

## **DUROCAF: Durotaxis of cancer associated fibroblasts**

**ADDRESSED PATHOLOGY:** Cancer

### **GENERAL OBJECTIVE:**

Cancer associated fibroblasts (CAFs) are a subpopulation of non-malignant cells that reside in the tumor microenvironment and promote tumor invasion. This project is based on the hypothesis that directed migration of CAFs is associated with durotaxis, the tendency of cells to migrate following gradients of extracellular matrix stiffness. To test this hypothesis, the project is devoted to study the mechanisms underlying CAF durotaxis, from the single isolated cell to the heterotypic cluster comprising CAFs and cancer cells.

Experiments will be carried out using CAFs and cancer cells derived from vulval epidermal carcinoma and non-small lung cell carcinoma.

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### **CLINICAL/ EXTERNAL GROUPS:**

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