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**Focus of WMIC 2014 Plenary Talk:
Imaging of the Epithelial-Mesenchymal Transition in Biological
Development and Cancer**

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Jean Paul Thiery is currently a Professor and Head of the Biochemistry Department, Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine, National University of Singapore (NUS). He has a joint appointment as Research Director at IMCB A*STAR Singapore and is Senior Principal Investigator at the Cancer Science Institute at NUS. In 2006, he moved to Singapore from his position as Head of Translational Research at the Medical Division of the Comprehensive Cancer Center of Institut Curie, and before that, Head of the Cell Biology Department at the Institut Curie in Paris until 2003. After his PhD studies at the University of Paris, his postdoctoral research with Gerald Edelman (Nobel Laureate) at the Rockefeller University led to the discovery of N-CAM, the first intercellular adhesion molecule to be identified. His influential works include pioneering studies in cell adhesion and migration in early embryogenesis and in elucidating the roles of growth factors and adhesion signaling molecules in Epithelial-Mesenchymal Transitions (EMT). Jean Paul Thiery's current research focus is to unravel the mechanisms of invasion and metastasis of carcinoma cells. His seminal contributions to bladder carcinoma studies have led to the discovery of the molecular mechanisms underlying the formation of superficial or invasive tumors. Currently, his laboratory is focusing on oncogenomics and the creation of functional approaches to characterize breast and ovarian carcinoma. His interests also cover the investigation of other carcinoma prevalent in the Asia-Pacific region, with the ultimate goal to apply EMT-based therapeutic approaches in phase 1 and 2 clinical trials. Jean Paul Thiery is an EMBO and Academia European member.