DNA is present in all living cells. It carries the organism’s hereditary information, the «secret of life». It is made up of two complementary strands formed by two regular sequences of small molecules, wound into a double helix. They can thus be duplicated identically, characterising the entire genetic make-up. It was Rosalind Franklin’s image of a pseudo-crystal made of DNA fibres, obtained in 1951 by X-ray diffraction, which enabled the structure of the molecule to be determined.