:

- Prize Matthys Bove 2017
- Prize Alexandre et Gaëtan Tygat 2017
- Young Investigator Award of the European Society for Pediatric Endocrinology 2017
- Prize Suzanne and Jean Pirart 2017
- STEM CELLS Translational Medicine Young Investigator Award 2017
- French National Academy of Surgery (ANC) Award for surgical research 2017
- Young Investigator Award of the Transplantation Society 2017
- Young Investigator Award of the European Society for Pediatric Gastroenterology Hepatology and Nutrition (ESPGHAN) 2017
- Prize SFOMER 2017
- Prize Lucien Deloyers of the Royal Belgian Academy of Medicine 2017
- Prize Fonds Cremers-Opdebeeck 2018
- Young Investigator Award of the International Society of Cancer Metabolism (ISCaM) 2018

IREC manages three technological platforms:

- The Imaging Platform 2IP is a multi-users platform created in 2011 offering access to sample preparation services, image acquisition and image analysis.
- The Center for Applied Molecular Technology (CTMA) provides to IREC researchers with access and support to use numerous molecular technologies. This support integrates the experimental design, the pre-analytical and analytical steps, as well as the bioinformatics and biostatistical analysis of the data.
- The Flow Cytometry platform consists of tools for analysis (BD FACS Canto II and FACS Calibur) and cell separation (BD FACS Aria II). The platform’s services include experiment design, sample preparation and cells manipulations with researchers, panel design, acquisition of samples, cell sorting experiments, data interpretation.

Other three platforms are currently under development: Animal Experimentation, Integrated Physiology and Proteomics & Metabolism.

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