



MATILDA

EFFECT



Pionierinnen der Forschung Female Pioneers
of Research

Pt. 75

Françoise Barré-Sinoussi



BESSER@KIT



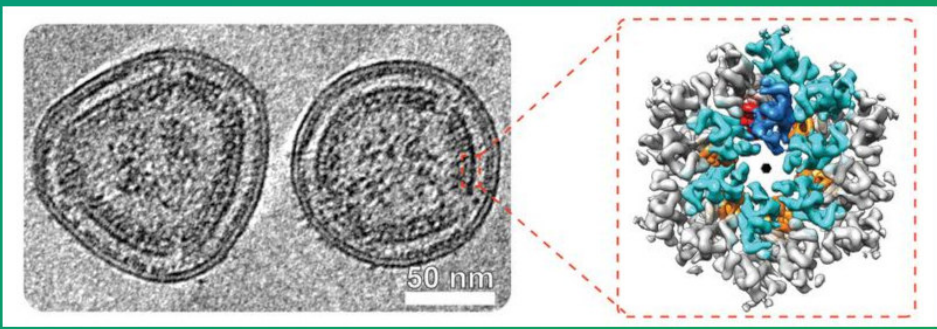


Françoise Barré-Sinoussi (*1947)
Virologist

After graduating from high school, she completed her doctorate at the *Faculté des sciences de Paris* in 1974 and began her scientific work at the *National Institute of Health and Medical Research*.

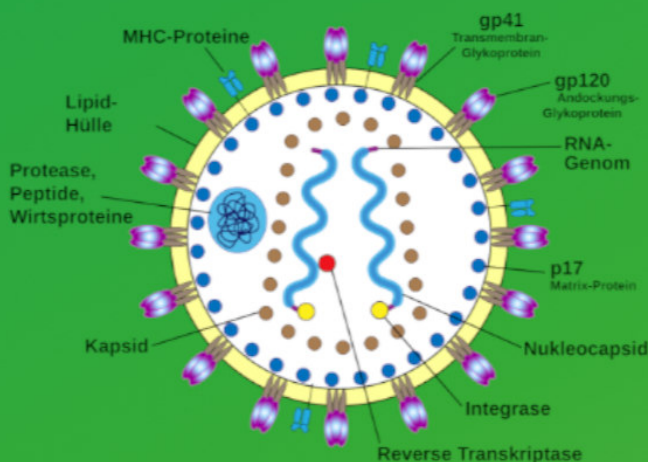
She began researching retroviruses at the *Pasteur Institute* in Paris.





Retroviruses are a large family of enveloped single-stranded RNA viruses (ss(+)RNA).

Unlike “normal” RNA viruses, the RNA of retroviruses must first be transcribed into a DNA molecule by means of reverse transcription before it can be incorporated into the genome of the host cell and become active there. Retroviruses are the causative agents of some widespread infectious diseases, including HIV and HTLV-1.



In 1983, Barré-Sinoussi and her team succeeded in identifying a new retrovirus, which was later identified as **HIV**. This discovery was crucial to understanding **AIDS** and developing diagnostic tests.

She devoted herself to researching **HIV pathogenesis** and the interaction of the virus with the immune system. She was heavily involved in international cooperation, particularly with countries severely affected by the **HIV/AIDS epidemic**.





In 2008, she and Luc Montagnier were awarded the **Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine** for their discovery of the **HIV virus**. She has remained active as a researcher, mentor, and advisor in the global **HIV/AIDS community**. Barré-Sinoussi is also ethically and politically committed to ensuring access to **prevention, diagnosis, and treatment** for all those





„Das Virus ist unser Feind, nicht die Menschen, die damit leben. Solange Stigmatisierung existiert, können wir diese Epidemie nicht beenden.“

“The virus is our enemy, not the people who live with it. As long as stigma exists, we cannot end this epidemic.”

