M Piel leads the team 'Systems Biology of Cell Division and Cell Polarity' in the Cell Biology and Cancer department of Institut Curie; The team is located at Institut Pierre Gilles de Gennes for Microfluidics. The team applies methods of quantitative cell biology to study how immune and cancer cells migrate and proliferate in complex environments. The team asks fundamental questions such as: how cells regulate their volume and mass, or how they deform through small holes, and use this understanding of basic cellular properties to investigate cell behavior in complex physiological contexts such as immune cell migration in tissues or cancer cell proliferation and invasion.

M Piel published more than 100 articles, cited over 10 000 times. He was elected EMBO member in 2016 and was awarded the prize Jean Hamburger for medical research from the town of Paris in 2017.