

FRANCE

# Pascale Cossart

## Bacteriology

Pascale Cossart is a researcher at the Pasteur Institute in Paris, and her work on the biology of infectious diseases, as well as cell biology and microbiology, is absolutely cutting-edge.

She studies intracellular bacterial infections using *Listeria monocytogenes* as a model. *Listeria monocytogenes* is a bacterium that grows inside cells, can be deadly, is transmitted through food, and is responsible for diseases such as encephalitis, meningitis and gastroenteritis. Pascale discovered the genetic and biochemical processes that make this bacterium so effective and lethal, as well as the ways in which this bacterium crosses physiological barriers such as the blood-brain, gut and placenta barriers.

She is Director of the Cell-Bacteria Interactions Unit at the Pasteur Institute in Paris, and Professeur de Classe Exceptionnelle at the same institution. She has received the L'Oréal-UNESCO Award for Women in Science, the Robert Koch Prize, and the Richard Lounsbery Award, among others.