

## **SCREEN-RA : Newsletter June 2022**

Dear participants,

This newsletter informs you about the latest news of the SCREEN-RA study.

### **Our organic bank is awarded the Vita label.**

A bio-bank is a collection of biological samples (blood, serum, tissues ...), such as the one we established in the SCREEN-RA study of family members of RA patients. This bio-bank is scientifically very valuable for our research team and collaborators.

Thanks to all of you, we have collected numerous biological samples over the past ten years, which have enabled us to build up the bio-bank. The multiple origin of the biological samples (blood, stool, and saliva), as well as the repeated collection during the follow-up of the same participants make the value of our bio-bank.

Since February 2022, it has been officially registered on the Swiss Biobanking Platform (SBP, <https://swissbiobanking.ch/>) and certified by a quality label, the VITA label. This demonstrates its compliance with Swiss and European legal and ethical requirements. We hope that the integration of our biobank in the Swiss biobank network will increase its visibility in the scientific world and consequently the number of our future collaborations.

Indeed, in addition to all the data collected via the annual questionnaire, it will allow us to test several research hypotheses which will probably lead to the discovery of new risk factors for rheumatoid arthritis and to a better understanding of the biological mechanisms involved in the development of this disease.

We thank you again for your participation and trust.

***Dr. Celine Lamacchia***

*Biologiste, PhD*



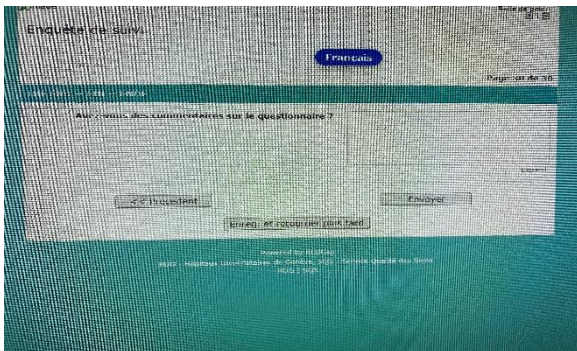
## Annual questionnaire

Following your many requests, the research team has tried to make some things easier in the annual questionnaire.

**Reduction in the number of pages:** The questionnaire used to be 30 pages long and now only 18 pages.

**The possibility to print the pages of the questionnaire** that you would like to keep a record of in order to fill in the questionnaire the following year.

**The possibility to give us feedback on the questionnaire:** On page 18, you can provide your comments on the questionnaire



### **The addition of a series of questions on Covid19.**

- Have you been screened for coronavirus in the last 12 months?
- Have you been vaccinated against Covid19?
- Have you been vaccinated against pneumococcal disease in the last 6 years?
- Have you been vaccinated against flu this winter?

We hope you will enjoy the changes.

And don't forget that you can send us your questions to the following e-mail address:  
[Eric.Trunk@hcuge.ch](mailto:Eric.Trunk@hcuge.ch)

## Useful links



Website : [www.arthritis-checkup.ch](http://www.arthritis-checkup.ch)

The next newsletter should reach you in October 2022

## Acknowledgements

**My entire team and I would like to thank you personally for your support of this project.**



We would also like to thank our staff at the other rheumatology hospitals in Switzerland.

Prof. Axel FINCKH