

Elise Baudin

Elise Fabienne Baudin (19 May 1992 –) is a French-born medical revolutionary who founded the company Remède and its international but highly controversial public assistance force, Phare Mondial (*English: Lighthouse Worldwide*). Her impact in the field of virology is unprecedented. She is widely responsible for discovering and developing the HIV/AIDS vaccine, the first universal flu vaccine, Influenta, and the first universal immunity serum, Infinimmune. Baudin is currently the wealthiest citizen of the state of France and the 17th wealthiest person in the world, with an estimated net worth of €2.14 trillion.

In 2077, at age 85, Baudin became the first French citizen to be charged with war crimes, including genocide, for her role in allegedly orchestrating The Immunity Genocide (2034-2060).

The controversy surrounding her actions earned her the nickname The Cold Angel, a reference to her icy demeanor, positive impact on global healthcare, and bestselling biography of the same name.

Early Life

Baudin grew up in the slums of Paris with her father, Paul, a part-time dockworker, and her mother, Céleste, an unemployed heroin addict. Domestic violence and the stress of raising a child in severe poverty pushed her mother to relapse into heroin abuse following five years of sobriety surrounding Elise's birth. It is believed Céleste contracted HIV through sharing needles and transmitted it to her second daughter, Amélie, born in 1997.

Paul fell into severe depression following Céleste's death from AIDS in 1999 and frequently abandoned his young daughters for days or weeks at a time. Elise adopted a "fiercely maternal" mindset for the benefit of her younger sister, often going hungry so Amélie could eat.

Without schooling and with little money, the pair spent their formative years doing chores for spare change. They found a second home inside the warm walls of the National Library of France, where Elise used the resources to educate herself and Amélie.

While many in the Parisian slums turned to crime, the girls mainly ate from restaurant dumpsters, guided by Elise's beliefs that her parents' "amoral behavior" served as the root of all their hardships, and she sought to carve a different path.

In October 2006, Paul Baudin died when a dock he was working on collapsed. Then fourteen-year-old Elise relocated Amélie and herself to an abandoned apartment near the National Library. As the years progressed, Amélie's disease did in kind despite Elise's best efforts to get her medical attention and treatments. Amélie had trouble maintaining weight and was wracked by frequent seizures, making a difficult life nearly unbearable. Amélie passed away from pneumonia in 2009 at age 12.

The death of her sister hit Elise hard. She attempted suicide but was found and saved by a library worker, Margeaux Locket, who eventually took Elise in and became her legal guardian. In this healthier environment and under Locket's tutelage, Elise thrived and went on to attend the Université Pierre et Marie Curie (UPMC) in Paris.

Remède and "Healing the World"

As a doctoral candidate in 2019, Elise's genius shined, and she was rapidly making progress in developing the first viable HIV/AIDS vaccine. In a surprise move, she dropped out of the doctoral program with only two semesters remaining, fearing the university would claim ownership and control the vaccine.

She founded the medical research company Remède a few months after securing startup funding from private investors. Within a year, the Remède HIV/AIDS vaccine began clinical trials. It boasted staggeringly high efficacy, with a 91-100% success rate across various age groups and a mean efficacy of 97.3%.

Baudin started receiving criticism when her public statements focused almost solely on her passion for avenging her sister's death rather than eradicating the global AIDS epidemic. Investors forced Baudin to address public concern by unveiling the new Remède slogan "Healing the World" in a public forum. In a moving speech, she highlighted a more palatable message: "...when you start working in this field, you look toward the future for all those you hope to save, but never forget the one person you couldn't."

In the years following the breakthrough, HIV and AIDS virtually disappeared, and company stock soared. Efforts shifted gears to developing a universal flu vaccine, which they achieved in 2028 with Influenta.

The End of Illness

Baudin and Remède's most significant breakthrough came in the form of an immunity serum – the first of its kind, named Infinimmune, which hit the market in 2033. It was a potent cocktail of vaccines and medicines that reprogrammed the user's immune system to reset invaded cells by repairing altered or damaged DNA strands.

Within days of its announcement, the initial batch of serum sold out, and the waiting list grew to more than three months. It is estimated that more than 34% of all French citizens had purchased the serum within one year. Sales of the serum spread like wildfire in developed nations across the globe.

Appropriately administered, the serum eradicated the likelihood of death by disease in those who took it by 95%, reducing the overall death rate in France by an estimated 73% between 2038 and 2049.

A Signpost to the Future

Incidents of violent crime steadily rose throughout France in the 2030s, and for years, law enforcement failed to find an explanation. The mid-2030s saw a rise of hyper-violent street gangs in some population centers worldwide, and their crimes seemed random, unprovoked, and increasingly brutal. The worst crimes included homicide and cannibalism.

This trend even infested rural areas of France and started to be reported in other cities, including Berlin, Lisbon, Madrid, London, New York, Los Angeles, Seattle, and San Francisco. When a farmer from Bursard, France, described the series of attacks on the town as "just like what a pack of wolves would do," the investigation into the crimes shifted to focus on common links between all the assailants.

Eventually, the investigation led to Remède when it was discovered feral and homicidal behavior is incurable side effects of the Infinimmune vaccine. While relatively rare, these feral side effects reshaped the landscape of population centers around the world.

A loss of cognitive ability rendered the "ferals" (a term used to describe those who succumb to these side effects) guided almost solely by the base instincts of hunting and self-preservation. Packs of feral individuals surfaced in cities with high concentrations of vaccinated citizens. It wasn't uncommon for completely unrelated or unfamiliar people to "pack up," abandoning their families and lives to work together to secure food via theft or killing and consuming animals or humans.

Phare Mondial and the Immunity Genocide

Months after the initial release of Infinimmune, Baudin unveiled a division of Remède known as Phare Mondial, a public service administration charged with assisting all aspects of the lives of those who had taken the immunity serum. It cataloged cases of vaccine side effects and offered relocation assistance when populations started to be impacted by a sharp decline in death rates.

As feral pack crimes reached epidemic proportions in some towns, Phare-branded military battalions started showing up and forcibly kidnapping or killing people displaying feral symptoms. These actions surprised government officials created a rift in the populace and ushered in the military occupation of towns by an execution force.

These killings, later dubbed the Immunity Genocide, lasted from 2034 to 2060 when a version of Infinimmune devoid of feral side effects was finally released. The Phare Mondial private military executed approximately 237,000 people (primarily European and American citizens). It is estimated local police, state militaries, and civilian vigilantism account for upwards of 186,000 additional killings, bringing the total number of deaths to roughly 423,000. These killings took place worldwide but hit hardest throughout Western Europe and select parts of the United States, with the most significant impact felt in Paris, Madrid, London, Berlin, New York, Chicago, Los Angeles, Seattle, and San Francisco.

These executions prompted dozens of battles in the metropolitan areas hardest hit by the feral packs and the Phare Mondial execution sweeps. Many of these battles were three-sided engagements between state militaries, Phare Mondial, and packs of ferals. Battles were often viewed as highly hypocritical because police and military forces would frequently slaughter ferals in self-defense during their campaigns to prevent Phare Mondial from doing precisely that.

Aftermath

Stock in Remède saw a noted dip after the truth came out about the side effects of Infinimmune. Still, sales of the serum stabilized by 2038. The general sentiment toward the serum is that the guaranteed benefits are worth the risk, especially when held against the previous rates of cancer deaths before the serum existed.

Several governments have attempted to ban Infinimmune, but Remède lawyers have successfully kept it legal in most countries. Countries with active bans on the sale, possession, and consumption of Infinimmune include Japan, China, Mexico, Brazil, India, South Korea, Norway, Sweden, Denmark, Finland, Belgium, and Canada.

Baudin removed herself as the head of Remède but remains an active board member.

In 2077, Baudin mounted a substantial legal defense when the Union of European States and the International Military Tribunal charged her and top brass in the Phare Mondial division with war crimes. Baudin herself was the first person to be charged with genocide for orchestrating the extermination of

hundreds of thousands of people at the hands of Phare Mondial soldiers. She was acquitted of all charges. Since the Union of European states removed the double jeopardy restriction on war crimes in 2031, another genocide case is rumored to be in the works against Baudin, focusing on the significant number of people erroneously killed in the Immunity Genocide who were not exhibiting symptoms of psychosis.