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Nicole Guiso was the Head of the Research Unit “Molecular Prevention and Therapy of Human Diseases” unit, Director of the National “Whooping cough and other Bordetellosis” Reference Centre, and “Toxinogenic *Corynebacteria*” Reference Centre at the Institut Pasteur in Paris, France. She joined the Institut Pasteur in 1972 as a voluntary trainee, having obtained a Master’s Degree in biochemistry. From 1977 to 1980 she obtained her PhD and after her thesis on the evolution of the Lactose genes in *Enterobacteriaceae*.

Nicole Guiso left the Pasteur Institute between 1986-1987 to take up the position of Visiting Lecturer at the National Jewish Hospital in Denver, Colorado, USA to study *Archaeobacteria*. She returned to the Institute in 1988, to undertake studies on the factors implicated in *Bordetella* species pathogenicity. In 1991 she was appointed Laboratory Head and, 2 years later, created and became the Director of the National Bordetella Reference Centre and the head of the Bordetella Unit. In 2001, she thought with her colleagues to an other project which the main goal and philosophy is to promote multidisciplinary approaches for the study of human infectious diseases, bridging the dysfunctional gaps between scholars interested in: i) the relations between humans, pathogens and their vectors; ii) the interactions between infectious agents and their environment; and iii) the distribution, emergence or re-emergence of the related diseases. She took up the position of Head of the “Ecosystems and Epidemiology of Infectious Diseases” department in 2002. In 2008, she became Head of the toxigenic *Corynebacteria* reference centre.

Nicole Guiso has authored more than 300 articles in international peer-reviewed journals, 21 book chapters and has been involved as principal investigator in more than 300 international colloquia and seminars and has been invited by many international organisations as an expert on pertussis. Nicole Guiso is also actively involved in research, directing studies of post-graduate students, post-doctoral research workers and trainees. She was a member of the Scientific Council of the Institut Pasteur in Paris from 1999-2001, still of the scientific committee of several Institut Pasteur around the world and President of the scientific committee of the PERILIC Project. She was awarded the Nicloux Prize of the French Chemical Society in 1984, the Dr Darolles Prize of the Academy of Medicine in 1998, “Grade de Chevalier dans l’ordre National du Mérite” in 2001 and “Grade de Chevalier dans l’ordre National de la Legion d’Honneur” in 2006.