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ANNUAL REPORT 2007

roots for life



page 03	Profile
page 04	Editorial
page 06	2007 highlights
<hr/>	
page 08	2007 report and prospects
page 09	Enhancing clinical biology potential
page 12	Applied research programs
page 15	Training and exchange of knowledge
page 19	Patient support
<hr/>	
page 22	International presence
page 24	Governance
page 25	Main partners
page 26	2007 Accounts and key figures

Fondation Christophe et Rodolphe Mérieux

With the backing of Pierre Messmer, Chancellor of Institut de France, Alain and Chantal Mérieux created Fondation Rodolphe Mérieux in 2001. This independent foundation, now renamed as Fondation Christophe et Rodolphe Mérieux, operates under the auspices of Institut de France and has its own resources. In particular it owns one-third of the capital of the family holding company, Mérieux Alliance. It intervenes in underprivileged countries, in the field, to fight infectious diseases.

It focuses on developing local research, training, care and rehabilitation.

Fondation Christophe et Rodolphe Mérieux's aim is to devote the majority of its resources to financing its projects. Accordingly it signed a cooperation agreement in 2005 to enable it to benefit from Fondation Mérieux's skills and teams by entrusting it with the operational aspects of some of its actions.

**Founded in 1967 by Dr. Charles Mérieux,
Fondation Mérieux is an independent foundation with official
charitable status.**

Its mission is to fight infectious diseases affecting underprivileged countries by making innovative diagnosis and prevention solutions available to them with sustainable development in mind.

It has four main areas of action: support for applied research, scientific training and information, enhancing clinical biology and healthcare infrastructure, and assistance to patients.

With the support of Fondation Christophe et Rodolphe Mérieux, it develops a network of laboratory outposts in the field, at the heart of infected areas. Current field sites are located in Mali, Cambodia, Laos, Haiti, Madagascar and China.



EDITORIAL



2007: roots for life

Fondation Mérieux celebrated its fortieth anniversary in 2007.

Forty years striving to serve public health worldwide and fight infectious diseases.

Forty years of remarkable actions, initiated by its founder Dr. Charles Mérieux, such as the meningitis vaccination campaign in Brazil in 1974, international scientific meetings on major public health issues, and the inception of structures dedicated to the needs of developing countries and humanitarian work: Bioforce Development, Bioport, ADVAC vaccinology training, and others.

Drawing on this legacy, Dr. Christophe Mérieux chose to focus the Fondation's action in the field, at the heart of infected areas. His aim was to see disease and suffering diminish, by setting up the conditions for long term development of healthcare in underprivileged countries.

Fondation Mérieux, faithful to this vision and with the longlasting support of Sanofi Pasteur, now concentrates on four strategic fields: enhancing clinical biology potential - applied research - training and exchange of knowledge - patient support.

It works with close support from Fondation Christophe and Rodolphe Mérieux, and shares the same vision of serving the fight against infectious diseases.

In 2007 the Fondation made a number of significant achievements:

- In line with Christophe's choice, I asked Benoît Miribel to become Director General of Fondation Mérieux in January 2007; and last November I renewed the Board of Directors to ensure that the scientific and medical community are more widely represented.
- Three new laboratories for diagnosis of infectious diseases were launched in 2007 in Haiti, Laos and Madagascar and will be inaugurated in 2008. These three units, which will be named after Rodolphe Mérieux, will complete the network of outpost laboratories initiated by Dr. Christophe Mérieux in developing countries.
- At the end of 2007 the Fondation took on its own research teams dedicated to identifying emerging pathogens: the Gerland research laboratory (Lyon, France) and the Christophe Mérieux research laboratory set up in the Chinese Academy of Medical Sciences in Beijing. They will rely on the support of a scientific committee that was renewed in early 2008 and includes internationally-renowned experts.

The Fondation is progressively adapting its structure and adopting new resources to achieve its missions. By enhancing the Fondation's financial resources, the sale of its 23% minority holding in Laboratoire Marcel Mérieux at the end of 2007 occurred at a strategic time and enabled the Fondation to speed up new projects in the field.

With our partners - scientists and healthcare professionals in these countries, instigators of international development and biology corporations - our ambition is to expand our network around the world and, together, give life new roots.

Alain Mérieux

President



At the time this annual report was being finished, our friend Youssouf Issabre had passed away. He was the Director of the Charles Mérieux Center in Bamako and was responsible for the Fondation Mérieux's activities in West Africa.

Born in 1953 in Mali, Youssouf Issabre studied Pharmacy in Senegal, then in France, where he graduated Doctor of Pharmacy. He was made a member of the Légion d'Honneur in 2005.

Youssouf joined bioMérieux in 1980 to spearhead many projects, in particular a program for rapid diagnosis tests for developing countries.

Beginning in 2002, he worked with Fondation Mérieux before being transferred there in 2004 to establish and run the Charles Mérieux Center in Bamako, Mali. He contributed to the success of the Action BioMali Program aiming at enhancing clinical diagnosis capacities in sub-Saharan Africa.

We would like to pay tribute to this exceptional man whose enthusiasm, courage and tenacity drove the success of major public health projects in Mali, his native country.

Through his strong commitment, he succeeded in, as he said, "giving a meaning to his life... and bringing a message of shared hope, a message of solidarity".



2007 HIGHLIGHTS

TRAINING
UNIVERSITY
laboratories
MADAGASCAR

Enhancing clinical biology potential

Laos

Started construction of Rodolphe Mérieux Laboratory at Vientiane.

Cambodia

Refurbishment of clinical biology laboratory at Takeo hospital.

Haiti

Cooperation agreement with the GHESKIO Center and its new institute (IMIS) at Port-au-Prince, aimed at setting up a Rodolphe Mérieux research laboratory.

Madagascar

Agreement signed with the Ministry of Health and University of Antananarivo to build a Rodolphe Mérieux Laboratory on the Faculty of Science site. Started construction of laboratories for Faculty of Pharmacy practicals.

Refurbishment of the clinical biology laboratory at the Antsirabe public hospital.

Mali

Continuation of the Action BioMali program with initial deliveries of diagnostic equipment to test laboratories in regional and district hospitals around the country.

Applied research

Mali

Signed a partnership with Professor Ogobara Doumbo (MRTC) in Mali for studying factors associated with malaria severity.

India

Continued a multi-center study into the best diagnostic tools for tuberculosis, in partnership with the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR).

Cambodia

Participated in an ANRS study involving pharmacokinetic analysis of antiretrovirals at the Rodolphe Mérieux Laboratory in Phnom Penh.



Argentina

Partnership with an Argentinean foundation to conduct an epidemiological investigation into Chagas' disease covering 20,000 schoolchildren in the Salta region.

Training and exchange of knowledge

Les Pensières - Annecy, France

First edition of the Christophe Mérieux "Trends in Virology" conference.





Lyon - France

Dr. Charles Mérieux centenary conference "Healthcare and training: challenges for developing countries".

Mali

Started BAMS training for laboratory technicians at Bamako in partnership with ESTBB, a biochemistry and biology college within the Lyon Catholic University, France.

Patient support

Haiti

Continued the microcredit program with the ACME association and the GHESKIO Center.



China

Signed an agreement with the Chinese Ministry of Health to improve care conditions for tuberculosis patients.

Ethiopia

Studied a project to improve care conditions for populations affected by tuberculosis.

Argentina

Introduced free screening of Chagas' disease for schoolchildren in the Salta region.

India

Construction of a dispensary at Anbumalar in the Chennai region in partnership with the Le Don du Chœur association.



Governance

- Benoît Miribel appointed as Director General in January 2007
- Board of Directors renewed in November 2007.
- Scientific Committee renewed in February 2008.

Human resources

- Reorganized the medical division under the responsibility of Dr. Christophe Longuet in March 2007.
- Set up a scientific division under the responsibility of Guy Vernet in December 2007.
- Prepared to integrate the research teams from the Gerland Emerging Pathogens Laboratory (Lyon, France) and the Christophe Mérieux Laboratory in Beijing. These teams have effectively been integrated since January 2008.

Financial resources

- Increased cash flow in December 2007 by selling the 23% holding in Laboratoire Marcel Merieux for a total of 41.4 million euros.

2007 REPORT AND PROSPECTS

“ The Fondation’s new strategic orientations, serving the fight against infectious diseases in developing countries, started coming to fruition in 2007. ”



2007, A PIVOTAL YEAR

Our mission encompasses a public health objective aiming to promote local initiatives in order to achieve a greater global ability to fight infectious diseases. The current paradigm in this field, in a context where new viruses are multiplying without regard for borders between the North and South, provides new areas for partnerships and project governance. It is in everyone’s interest to intensify cooperation in this field, particularly in underprivileged countries where public health conditions are far from satisfactory.

In accordance with Dr. Christophe Mérieux’s wishes, the Fondation aims to enhance biological potential in these countries. To achieve this, it gives priority to partnerships with governmental and non-governmental healthcare bodies, while respecting local cultures and constraints. Having committed partners at our sides is key to obtaining resources for fighting infectious diseases.

Our founder, Charles Mérieux, liked to point out that “health and training are essential foundations for all individual and collective development”.

By enhancing its cash flow and scientific abilities the Fondation intends to intensify its action. It has thus set itself a number of new objectives for the next three years:

- Enlargement of the Fondation’s outpost network in developing countries, including opening one new Rodolphe Mérieux Laboratory each year and refurbishing a dozen clinical biology laboratories in regional hospitals.
- Organization of an international network for detecting and identifying infectious pathogens, open to all key partners in this field.
- Intensifying the Fondation’s actions in disseminating scientific and technical knowledge around the world. To achieve this priority, the capacity of the Les Pensières conference center will be increased and a new Internet portal for distributing and exchanging information will be set up.
- Deployment of patient support actions including, in particular, setting up microcredit programs and access to screening and treatment, in all countries where the Fondation is present.

The professional attitude and commitment of the Fondation’s teams, and the quality of the partnerships we are developing around the world, will be decisive in accomplishing the new public health challenges we are facing.

It is through hands-on actions to assist the most vulnerable populations that Fondation Mérieux can stay close to the ideals of those who made it what it is today.

Benoît Miribel
Director General

ENHANCING CLINICAL BIOLOGY POTENTIAL

The Fondation's aim is that its achievements should always be part of a sustainable development approach.

To do this it aims to enhance clinical biology and healthcare infrastructure in developing countries by giving them access to latest-generation tools that meet the most stringent international quality standards. Its ambition is to see local healthcare professionals take on these tools and become self-sufficient in dealing with public health needs in their countries.



In this context working in partnership with local political, medical and scientific communities, from project preparation and throughout the implementation, is a fundamental principle. In this way the Fondation gleans a better understanding of the actual requirements, specific features and needs in the field and is able to provide more appropriate solutions. This approach also encourages projects to take root and improves motivation.

At the heart of this strategy is a plan, backed by Fondation Christophe et Rodolphe Mérieux, to set up a network of outpost laboratories, the Rodolphe Mérieux Laboratories. These reference laboratories have three key tasks: epidemiological surveillance, research and training.

The Fondation also refurbishes and trains numerous medical test laboratories in regional hospitals in Mali, Cambodia, Laos, Madagascar, Haiti and elsewhere.

CLINICAL BIOLOGY
reference laboratories

self-sufficient
COLLABORATION

ENHANCING CLINICAL BIOLOGY POTENTIAL

Three new Rodolphe Mérieux Laboratories set up in 2007

Construction work started on the Rodolphe Mérieux Laboratory at Vientiane, Laos, in July 2007.

This molecular biology laboratory, which will be fully operational by the end of 2008, aims to train Lao biologists in infectious disease research. It will also extend the capabilities of the country's hospital laboratories by introducing biology techniques not widely available in Laos, such as assessing HIV / AIDS viral load.

The Rodolphe Mérieux Laboratory in Vientiane is part of a wider Infectiology Center project initiated by the Fondation in partnership with the Laos Ministry of Health and the Laos University of Science and Health. This center, located on the university campus, and organized around the research laboratory, will also have a scientific library, conference rooms and offices.

The Lao doctor who will manage the Rodolphe Mérieux Laboratory has received eight months' training organized by the Fondation at a number of laboratories in its network, in particular in Paris and Lyon.

Similarly, an agreement has been signed with Malagasy Ministry of Health and the University of Antananarivo to set up a laboratory within the Faculty of Pharmacy.

This research facility will enhance the university's existing infrastructure (laboratories for student

practicals, etc.) and help extend the research and training potential of the entire Indian Ocean region.

Lastly, continuing nearly 10 years of collaborative work with the GHESKIO Centers in Haiti, a new partnership was signed with Professor Jean-William Pape's teams.

The aim is to set up, as part of the IMIS (Institute for reproductive diseases and healthcare) at Port-au-Prince, a Rodolphe Mérieux Laboratory to support various research programs, particularly in the field of AIDS and multi-resistant tuberculosis. This laboratory will also offer wider access to certain diagnostic tests such as rubella, hepatitis B or toxoplasmosis and will be able to conduct tests not currently available in Haiti. An expert from the Fondation will be seconded to Port-au-Prince to accompany this project.



refurbishment TUBERCULOSIS research laboratories medical analysis Action BioMali HIV



Enhancing clinical biology potential in sub-Saharan Africa

As part of the Action BioMali program, backed by the European Commission, Fondation Mérieux is equipping a network of 82 medical test laboratories.

A field survey of test laboratories in Mali, conducted in 2006, highlighted a major need for equipment and reagents. To enhance these laboratories' technical platforms, requirement specifications were drawn up jointly with the Ministry of Health and an international invitation to tender was issued. The objective was to standardize the same type of equipment for all the laboratories to reduce maintenance problems. The first deliveries were made during the spring of 2007. Training plans were also carried out (see page 17).

Refurbishment of two regional medical test laboratories

In partnership with the Malagasy Ministry of Health and Biology Without Borders, in 2007 the Fondation refurbished the medical test laboratory at the regional public hospital in Antsirabe, Madagascar. The Fondation also provided equipment and reagents for this lab.

The new laboratory, which now meets international quality standards, will enable tests to be performed on site instead of having to send specimens to Antananarivo for analysis, which posed problems of cost, cold chain and reliability of results. It will help improve the quality of healthcare throughout the region.

In May 2007 the Fondation completed a full refurbishment of the medical test laboratory at the regional hospital in Takeo, Cambodia.

This 250-bed hospital is the only healthcare facility for the region's 2 million inhabitants. It was selected by the government and the French Cooperation authorities as a model for developing healthcare structures. Biologists at Takeo hospital, who now have a medical test laboratory meeting international quality standards, also received training dispensed by the Fondation.



APPLIED RESEARCH PROGRAMS

Ambitious epidemiological monitoring and research policies are needed to deal with outbreaks of hitherto unknown pathogens, quickly spreading worldwide, or the return of old diseases thought to be under control but which continue to hit developing countries. To win the fight against infectious diseases will require international mobilization and sharing of knowledge. It is essential that researchers work together, set up worldwide networks, devise new diagnostic tools, prevention methods and treatments.

Supporting applied research is a priority for Fondation Mérieux.

Integrate new research potential

A major step was taken in December 2007 with the creation of a scientific division which will enable the Fondation to directly incorporate research potential .

This new division will manage the teams at the Gerland Emerging Pathogens Laboratory (Lyon, France) and the Christophe Mérieux research Laboratory at the Chinese Academy of Medical Sciences (CAMS) in Beijing. Both units were transferred to the Fondation at the end of 2007 by bioMérieux, as part of its corporate sponsorship program.

Exclusively dedicated to emerging pathogens, these two laboratories conduct research programs into the detection and identification of new infectious agents.

In total some twenty researchers will be mobilized on programs focused on pathogens which cause the most child deaths worldwide, including respiratory infections, tuberculosis, malaria, HIV, hepatitis and others.

The programs involve setting up tools for epidemiological surveillance in developing countries, determining useful biomarkers for studying the infectious agents, and creating and transferring appropriate technologies for research in developing countries

These research units work closely with the Fondation's outpost laboratories around the world and also with the Lyonbiopôle competitiveness cluster, a center of biological excellence. The Gerland research laboratory also benefits from the scientific and technological proximity of the Jean Mérieux P4 laboratory located on the same site. The P4 research laboratory, set up by the Fondation in 1999, is now managed by the French national research organization INSERM.





NETWORK
emerging pathogens
scientific grants
CHRISTOPHE MÉRIEUX PRIZE

Develop an international network for research without borders

To organize international collaboration on research into emerging pathogens, the Fondation intends to launch a network named GABRIEL (Global Approach to Biological Research for Infectious Epidemics in Low income countries).

This network, which will be led by the Gerland Emerging Pathogens Laboratory, will embrace a number of scientific partners, including the Christophe Mérieux Laboratory in Beijing and the various Rodolphe Mérieux Laboratories around the world.

It aims to be open to other public and private international research units, hospital laboratories, NGOs and industrial companies involved in diagnosis and vaccinology. The GABRIEL network will support research by providing scientists in developing countries with tools for detection and characterization of emerging or re-emerging pathogens. It will also support regional laboratories to help them conduct their own research projects.

Promote high level research in developing countries

Because the Fondation considers research to be a key development factor, it supports researchers from emerging countries.

It accompanies researchers from these countries, performing field work related to infectious

diseases and contributing to high level local research.

- In partnership with Affymetrix, bioMérieux and Becton Dickinson, the Fondation supports the work of Prof. Ogobara Doumbo, Director of the Malaria Research and Training Center (MRTC) in Bamako, Mali. A notable component of this research is the search for genetic factors associated with serious malaria in children.

As part of Fondation Christophe et Rodolphe Mérieux's research actions, on June 13, 2007 Institut de France awarded the Christophe Mérieux Prize, worth €400,000, to Prof. Ogobara Doumbo.

- The Fondation is also involved with a tuberculosis research program in India including a multi-center study into better diagnostic tools, in partnership with the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR). A battery of tests, ranging from direct microscopic examination to molecular biology, was used on 1000 tuberculosis patients and a control group of 1000. The investigators are due to meet in New Delhi at the end of 2008.

- Fondation Mérieux is financing an epidemiological investigation into Chagas' disease in Argentina. This work is conducted by Dr. Hector Freilij of the Parasitology Department at Ricardos Gutierrez children's hospital in Buenos Aires. Conducted in partnership with the "Fundación para el Estudio de Enfermedades Parasitarias y la Enfermedad de Chagas", the investigation covers 20,000 schoolchildren in the Salta region.



APPLIED RESEARCH PROGRAMS

Scientific grants

The Fondation also awards grants to promote North/South exchanges and collaboration between researchers. In this way it gives young scientists from industrialized and emerging countries working on infectious diseases an opportunity to gain experience in a research institution in another country during their post-university training.

In 2007 six grants were awarded to young researchers working on public health issues such as malaria, tuberculosis, parasitology and infectious endocarditis.

Fondation Mérieux has awarded some twenty scientific grants over the last three years, and intends to increase this number in 2008.



TRAINING AND EXCHANGE OF KNOWLEDGE

Fondation Mérieux aims to play an active part in the worldwide exchange and transfer of scientific knowledge. Training and information are at the heart of its strategy in this area.

A MELTING POT OF IDEAS

Since its inception the Fondation has always aimed to stimulate scientific reflection, promote scientific innovation and disseminate them worldwide.

Centenary of Dr. Charles Mérieux, fortieth anniversary of the Fondation

To mark its fortieth anniversary and the centenary of its founder, the Fondation organized two events in Lyon in December 2007 involving leading members of the international scientific and academic community, humanitarian organizations and worldwide development experts:

- A conference dedicated to Dr. Charles Mérieux, in partnership with the Jacques Cartier Center, entitled "Healthcare and Training: the challenges for developing countries?" Three main topics were discussed: access to reliable medicines and diagnostic tests in developing countries, the importance of training personnel in the field and the role of women in development and health.
 - A round table focusing on the stakes of the fight against infectious diseases in developing countries.
- These two events were attended by over 450 persons.



It organizes numerous symposia and conferences in France and abroad, bringing together experts to discuss current public health issues.

The "Cent Gardes" symposium, set up in 1986 following the emergence of the AIDS virus, and attended by scientists from around the world, is held every two years. It is now organized outside France: the 2005 symposium was held in Beijing and the 2009 edition will be held in India.

Conférence Christophe Mérieux "Trends in virology"

In June 2007, the Fondation organized the first Christophe Mérieux "Trends in virology" conference at its Les Pensières Conference Center. This biannual conference aims to review recent developments in infectious diseases and particularly emerging pathogens. One hundred and thirty experts from Europe, the US and Asia met to present their work on four main topics: continued emergence of viral diseases, setting up epidemiological surveillance and alert systems, and identifying targets for medicinal products, immune defenses and vaccination.

TRAINING AND EXCHANGE OF KNOWLEDGE

Public health topics

In parallel with these biannual meetings, the Fondation also organizes conferences on specific public health issues.

In 2007, four conferences were organized at the Les Pensières Conference Center in partnership with Sanofi Pasteur and other health companies and attended by over 400 scientists from around the world.

- *Typhoid fever vaccine*, April 2 to 4, 2007
- *Cancer immunotherapy*, July 9 and 10, 2007
- *Host Pathogen cross-talk*, September 24 and 25, 2007
- *Advances in modelisation for infectious diseases*, 10 to 12, December 2007

TRAINING HEALTHCARE PROFESSIONALS

Fondation Mérieux organizes scientific and technical training for healthcare professionals in developing countries, including scientific experts, laboratory personnel, medical students and others.

Held in the field or at the Les Pensières Center, the training covers vaccinology, diagnosis, epidemiology or clinical biology laboratory management and techniques.

Priority is given to training in the field. This is in line with the Fondation's ambition that the



professionals who receive this training and the researchers who work in Rodolphe Mérieux Laboratories remain in their home countries to play an active role in development.

Each year Fondation Mérieux also supports various training organizations, including the Bioforce Development institute, the vaccinology chair at the University of Geneva, the European Center for Humanitarian Healthcare, and others.

Promoting university education

The Fondation helps set up structures to train the new scientific elites in developing countries. For example, Fondation Christophe et Rodolphe Mérieux in partnership with Fondation Pierre Fabre

Stepping up the role of the Les Pensières Center

The Les Pensières Conference Center, on the banks of Annecy Lake, plays a key role in the distribution of scientific information. Set in outstanding surroundings, a stone's throw from Geneva where many international health organizations are based, the Les Pensières Center aims to promote exchanges between researchers, hospitals, healthcare practitioners and industrial companies. It hosts numerous conferences and training courses dedicated to worldwide public health issues.

To intensify this role as a melting pot of ideas, in 2007 the Fondation initiated a major program to expand the Center's infrastructure and open it to a wider international scientific public. It will be fully operational by the end of 2008.



scientific and technological
trainings

vaccinology

CONFERENCES

EXPERTS

created the Faculty of Pharmacy at Phnom Penh, Cambodia, in January 2003. Similarly, practical laboratories for the new Faculty of Pharmacy in Madagascar were built in 2007.



Creating infectiology research laboratories within universities gives students the possibility of working in better conditions on the pathologies affecting their country. One laboratory operates in this way at Phnom Penh and an agreement was signed in 2007 with the Malagasy Ministry of Health and the University of Antananarivo to set up a research laboratory within the Faculty of Science.

The Fondation also contributes its own expertise and makes available its network's know-how in devising university programs for Pharmacy and Biology faculties.

Training experts

Each year at Les Pensières, Fondation Mérieux organizes ADVAC (Advanced Vaccinology Course), a vaccinology training course for doctors and

people from universities, hospitals or industry, involved in local, regional or international decision-making and who can pass on what they learn in the field. The course is given by renowned international scientific experts in fields such as immunology, new vaccine development and vaccination ethics.

The ADVAC course, organized in partnership with the University of Geneva, benefits from the financial backing of the European Commission and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.

The eighth ADVAC course, held in 2007, was attended by 60 participants.

Over 500 people, almost half of whom were from developing countries, have attended this vaccinology course since it was started in 1999.

Enhancing clinical biology professionalism

The Action BioMali program, co-funded by the European Commission and implemented by Fondation Mérieux, aims to improve the clinical biology potential in Mali and the surrounding regions.

An analysis of the situation of laboratories in Mali revealed a need to set up local training to complement national infectious disease training programs.

Partner of the Dr. Mérieux Museum of Biological Sciences

This new museum is the fruit of a partnership between the Rhône-Alpes regional council, Marcy l'Étoile town council, Fondation Mérieux, bioMérieux and Sanofi Pasteur. It was inaugurated on June 23, 2007 at Marcy l'Étoile.

Its aim is to create a site dedicated to biology, referring to vaccinology and diagnosis, to the Mérieux family and its industrial adventure and the village of Marcy l'Étoile. A place of memories, the museum is also resolutely forward-looking, with presentations of major public health challenges worldwide and new weapons that biotechnology and genetics contribute to the fight against infectious diseases.



TRAINING AND EXCHANGE OF KNOWLEDGE

A series of short training courses and a longer course (BAMS) were set up in 2007.

First BAMS class in Mali

In October 2007, the Fondation launched the BAMS (BSc in Biology and Applied Medical Sciences) occupational training course for biology technicians, in partnership with the Malian Ministry of Health and ESTBB (Lyon Catholic University). This one-year course, held at the Charles Mérieux Center in Bamako, Mali, is open to healthcare staff from all of West Africa. ESTBB is responsible for the educational aspects, and the Fondation Mérieux team in Mali handles local coordination.

BAMS is open to 15 students, selected after an entry examination, working in the medical biology field and with two or three years of higher education qualifications. The course includes theoretical and practical immunology, biochemistry, bacteriology, parasitology, virology and molecular biology.

Short training courses

In parallel with the BAMS qualifications, a training plan covering a series of short courses has been drawn up with the Malian Ministry of Health. The plan targets some 240 private and public-sector professionals - chief physicians, regional and national testing laboratory managers and laboratory

technicians - from Mali and neighboring countries. The plan covers five training modules: HIV, tuberculosis, malaria, basic bacteriology and laboratory quality systems.

The courses are given by national and international experts at the Rodolphe Mérieux Laboratory in Bamako. The first sessions were held between February 2007 and June 2008.

Tuberculosis training in China

In 2007 Fondation Mérieux and the international cooperation department of the Ministry of Health of the People's Republic of China signed a partnership agreement relating to the fight against tuberculosis and diagnostics in particular.

The Fondation will provide financial backing and technical expertise to develop laboratories linking provincial structures and Beijing. Training courses on tuberculosis diagnostic tools and methods for identifying multi-resistant forms of tuberculosis will be set up in these laboratories.

GLOBE: a new operational tool serving developing countries

The Fondation is currently setting up a portal for scientific information and e-learning. GLOBE (Global Link for Online Biomedical Expertise) aims to facilitate networking between scientists and healthcare professionals from developing and industrialized countries and provide operational solutions to questions that arise in their daily practice. The portal should be operational in the second half of 2008.



PATIENT SUPPORT

Fondation Mérieux's chosen field of expertise is without doubt biology. Nevertheless, it aims to take a more general approach by developing actions to support patients and accompany them in their return to active life. The microcredit experiment conducted in Haiti by Fondation Christophe and Rodolphe Mérieux since 2005 is a good example of this approach.



The Fondation conducts actions to improve screening and monitoring of infectious diseases in underprivileged regions.

Through a program of grants, it also supports actions taken by local NGOs in the field to assist the populations of these countries and facilitate access to healthcare.

Microcredit: extending the experiment from Haiti to other countries

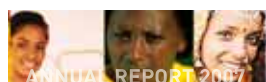
Fondation Mérieux has continued its microcredit program in Haiti, in partnership with ACME (Association for Cooperation with Micro-Enterprises). This program, conducted under the auspices of the GHESKIO Center, entitles seropositive women to a range of services including medical diagnosis, healthcare and monitoring, information, training and access to microcredit.

The results are very encouraging in economic, social and medical terms. In particular, patients tend to follow their treatment care therapy correctly, generate sustainable sources of income, improve their quality of life and suffer less discrimination and stigmatization. Furthermore, reimbursement rates are remarkable (90% of loans are reimbursed within 6 months), demonstrating the validity of the model.

Since 2005, 420 women in Port-au-Prince have benefited from microcredit, including over 200 in 2007 alone. The Fondation aims to extend this action in partnership with ACME throughout Haiti and hopes to include over 1000 people in the program by the end of 2008.

On the strength of this successful experiment in Haiti, the Fondation intends to set up comparable initiatives in other countries where it is involved.

In 2007 it helped in devising a microcredit project in West Africa in partnership with Planet Finance, aimed at promoting health through microcredit.



PATIENT SUPPORT

Facilitate access to screening of infectious diseases

Action BioMali

One of the objectives of the Action BioMali program is to improve screening and biological monitoring of HIV / AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria patients across Mali.

Specifically, it aims to make screening for these diseases non-discriminatory and more accessible both geographically and financially:

- The Charles Mérieux Center in Bamako has worked with several local NGOs to ensure that their patients can have easier access to the diagnosis of infectious diseases.
- The Rodolphe Mérieux Laboratory also handles tests for patients admitted to a hospital if the tests cannot be performed in the hospital's own labs.
- Highly specialized analyses not available on site are performed by Fondation Mérieux in a partner laboratory in Europe.

Free screening in Argentina

As part of an epidemiological research program into Chagas' disease on Argentina, the Fondation has set up a free screening program for 20,000 schoolchildren in the Salta region. Treatment for any infections discovered is provided by the Argentinean Ministry of Health.

Improving tuberculosis diagnosis in Ethiopia

After assessing the situation in 2007, the Fondation supports a joint program involving the Ethiopian Ministry of Health and the NGO Inter Aide, specialized in community healthcare. The aim is to make tuberculosis diagnosis and treatment



more accessible to rural communities in southern Ethiopia (Wolayta region).

China: cooperation agreement signed in 2007

In 2007 Fondation Mérieux initiated a three-year scientific cooperation program with the Chinese Ministry of Health, aimed at improving screening for resistant tuberculosis. It entails improving equipment and training personnel in regional reference laboratories in the Heilong Jang and Zhe Jang regions, which have a combined population of over 80 million.

Support for humanitarian initiatives

[The Fondation backs various local NGOs which assist underprivileged populations.](#)

Mali: it supports the Bamako SAMU social which helps homeless children. In particular, it handles the diagnosis of infectious diseases for children being monitored by this organization.

India: the Fondation is a partner of the Le Don du Chœur association in Anbumalar, as part of a project to build a new school for disabled homeless children. The Fondation financed the creation of a medical dispensary which has been providing healthcare and vaccination to the local population since November 2007. The dispensary receives around 50 patients a day, and also organizes a monthly dental care camp.

microcredit
SCREENING
humanitarian
initiatives



INTERNATIONAL PRESENCE



FRANCE

Headquarters
Lyon ↙

Emerging
Pathogens Laboratory
Lyon-Gerland ↙

Jean Mérieux P4
Laboratory
Lyon-Gerland ↙

Les Pensières
Conference Center
Annecy ↙



HAITI

Partnership with the GHESKIO
Center (HIV)
↳ Port-au-Prince

Rodolphe Mérieux Laboratory
↳ Port-au-Prince

Microcredit program with
the ACME association



ARGENTINA

Support of an epidemiological
investigation into Chagas' disease
↳ Salta



Research



Training



Patient support



Enhancing
clinical biology
potential

Charles Mérieux Center
Bamako ↙

Rodolphe Mérieux Laboratory
Bamako ↙

Support of the Prof. Ogobara Doumbo
research program on malaria

Action BioMali program
(refurbishing, equipping and networking
82 medical test laboratories, personnel
training, patients screening)

Support of the SAMU social
Bamako ↙

MALI





INDIA

Multi-center study
into tuberculosis diagnosis

Construction of a dispensary
↳ Anbumalar



LAOS

Rodolphe Mérieux Laboratory
↳ Vientiane



CHINA

Christophe Mérieux Laboratory
↳ Beijing

Collaboration in a program on resistant tuberculosis diagnosis,
personnel training



ETHIOPIA

Tuberculosis
diagnosis program



MADAGASCAR

Construction and equipment of
laboratories for Faculty of Pharmacy
practicals

↳ Antananarivo

Rodolphe Mérieux Laboratory
↳ Antananarivo

Refurbishment of the clinical biology
laboratory at the public hospital
↳ Antsirabe



CAMBODIA

Creation
of the Faculty of Pharmacy
↳ Phnom Penh

Rodolphe Mérieux Laboratory
↳ Phnom Penh

Refurbishment of two regional
medical tests laboratories
↳ Takeo



GOVERNANCE

BOARD OF DIRECTORS*

Representatives of the Founding Members:

- Alain MÉRIEUX - Chairman
- Claudine FRIEH
- Karine MEHLER
- Sophie MÉRIEUX
- Alexandre MÉRIEUX

Qualified Persons:

- Michel BAGUENAUULT
- Professor Christian BRÉCHOT
- Didier CHERPITEL
- Professor François GROS
- Professor Dominique PEYRAMOND
- Dominique PELLA
- Doctor Robert SEBBAG

Government Representative:

- THE PRÉFET
OF THE DÉPARTEMENT DU RHÔNE

SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE

- Professor Albert OSTERHAUS
Erasmus University Rotterdam, the Netherlands
- Professor Steward COLE
École Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne,
Switzerland
- Professor Ogobara DOUMBO
Malaria Research and Training Center,
Bamako, Mali
- Professor Pierre-Marie GIRARD
Institut de Médecine et d'Epidémiologie Appliquée
Hôpital Bichat, Paris, France
- Doctor David HEYMANN - OMS
- Doctor Kai Man KAM
Tuberculosis reference laboratory,
Department of Health, Hong Kong, China
- Professor Arnold S. MONTGOMERY
University of Michigan, U.S.A.
- Professor Johan NEYTS
Faculté de Médecine de l'Université de Louvain,
Belgium
- Professor Fabien ZOULIM
INSERM - Lyon, France

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

- Monsieur Benoît MIRIBEL - Director General
- Monsieur Paul CAROLY - General Secretary
- Docteur Christophe LONGUET - Medical Director
- Monsieur Guy VERNET - Scientific Director

* As of July 1st, 2008

MAIN PARTNERS

- Aventis Pasteur MSD
- Berna
- The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation
- bioMérieux
- Children's Vaccine Program at PATH
- Chiron
- European Commission
- EVM (European Vaccines Manufacturers)
- Fondation Christophe and Rodolphe Mérieux
- GlaxoSmithKline (GSK)
- Merck
- National Foundation for Infectious Diseases
- Sanofi Pasteur
- Wyeth Lederlé Vaccines

2007 ACCOUNTS AND KEY FIGURES

The financial statements as of December 31, 2007 have been audited and fully approved by "Deloitte & Associés", Lyon-France

Balance sheet

ASSETS € '000	Net Dec. 31, 2007	Net Dec. 31, 2006
Fixed assets		
Intangible fixed assets	3	4
Property, plant and equipment	6,316	6,953
Investments and other financial assets	11,592	10,459
Total	17,912	17,415
Current assets		
Inventories	1	8
Accounts receivable	889	1,124
Other receivables	2,815	2,323
Short and long term investments	82,271	46,404
Cash and cash equivalents	5,971	3,699
Deferred charges	187	286
Total	92,134	53,843
TOTAL ASSETS	110,046	71,258
CAPITAL & LIABILITIES € '000		
	Dec. 31, 2007	Dec. 31, 2006
Foundation Capital		
Capital	64,700	64,599
Reserves	884	884
Retained earnings	(271)	46
Annual result	37,700	(318)
Total	103,013	65,212
Provisions for contingencies	241	241
Appropriations for Fondation activities	2,313	590
Liabilities		
Financial debts	2,065	1,523
Accounts payable	728	442
Other debts	635	941
Deferred income	1,050	2,309
Total	4,478	5,215
TOTAL CAPITAL & LIABILITIES	110,046	71,258

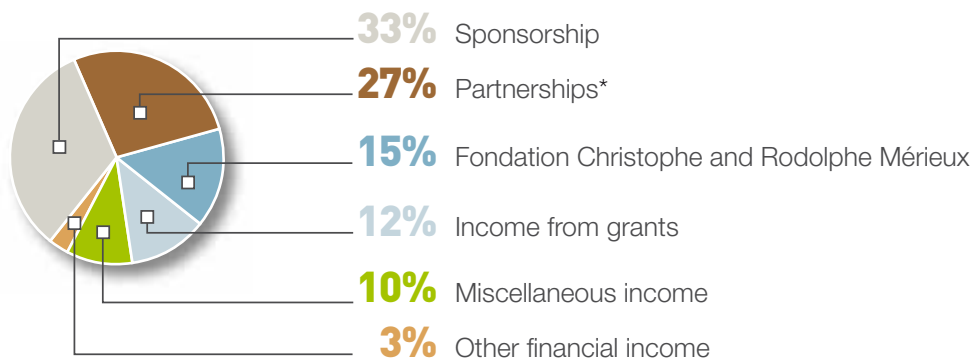
Statement of income and expenses

€ '000		
	Actual 2007	Actual 2006
INCOME		
Services	168	172
Donations	215	166
Operating grants	6,077	5,019
Other operating income	480	643
Other financial income	204	288
Exceptional income from assets reallocation	41,656	399
Total income	48,800	6,687
EXPENSES		
Operating expenses	3,297	1,979
Taxes	268	135
Personnel expenses	1,396	955
Depreciation, amortization and provisions	822	790
Grants and Fellowships	2,427	2,202
Financial expenses	392	179
Net value of reallocated assets	774	174
Total expenses	9,375	6,415
INTERMEDIATE BALANCE	39,425	272
Deferred committed income from previous years	469	
Deferred committed income	2,192	590
PROFIT OR LOSS	37,700	(318)

2007 ACCOUNTS AND KEY FIGURES

Breakdown of 2007 incomes

(not including provisions and exceptional incomes)

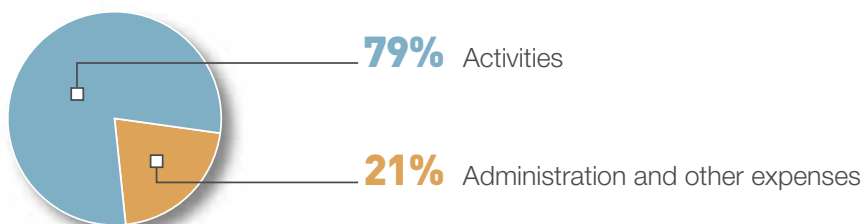


€8.8 million total for 2007

* including deferred committed income from previous year

Breakdown of 2007 expenses

(not including provisions and exceptional expenses)



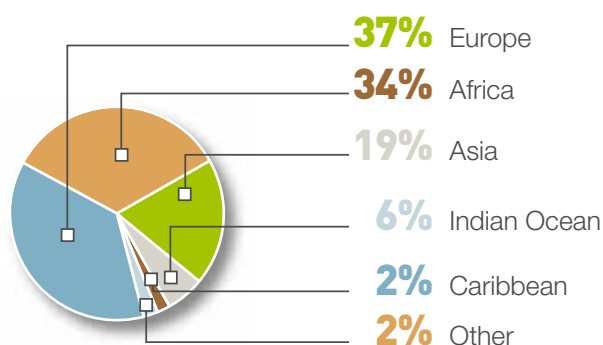
€6.6 million total for 2007

(not including deferred committed income)

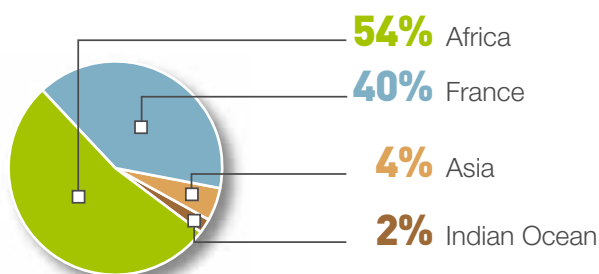
Breakdown of expenses by activity



Activities geographical segmentation as of December 31, 2007



Staff geographical segmentation as of December 31, 2007



45 people in the world

Evolutions in expenses by strategic field of activities

