



**Suzanne Menashi**, Ph.D., is the leader of the research group "Epithelial/Stromal interaction and Matrix Metalloproteinases (MMPs)" at the Laboratoire CRRET, CNRS (French Institute for Scientific Research) at Université Paris -Est. Her primary research interest focuses on MMP regulation and their role in different biological models, including wound healing, cancer, and dental development and pathology. Recently, Dr. Menashi's research focused on EMMPRIN, a membrane protein known for its ability to induce MMP expression (hence its name: Extracellular Matrix MetalloProteinase Inducer), and which is

increasingly gaining attention for its role in tumor progression. Dr. Menashi demonstrated that EMMPRIN is also responsible for MMP induction in pathological wound healing, including corneal ulceration, following basement membrane rupture and direct epithelial-stromal interactions. She also discovered novel biological functions of EMMPRIN including its ability to regulate VEGF and VEGF receptor signaling and myofibroblast differentiation, and their role in angiogenesis, cancer, and fibrosis. In addition, Dr. Menashi reported new developmental defects in EMMPRIN knockout mice consistent with its role in protease regulation and matrix turnover. Current research at Dr. Menashi's laboratory is focus on EMMPRIN structure /function relationship studies with the goal of utilizing this knowledge for the development of pharmacological inhibitors for the treatment of cancer and fibrotic diseases.