Date of birth: 15th February 1982

Nationality: French

ORCID: 0000-0001-9006-8436

NIH BioSketch

Github organization: github.com/IARCbioinfo

Website: www.rarecancersgenomics.com

Computational Cancers Genomics Team
Genomic Epidemiology Branch
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25 avenue Tony Garnier, 69007 Lyon, France

Email: follm@iarc.who.int

Research Group: www.iarc.who.int/teams-ccg/

# **Professional Appointments**

2021-on	Team Leader, International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC-WHO), Lyon, France
2014-2020	Scientist, International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC-WHO), Lyon, France
2012-2014	Staff Research Scientist, Swiss Federal Institute of Technology, Lausanne, Switzerland
2007-2012	Postdoctoral Researcher, Institute of Ecology and Evolution, University of Berne, Switzerland

# Honors and awards

2024-on	Member of the WHO classification of turmours 6 <sup>th</sup> edition subcommittee on computational pathology, International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC-WHO), tumourclassification.iarc.who.int/									
2023	Young investigator award, International Mesothelioma Interest Group (iMig), imig.org									
2022-2024	<b>Chair of the of the Rare Cancers Working Group</b> , European Prospective Investigation into Cancer and Nutrition (EPIC), epic.iarc.who.int									
2022-on	Chair of the Data Science Steering Committee, International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC-WHO)									
2021-on	<b>Chair of the Health Technologies Pillar</b> , Scientific Steering Committee of the Lyon Auvergne Rhône-Alpes Canceropole (CLARA), www.canceropole-clara.com									
2021-on	lung NET task force member, European NEuroendocrine Tumors Society (ENETS), www.enets.org									
2016-on	Scientific Committee member, French MESOBANK (virtual mesothelioma national biobank), www.netmeso.fr/netmeso/mesopath-et-mesobank									

# Education

2004-2007	PhD	in	Population	Genetics	and	Evolution,	University	of	Grenoble,	France.
	theses	cience/tel-0021	6192/							

2001–2004 **MSc Computer science and Applied Mathematics, specialization in Bioinformatics**, Grenoble Institute of Technology ENSIMAG, Grenoble, France.

# Personal Statement

I am a computational biologist with extensive training in applied mathematics, computer science, bioinformatics, and statistical genetics. During my doctoral and postdoctoral training, I focused on developing new statistical and computational methods to analyze large genomic datasets, including approaches for Bayesian inference, population genetics, and variant detection. Over the past decade, I have led interdisciplinary teams integrating genomics, transcriptomics, and pathology imaging data to advance translational cancer research. In addition to my role as Team Leader, I also coordinate the bioinformatics efforts at the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC-WHO). I am particularly involved in the molecular characterization of thoracic tumors such as lung neuroendocrine neoplasms and malignant pleural mesothelioma; in 2015, I created the Rare Cancers Genomics initiative together with Dr. Lynnette Fernandez-Cuesta. As part of these efforts, I have developed and supervised multiple open-source software projects aimed at ultra-sensitive variant calling, integrative multi-omics pipelines, and, more recently, deep-learning-based image analysis, which have accelerated the discovery of new diagnostic and prognostic biomarkers.

#### **Publications**

83 publications in international peer-reviewed scientific journals, including 9 publications as first/co-first author, and 16 publications as last/co-last/corresponding author.

14'683 total citations, h-index: 45 (source: Google Scholar), named a 2024 Top Scholar by ScholarGPS (top 0.5 Full list available at Google Scholar and My NCBI Bibliography.

# Recent Research Support

# 2024-2027 Understanding the spatiotemporal eco-evolutionary interactions in malignant pleural mesothelioma.

Worldwide Cancer Research, 252,246 GBP. Alcala N (PI), Fernandez-Cuesta L, Foll M (co-Investigator), Jaehee Kim.

Award: www.worldwidecancerresearch.org

### 2023-2025 Reconciling lung carcinoids histopathological and molecular classifications.

Investigator Award, Neuroendocrine Tumor Research Foundation, 270,000 USD. Foll M (PI).

Award: netrf.org/research/reconciling-lung-carcinoids-histopathological-and-molecular-classifications/

#### 2022-2024 Intra-Tumour Heterogeneity of Pleural Mesothelioma at the Single-Cell Level.

Concept Award, Congressionally Directed Medical Research Programs, 100,000 USD. Foll M (PI), Fernandez-Cuesta L (co-PI).

Award: app.dimensions.ai/details/grant/grant.13055977

# Selected Open Science Projects

I have been advocating for open science since the beginning of my career, with a focus on open-source software and open data sharing.

#### 2023 HaloAE software | GitHub: IARCbioinfo/HaloAE

A local transformer Auto-Encoder for anomaly detection and localization.

Role: Project co-founder, developer supervision.

# 2020 Needlestack bioinformatics pipeline | GitHub: IARCbioinfo/needlestack

An ultra-sensitive variant caller for multi-sample next generation sequencing data.

Role: Project founder, lead developer and supervision.

#### 2019 Medical Genomics Open Educational Resource | GitHub: IARCbioinfo/medica\_genomics\_course

Medical Genomics course held annually at IARC and part of the INSA Lyon engineering school Master curriculum (French National Institute of Applied Sciences of Lyon). Includes all lecture slides and practicals for self-paced learning.

Role: Project co-founder, lecturer and supervision.

# 2014 Cancer Genomics bioinformatics pipelines | rarecancersgenomics.com/tools & github.com/IARCbioinfo

Best-practices pipelines for WGS, RNA-seq, and methylation data analysis and integration, mostly based on Nextflow.

Role: Project founder, developers supervision.

### 2014 Rare Cancers Genomics data | rarecancersgenomics.com/datasets

WGS, RNA-seq, and methylation data for rare cancers.

Role: Project co-founder.

### 2008 BayeScan software | GitHub: mfoll/BayeScan & GitHub: mfoll/BayeScanHierachical

Software to identify candidate loci under natural selection from genetic data. Publication cited >2,000 times, one of the most widely used method in the field.

Role: Project founder, developer.

# Selected Oral Presentations

# 2025 Reconciling molecular and morphological lung NET classifications using AI.

Invited speaker, European Neuroendocrine Tumor Society (ENETS) annual conference, Krakow (Poland).

### 2024 Understanding cancer biology through multi- omics genotype-phenotype tumour maps.

Keynote speaker, BioSyl Computational Biology of Cancer 2024, Grenoble (France).

#### 2024 The Rare Cancers EPIC database: a gateway to rare cancer epidemiological research.

Proffered Paper, ESMO Sarcoma and Rare Cancers Congress 2024, Lugano (Switzerland).

DOI: 10.1016/j.esmoop.2024.102440

# 2023 Understanding cancer biology through multi-omics genotype-phenotype tumour maps: applications in rare cancers.

Invited Speaker, EMBL conference Cancer Genomics, Heidelberg (Germany).

2023 Malignant pleural mesothelioma: from inter- to intra-tumor heterogeneity.

Young Investigator Award, 16th International Conference of the International Mesothelioma interest group (iMig), Lille (France).

2023 Multi-omics characterization of rare heterogeneous tumors.

Invited Presentation, 31st Annual Intelligent Systems For Molecular Biology (ISMB) / 22nd Annual European Conference on Computational Biology (ECCB), Lyon (France).

Video: youtu.be/BoeBCkxckLw

2023 Biocomputational approaches for the study of rare endocrine cancers.

Invited Speaker, European Congress of Endocrinology (ECE), Istambul (Turkey).

- 2023 **The lungNENomics Project: a Comprehensive Multidisciplinary Characterisation of Pulmonary Carcinoids.**Abstract presentation, European Neuroendocrine Tumor Society (ENETS) annual conference, Vienna (Austria).
- 2023 Molecular features of lung neuroendocrine tumors.

Invited Speaker, European Association of Nuclear Medicine (EANM) annual congress, Barcelona (Spain).

2022 Multi-omics characterization of heterogeneous tumors.

Invited Speaker, European Meeting on Molecular Diagnostics (EMMD), Noordwijk (Netherlands).

# Selected Publications

2025 The European Prospective Investigation into Cancer and Nutrition Cohort (EPIC): a gateway to rare cancer epidemiological research.

ESMO Rare Cancers. DOI: https://doi.org/10.1016/j.esmorc.2025.100014

Fernandez-Cuesta L, Voegele C, Hemon B, Alcala K, Aune D, ..., Foll M.

2025<sup>#</sup> Basic science and translational implications of current knowledge on neuroendocrine tumors. 3

Journal of Clinical Investigation. DOI: https://doi.org/10.1172/jci186702; PMID: 40026252

Fernandez-Cuesta L, Alcala N, Mathian E, Derks J, Thirlwell C, Dayton T, Marinoni I, Perren A, Walter T, Foll M.

2024 Assessment of the current and emerging criteria for the histopathological classification of lung neuroendocrine tumours in the lungNENomics project. 3

ESMO Open. DOI: https://doi.org/10.1016/j.esmoop.2024.103591; PMID: 38878324

Mathian E, Drouet Y, Sexton-Oates A, Papotti MG, Pelosi G, ..., Foll M.

GitHub: https://github.com/IARCbioinfo/LNENBarlowTwins.

2024 Multi-omic dataset of patient-derived tumor organoids of neuroendocrine neoplasms.

Gigascience. DOI: 10.1093/gigascience/giae008; PMID: 38451475

Alcala N, Voegele C, Mangiante L, Sexton-Oates A, Clevers H, Fernandez-Cuesta L, Dayton TL, Foll M.

GitHub: IARCbioinfo/MS\_panNEN\_organoids.

2023 Druggable growth dependencies and tumor evolution analysis in patient-derived organoids of neuroendocrine neoplasms from multiple body sites. 8

Cancer Cell. DOI: 10.1016/j.ccell.2023.11.007; PMID: 38086335

Dayton TL, Alcala N, Moonen L, den Hartigh L, Geurts V, ..., Foll M, Fernández-Cuesta L, Clevers H.

2023 Spotlight on Small-Cell Lung Cancer and Other Lung Neuroendocrine Neoplasms.

American Society of Clinical Oncology Educational Book. DOI: 10.1200/EDBK\_390794; PMID: 37229617 Fernandez-Cuesta L, Sexton-Oates A, Bayat L, Foll M, Lau SCM, Leal T.

2023<sup>#</sup> Multiomic analysis of malignant pleural mesothelioma identifies molecular axes and specialized tumor profiles driving intertumor heterogeneity. ₹ 24 citations ∂

Nature Genetics. DOI: 10.1038/s41588-023-01321-1; PMID: 36928603

Mangiante L, Alcala N, Sexton-Oates A, Di Genova A, Gonzalez-Perez A, ..., Foll M\*, Fernandez-Cuesta L\*.

2023 HaloAE: A Local Transformer Auto-Encoder for Anomaly Detection and Localization Based on HaloNet. 8

Proceedings of the 18th International Joint Conference on Computer Vision, Imaging and Computer Graphics
Theory and Applications (VISIGRAPP 2023). DOI: 10.5220/0011865900003417

Mathian E, Liu H, Fernandez-Cuesta L, Samaras D,  $\underline{\text{Foll M}}$ , Chen L.

GitHub: IARCbioinfo/HaloAE.

2022# A molecular phenotypic map of malignant pleural mesothelioma.

Gigascience. DOI: 10.1093/gigascience/giac128; PMID: 36705549

Di Genova A, Mangiante L, Sexton-Oates A, Voegele C, Fernandez-Cuesta L, Alcala N, Foll M.

GitHub: IARCbioinfo/MESOMICS\_data.

2021<sup>#</sup> Challenges in lung and thoracic pathology: molecular advances in the classification of pleural mesotheliomas.

Virchows Archiv. DOI: 10.1007/s00428-020-02980-9; PMID: 33411030

Fernandez-Cuesta L, Mangiante L, Alcala N, Foll M.

2020# A molecular map of lung neuroendocrine neoplasms. 3

Gigascience. DOI: 10.1093/gigascience/giaa112; PMID: 33124659

Gabriel AAG, Mathian E, Mangiante L, Voegele C, Cahais V, ..., Foll M.

GitHub: IARCbioinfo/DRMetrics.

2020# Needlestack: an ultra-sensitive variant caller for multi-sample next generation sequencing data.

NAR Genomics and Bioinformatics. DOI: 10.1093/gigascience/giac128; PMID: 36705549

Delhomme TM, Avogbe PH, Gabriel AAG, Alcala N, Leblay N, ..., Foll M.

GitHub: IARCbioinfo/needlestack.

2020 EURACAN/IASLC Proposals for Updating the Histologic Classification of Pleural Mesothelioma: Towards a More Multidisciplinary Approach. 

147 citations 8

Journal of Thoracic Oncology. DOI: 10.1016/j.jtho.2019.08.2506; PMID: 31546041

Nicholson AG, Sauter JL, Nowak AK, Kindler HL, Gill RR, ..., Foll M, ..., Galateau-Salle F.

2019# Molecular studies of lung neuroendocrine neoplasms uncover new concepts and entities. 8

*Translational Lung Cancer Research.* DOI: 10.21037/tlcr.2019.11.08; PMID: 32038931 Fernandez-Cuesta L, Foll M.

 $2019^{\#}\ \text{Redefining malignant pleural mesothelioma types as a continuum uncovers immune-vascular interactions}.$ 

EBioMedicine. DOI: 10.1016/j.ebiom.2019.09.003; PMID: 31648983

Alcala N, Mangiante L, Le-Stang N, Gustafson CE, Boyault S, ...,  $\underline{Foll}$   $\underline{M}^{\#}$ , Galateau-Salle  $\underline{F}^{\#}$ , Fernandez-Cuesta  $\underline{L}^{\#}$ .

2019<sup>#</sup> Integrative and comparative genomic analyses identify clinically relevant pulmonary carcinoid groups and unveil the supra-carcinoids. № 141 citations 8

Nature communications. DOI: 10.1038/s41467-019-11276-9; PMID: 31431620

Alcala N, Leblay N, Gabriel AAG, Mangiante L, Hervas D, ..., Foll M#, Fernandez-Cuesta L#.

2019 Linking a mutation to survival in wild mice. T172 citations 8

Science. DOI: 10.1126/science.aav3824; PMID: 30705186

Barrett RDH, Laurent S, Mallarino R, Pfeifer SP, Xu CCY, Foll M, ..., Hoekstra HE.

2018 Prediction of acute myeloid leukaemia risk in healthy individuals. ₹778 citations ∂

Nature. DOI: 10.1038/s41586-018-0317-6; PMID: 29988082

Abelson S, Collord G, Ng SWK, Weissbrod O, Mendelson Cohen N, ..., Foll M, ..., Shlush LI.

2017 BAP1 Is Altered by Copy Number Loss, Mutation, and/or Loss of Protein Expression in More Than 70% of Malignant Peritoneal Mesotheliomas. 3

Journal of Thoracic Oncology. DOI: 10.1016/j.jtho.2016.12.019; PMID: 28034829

Leblay N, Leprêtre F, Le Stang N, Gautier-Stein A, Villeneuve L, ..., Foll M, Fernandez-Cuesta L, Brevet M.

2016 The past, present and future of genomic scans for selection.

Molecular Ecology. DOI: 10.1111/mec.13493; PMID: 26745554

Jensen JD, Foll M, Bernatchez L.

2015\* WFABC: a Wright-Fisher ABC-based approach for inferring effective population sizes and selection coefficients from time-sampled data.

Molecular Ecology Resources. DOI: 10.1111/1755-0998.12280; PMID: 24834845

Foll M, Shim H, Jensen JD.

GitHub: mfoll/WFABC.

2014\* Widespread signals of convergent adaptation to high altitude in Asia and America.

The American Journal of Human Genetics. DOI: 10.1016/j.ajhq.2014.09.002; PMID: 25262650

Foll M, Gaggiotti OE, Daub JT, Vatsiou A, Excoffier L.

GitHub: mfoll/BayeScanHierachical.

2014\* Adaptive, convergent origins of the pygmy phenotype in African rainforest hunter-gatherers.

Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences. DOI: 10.1073/pnas.1402875111; PMID: 25136101

Perry GH, Foll M, Grenier JC, Patin E, Nédélec Y, ..., Barreiro LB.

# 2014\* Influenza virus drug resistance: a time-sampled population genetics perspective.

PLOS Genetics. DOI: 10.1371/journal.pgen.1004185; PMID: 24586206 Foll M, Poh YP, Renzette N, Ferrer-Admetlla A, Bank C, ..., Jensen JD.

# 2013<sup>#</sup> Robust demographic inference from genomic and SNP data. ₹ 1350 citations 8

PLOS Genetics. DOI: 10.1371/journal.pgen.1003905; PMID: 24204310

Excoffier L, Dupanloup I, Huerta-Sánchez E, Sousa VC, Foll M.

#### 2013 Approximate Bayesian computation. 695 citations 8

PLOS Computational Biology. DOI: 10.1371/journal.pcbi.1002803; PMID: 23341757

Sunnåker M, Busetto AG, Numminen E, Corander J, Foll M, Dessimoz C.

# 2012 Genomic data reveal a complex making of humans. 8

PLOS Genetics. DOI: 10.1371/journal.pgen.1002837; PMID: 22829785

Alves I, Srámková Hanulová A, Foll M, Excoffier L.

# 2011# fastsimcoal: a continuous-time coalescent simulator of genomic diversity under arbitrarily complex evolutionary scenarios. \*\* 419 citations 8

Bioinformatics. DOI: 10.1093/bioinformatics/btr124; PMID: 21398675

Excoffier L, Foll M.

Code: cmpg.unibe.ch/software/fastsimcoal2.

# 2010# Quantifying population structure using the F-model.

*Molecular Ecology Resources.* DOI: 10.1111/j.1755-0998.2010.02873.x; PMID: 21565093 Gaggiotti OE, Foll M.

# 2009 Genetic consequences of range expansions. T 1330 citations

Annual Review of Ecology, Evolution, and Systematics. DOI: 10.1146/annurev.ecolsys.39.110707.173414; Full text L Excoffier, Foll M, RJ Petit

# 2009<sup>#</sup> Detecting loci under selection in a hierarchically structured population. ₹ 921 citations 3

Heredity (Edinb). DOI: 10.1038/hdy.2009.74; PMID: 19623208

Excoffier L, Hofer T, Foll M.

Code: cmpg.unibe.ch/software/arlequin35/.

# 2008\* A genome-scan method to identify selected loci appropriate for both dominant and codominant markers: a Bayesian perspective. ♥ 2867 citations ∂

Genetics. DOI: 10.1534/genetics.108.092221; PMID: 18780740

<u>Foll M</u>, Gaggiotti O. GitHub: mfoll/BayeScan.

# 2006<sup>\*</sup> Identifying the environmental factors that determine the genetic structure of populations. ₹ 418 citations

Genetics. DOI: 10.1534/genetics.106.059451; PMID: 16951078

Foll M, Gaggiotti O.

Code: leca.osug.fr/-Genomique-des-populations-.

- \*: first/co-first author.
- #: last/co-last/corresponding author.
- 🝸: >20 citations/year.
- T: >50 citations/year (on average since publication, source: Google Scholar).
- a: Open Access publication.