UMR-S 1168, VIMA: AGING AND CHRONIC DISEASES. EPIDEMIOLOGICAL AND PUBLIC HEALTH APPROACHES

The UMR-S 1168 is a research unit of University (UVSQ) & INSERM involving researchers and teacher-researchers. This is a research organization with activities in the field of epidemiology and public health related to chronic disease and aging.

Aging and chronic diseases are two distinct phenomena but often entangled and many questions remain unanswered including the links between aging, chronic diseases and their common determinants. The concept of "frailty" fits perfectly in this perspective. In terms of public health, identifying “frail" elderly would establish prevention policies. Furthermore, people with chronic diseases especially those who grow older are face to a partitioned and fragmented health and medico-social system which is poorly suited to

provide answers to the population ‘needs. Therefore, the development of research on health services with rigorous and appropriate methodological approaches is of utmost importance.

The originality of our approach lies in the conceptual framework adopted here [PDF - 425 Ko], and focus is made on respiratory health that is known to strongly predicts the overall health, aging and mortality from all causes. The unit brings together the expertise of specialists in epidemiology of chronic diseases, especially respiratory health and musculoskeletal disorders, occupational health and specialists in epidemiology of aging and health services research and methodologists. The unit's research is conducted in an interdisciplinary framework through the presence of complementary expertise in epidemiology, public health and clinical. The expected results are numerous in both understanding processes involving in aging and determining risk factors as possible preventive measures and assessing their impact on the health system.

Our research projects are based on 1) cohorts in the general population (Constances) or population of workers (GAZEL), and patient cohorts such as EGEA or asthma-E3N, covering a wide range of ages, from the children to a very advanced age, and with follow-up periods up to 20 years, and 2) the constitution of biological collections. These cohorts are particularly well suited to the study of evolution with advancing age of health problems and frailty.

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