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2009 ACCOUNTS AND KEY FIGURES
FONDATION MÉRIEUX
IS AN INDEPENDENT FAMILY
FOUNDATION CREATED IN 1967
WITH OFFICIAL CHARITABLE STATUS.

Fondation Mérieux focuses its expertise in clinical biology
to further the fight against infectious diseases
among vulnerable populations. It works directly
with local actors to create and strengthen biology laboratories,
and link them together via a network to allow
them to develop their local capacities in the long term.

To achieve this mission, the Foundation relies on the support
of its applied research units in Lyon and Beijing
as well as on an international network of scientific experts
who bring their skills in research, training, recruitment,
management, and maintenance.

The Foundation helps to disseminate and increase awareness
of scientific innovations throughout the world by holding training
and conferences for the international public health community
at Fondation Mérieux Conference Centre, Les Pensières.

It carries out its mission in symbiosis with
Fondation Christophe et Rodolphe Mérieux,
which is under the aegis of Institut de France.
Three years ago, at the initiative of Doctor Christophe Mérieux, we decided to focus Fondation Mérieux’s action back on the field, closer to the men, women and children who are victims of infectious diseases.

It was our aim to contribute to the fight against the threat of infection by increasing potential in clinical biology, our area of expertise.

Progressively, with support from Fondation Christophe et Rodolphe Mérieux, we have been setting up a biology laboratory network in infectious disease areas. These laboratories are a point of access to the healthcare service and their role is to improve infectious disease diagnostics and patient follow-up, train future healthcare professionals and help structure quality applied research in developing countries.

To guarantee the future of these cutting-edge units, we have striven to place them at the heart of a network of experts and partners, steered by Fondation Mérieux’s applied research teams in Lyon and Beijing. This international scientific exchange and cooperation network, GABRIEL, is now coming into its own.

2009 was the year in which this applied research potential was structured and raised up a notch, giving real significance to our action in developing countries.

We are now present in China, Cambodia, Laos, Mali, Haiti, Madagascar and, shortly, in Lebanon. We have new projects in Eastern Europe, Africa and Asia.

While we are making some progress, the needs are still unfortunately high. The devastation currently experienced in Haiti serves to remind us how extremely fragile some countries are and how unequal men and women are in terms of even basic healthcare requirements. It brings us back to our role and our duties.

Haiti will be one of our priorities in 2010. With Fondation Christophe et Rodolphe Mérieux, with support from Institut Mérieux and its companies, alongside the GHESKIO Centres, our historic partners, we are committed to a large-scale long-term programme. We owe it to the people of Haiti whose courage, energy and determination are a lesson for us all.

Alain Mérieux
2009 Highlights
ASIA

Laos
- Official opening of the Microbiology Laboratory in Thakhek → January 2009
- Official opening of the Centre of Infectiology Christophe Mérieux in Vientiane → February 2009
- Signing of a cooperation agreement between the Centre of Infectiology Christophe Mérieux and the Laos HIV/AIDS/STI Centre for the introduction of HIV viral load tests → August 2009

Cambodia
- Official opening of the Medical Biology Laboratory at the Khmer-Soviet Friendship Hospital in Phnom Penh → February 2009

Bangladesh
- Evaluation visits

AFRICA – CARIBBEAN

Haiti: Official opening of the Rodolphe Mérieux Laboratory in Port-au-Prince → February 2009
- Signing of an agreement with the French Development Agency (AFD) to develop and support the biomedical analysis laboratory network in their ongoing training and quality control roles in Burkina Faso, Mali and Senegal ("Western African Laboratory network project" RESAOLAB) → February 2009
- Awarding of funds from ACP (African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States), of one million Euros over 3 years for the implementation of the ReST-ACMI project to increase the scientific and technical capacities of laboratories in Cameroon, Mali, Madagascar and Haiti within the scope of the activities of the GABRIEL network (Global Approach for Biological Research on Infectious Diseases in Low-income countries) → November 2009
- Mali: ACTION BIOMALI programme completed → December 2009

CENTRAL ASIA

Tajikistan
- Evaluation visits

INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMMES

- "Cent Gardes" Conference in Delhi → March 2009
- Signing of partnership agreement with Institut Pasteur → April 2009
- Tenth anniversary of the international ADVAC course in vaccinology → May 2009
- Official launch of the GLOBE (Global Link for Online Biomedical Expertise) distance learning portal → June 2009
- Second Charles Mérieux Conference - Health and Training: "What contributes to the success of training healthcare workers in developing countries?" → November 2009
The launch of the RESAOLAB programme, the West African initiative aimed at increasing clinical biology capacities, in early 2009 is the result of a joint project with the Ministries of Health of Mali, Senegal and Burkina Faso. Allocated a budget of 4 million Euros over 3 years through the French Development Agency (AFD) funding and working closely with the World Health Organization (WHO) and the West African Health Organization (WAHO), this programme is intended to be extended progressively to neighboring countries.

Officially opened in January 2009, the Centre of Infectiology Christophe Mérieux in Vientiane is home to the third Rodolphe Mérieux Laboratory, which is owned by the Ministry of Health, who appointed its Director, and whose role is operational management with a view to progressive autonomy.

It should be noted that the role of Rodolphe Mérieux Laboratories is to increase capabilities to detect and identify infectious diseases to help improve patient care. Since the conception up to the
autonomy of the laboratory, the activities are conducted in close cooperation with the public and private actors associated locally in its completion and sustainability. These partnerships are intended to be long-term with the formalization of a regular consultation framework for governance follow-up (strategic consulting) and scientific or medical program follow-up (GABRIEL and RESAOLAB networks).

The fourth Rodolphe Mérieux Laboratory officially opened in Port-au-Prince in February 2009 is in keeping with the long-term cooperation with the GHESKIO¹ centres. Located outside the city centre, it partially withstood the earthquake on 12 January 2010 and is to develop new types of research programmes in its P2 and P3 level suite.

The partnership initiated with the Global Fund will enable us to work in a new context in Tajikistan to create a reference laboratory in the capital, Dushanbe, and in each of the regions.

In addition to its laboratory development and research activities, Fondation Mérieux has increased its training and knowledge exchange actions, with the organization of some thirty conferences, seminars and training sessions. The new capacities at Les Pensières Conference Centre in Annecy confirms the important role of this location in knowledge exchange on the subject of international public health.

Finally, through regular support provided by local organizations working for victims of infectious diseases, Fondation Mérieux encourages actions promoting access to diagnosis and care, for mothers and children in particular.

Overall, the resources mobilized in 2009 represent over double those in 2006 and confirm our openness to new partners and the Mérieux family’s determination to help, through actions implemented in developing countries, reduce the impact of infectious diseases on vulnerable populations.

Benoît Miribel
Director General

¹ GHESKIO: reference research and treatment centre in Haiti founded by Prof. Jean William Pape in Port-au-Prince in 1980.
Strengthening of health infrastructures
Fondation Mérieux has developed renowned know-how and expertise in the refurbishment and fitting out of clinical biology laboratories in developing countries. In the field, in partnership with the local authorities and healthcare actors, it sets up or refurbishes biology units to strengthen long-term local diagnostic and applied research capacities. **The aim is to transfer the ownership of these units to local healthcare actors so that they can become independent in the fight against infectious diseases.**

This strengthening of healthcare infrastructures is conducted within the scope of an overall multidisciplinary strategy. With decisive support from its applied research units in Lyon and Beijing, the Foundation sets up all the conditions necessary to ensure the sustainability of these laboratories: compliance with biosafety rules, management and maintenance advice, technician and researcher training, local applied research programmes and inclusion in an international network.

Funded by Fondation Christophe et Rodolphe Mérieux and set up by Fondation Mérieux, the Rodolphe Mérieux Laboratories are at the very heart of the structure. These laboratories monitor infectious diseases and offer an entry point to the healthcare service in developing countries. Devoted to diagnosis, they are required to play an essential role in prevention, particularly for immunization campaigns, epidemiological monitoring of infectious diseases and treatment efficacy follow-up.

As an integral part of the GABRIEL network, with close links with the laboratories in Beijing and Lyon and with the other partners who have joined this scientific international network, they represent the cornerstone of the Foundation’s action in the fight against infectious diseases.

In parallel with this network, the Foundation also strives to strengthen medical biology structures, especially regional hospital laboratories, to give populations access to quality diagnostics.

**2009 saw the development of the Rodolphe Mérieux Laboratory network in Asia and in Haiti and the continuation of a number of projects aiming to increase medical biology potential. The Foundation is currently present in 10 countries.**

**LAOS: STRENGTHENING OF HEALTH INFRASTRUCTURES**

In 2009, the Foundation made significant progress in this country.

**The Centre of Infectiology Christophe Mérieux was officially opened in Vientiane in January 2009.** This Centre contains a Rodolphe Mérieux Laboratory and training rooms mostly intended for educational purposes. Partnerships aimed at developing molecular biology training were set up with public hospital laboratories and the University of Health Sciences in Laos. More than 60 people have already attended these scientific courses and meetings, thus contributing to knowledge transfer.

Seven people mainly employed by the Ministry of Health of Laos, work in this Centre which is now fully operational. Currently it runs various specialized biology programmes, particularly on the subject of HIV viral load, sexually transmitted diseases (Chlamydia and Gonococcus) and tuberculosis.
A cooperation agreement between the Centre of Infectiology Christophe Mérieux and the Laos Centre for HIV/AIDS/STI was signed to introduce and distribute viral load tests more widely in this country.

Within the more general scope of the Foundation’s action against influenza A, the Vientiane Centre is taking part in the CoPanFlu (Cohort for Pandemic Influenza) program via an epidemiological study conducted in this region of Asia.

New projects are also envisaged on the subject of hepatitis (viral load monitoring) and respiratory diseases.

CAMBODIA

RODOLPHE MÉRIEUX LABORATORY: SIGNIFICANT DEVELOPMENT OF APPLIED RESEARCH PROGRAMMES

This laboratory, set up in 2005 in the Faculty of Pharmacy of Phnom Penh and equipped with three P2 suites, is currently undergoing significant development. Its highly structured teams have initiated various partnerships with international research organizations such as ANRS (National Agency for Research on AIDS and viral hepatitis), Institut Pasteur in Cambodia and the DSO Laboratory in Singapore.

The work in progress relates to the monitoring of the pathogens responsible for gastroenteritis and severe respiratory infections in children, water contamination agents and also diseases transmitted by rodents.

The laboratory is also looking into resistant tuberculosis with the development of plasma assay techniques for antibiotics (rifampin, Isoniazid).

The teams in Phnom Penh are also working on the analysis of Gluco-6-phosphate dehydrogenase (G6PD) deficiency.

REFURBISHMENT OF THE MEDICAL BIOLOGY LABORATORY IN THE LARGEST HOSPITAL IN CAMBODIA

Refurbished for the Cambodian Ministry of Health, the biology laboratory at the Khmer-Soviet Friendship Hospital was officially opened in January 2009 in Phnom Penh in partnership with Fondation Gattefossé.
Instigated by young pharmacist trained by the Foundation and with the support of a team from Biologie sans Frontières, the laboratory has started its bacteriology activities in the hospital, helping provide practitioners with quality analysis within significantly shorter time frames.

The 500-bed Khmer-Soviet Friendship Hospital treats the most patients of any hospital in Cambodia.

HAITI

OFFICIAL OPENING OF RODOLPHE MÉRIEUX LABORATORY IN PORT-AU-PRINCE

The Foundation took part in the design and fitting out of this laboratory set up in the IMIS Centre (Institute for Infectious Diseases and Reproductive Health) at the GHESKIO Centre, with whom it has been working for a number of years. Officially opened in February 2009, this powerful research tool enables work to be carried out on multi-resistant tuberculosis and follow-up of seropositive patients, major healthcare problems in this country.

Partially damaged by the earthquake that devastated the country in early 2010, the Rodolphe Mérieux Laboratory is operational once again owing to the motivation of the Foundation and GHESKIO teams.

With a very strong presence in Haiti, particularly through its historic links with Professor Jean-William Pape, the founder of the GHESKIO Centres, Fondation Mérieux, working closely with Fondation Christophe et Rodolphe Mérieux and Institut Mérieux, has launched a major long-term reconstruction programme covering various areas of action (biology structure strengthening, support for children and assistance for populations).

MALI

POSITIVE RESULTS FOR ACTION BIOMALI

Initiated in 2005, in partnership with the Malian Ministry of Health and with major funding from the European Commission (EUROPAID), the ACTION BIOMALI programme had two objectives:

● promote better patient care by increasing medical biology laboratory screening capacities throughout the territory,
● increase screening and follow-up of patients suffering from HIV, tuberculosis and malaria.

82 laboratories involved:
3 National Reference Laboratories, 3 National Hospital Centres, FMPOS University Laboratory, Bamako and Kati army garrisons, 6 Regional Hospital Centres, 59 Reference Health Centres (district hospitals), 7 private laboratories, the Rodolphe Mérieux Laboratory in Bamako.

This ambitious programme representing 4 million Euros was completed in 2009 with a remarkable outcome, with results in excess of the initial targets in some areas.
The number of people attending the ACTION BIOMALI network facilities for the diagnosis of each of the three targeted diseases increased considerably with significant progress on the subject of AIDS and malaria, enabling better patient care and an increase in epidemiological monitoring.

In the case of malaria, the number of patients present in the structures of the network has grown from 41,843 in 2006 to 69,671 in 2009.

The various training actions made it possible to develop biological diagnostic and follow-up expertise in major diseases for:

- 278 biologists, doctors and senior technicians,
- 30 senior technicians, through a diploma course,
- 142 technicians through mentoring, etc.

ACTION BIOMALI enabled almost 80 laboratories to be equipped with high-quality materials and reagents, also applying from now on quality assurance procedures and good laboratory practices harmonized and validated by the Ministry of Health.

The personnel were also trained on equipment maintenance to ensure proper management of these long-term units.

Finally, one very positive result in terms of healthcare is that the laboratories now communicate via a network and regularly exchange data, thus promoting improved infectious diseases monitoring in West Africa.

Following on from ACTION BIOMALI, the RESAOLAB project was launched in 2009. Awarded 3 million Euros in AFD funding as part of the agreement signed in February 2009, the aim of this three-year programme is to develop and support the biomedical analysis network in 3 countries in West Africa in their missions of continuous training (discussed in more detail in the Training and Knowledge Exchange section).

MADAGASCAR

REFURBISHMENT OF THE BIOLOGY LABORATORY AT FORT-DAUPHIN REGIONAL HOSPITAL

In line with the action carried out in Antsirabe, the Foundation refurbished and fitted out the laboratory at Fort-Dauphin Regional Hospital in southern Madagascar. This operation was conducted in partnership with the Madagascan Ministry of Health, thanks to funding from the World Bank.
COMPLETION OF THE CENTRE OF INFECTIOLOGY CHARLES MÉRIEUX IN ANTANANARIVO

The construction of the Centre on the site of the Antananarivo Faculty of Medicine was completed in 2009. It will house the applied research activities in the Rodolphe Mérieux Laboratory, particularly projects on assessing the performance of a rapid diagnostic test for malaria and fever monitoring in children under 5 years of age.

The Centre also has a training role, particularly providing support for the students of the Faculty of Pharmacy.

LEBANON
CONSTRUCTION OF A RODOLPHE MÉRIEUX LABORATORY IN BEIRUT

Following a cooperation agreement signed with St Joseph University in Beirut in late 2008, the construction work for a Rodolphe Mérieux Laboratory on University premises was started in 2009. This laboratory, which is scheduled to open in the second half of 2010, will essentially have higher education and research roles. It is to join the GABRIEL scientific network.

NEW PARTNERSHIPS...

Loyal to its public healthcare role, Fondation Mérieux intends to be present on all infectious disease fronts to give vulnerable populations access to quality care and diagnostics and increase epidemiological monitoring potential.

It is constantly initiating new projects to increase clinical biology potential all over the world.

In 2009, it looked into the possibility of meeting major healthcare needs in Central Asia, in Tajikistan, where partnership opportunities are opening up with the Global Fund to fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria and the Aga Khan Foundation.

The projects involve the refurbishment of regional tuberculosis laboratories and the setting up of a Rodolphe Mérieux Laboratory.
Applied research
To increase its expertise in the fight against infectious diseases and share this expertise with the laboratories it sets up in the field, the Foundation has built up its own integrated applied research potential supported by two units:

● the Emerging Pathogens Laboratory in Gerland (Lyon),
● the Christophe Mérieux Laboratory in Beijing, managed in conjunction with the Chinese Academy of Medical Sciences (CAMS),

boosted by a recently created international scientific cooperation network: GABRIEL.

The Foundation’s teams work on the assessment, validation and development of diagnostic tools for monitoring infectious diseases in national reference laboratories. With their partners, these teams aim to compile reliable exploitable epidemiological databases to help implement relevant healthcare policies. The research programmes conducted also relate to the identification and characterization of new pathogens. To this end, they enjoy special access to the Peking Union Medical College Hospital where the Christophe Mérieux Laboratory is based and to the Jean Mérieux P4 Laboratory (Lyon, France), exclusively dedicated to research on emerging pathogens.

2009 saw the strengthening of the Foundation’s research teams, the structuring of the GABRIEL international network currently involving more than 48 scientists and the signing of a cooperation agreement with Institut Pasteur.

A STRONG NETWORK IMPETUS

STRUCTURING OF THE GABRIEL NETWORK

Initiated in 2008, the role of the GABRIEL (Global Approach for Biological Research on Infectious Epidemics in Low-income countries) laboratory network is three-fold:

● transferring the know-how and knowledge required for advanced applied research on infectious diseases in emerging countries,

● conducting international multi-centre epidemiological studies,

● helping optimize and guide healthcare policies.

Around the Foundation’s two research units in Lyon and Beijing, GABRIEL links the Rodolphe Mérieux Laboratories, local reference laboratories, representatives of international academic or private research, such as FioCruz in Brazil or Chinese Academy of Medical Sciences (CAMS) in China and universities (Columbia University, Cornell University, University of Lyon) and hospitals in France (AP-HP in Paris, HCL in Lyon). This network is also open to the diagnostics industry (Affymetrix, bioMérieux, Hain, FastTrack Diagnostics, etc.) and benefits from partnerships with INSERM, Institut Pasteur and WHO.

2009 saw a major rollout and structuring of GABRIEL which now includes representatives from 13 countries: China, Laos, Cambodia, Mali, Madagascar, Haiti, Lebanon, Brazil, France, Luxembourg, Paraguay, Mongolia and Singapore.
The members of the network met for the second time since its inception at Les Pensières Conference Centre in December 2009 for feedback and a review of the various projects and prospects opening up for the network. This meeting also offered an opportunity to present GABRIEL to potential partners and generated considerable interest.

Various study groups were initiated in 2009 on themes of general interest such as bioethics, biosafety, logistic aspects associated with applied research, etc. Operational tools have been implemented, in particular with the drafting of a network member charter and the launch of a distance education and discussion platform, GLOBE (discussed in more detail in the Training and Knowledge Exchange section).

Significant progress has been achieved to speed up knowledge exchange with, in particular, technology transfers (influenza A molecular screening, resistant tuberculosis, etc.) and a number of scientist and technician training actions by the laboratories in Lyon and Beijing.

ReST-ACMI PROJECT LAUNCH

Another important milestone of 2009, the GABRIEL network was awarded ACP and European Commission funding amounting to 1 million Euros over 3 years, confirming the relevance of its international scientific cooperation approach. This funding will enable the launch of a support programme against infectious diseases in the African-Caribbean region: ReST-ACMI.

The "African-Caribbean Network for Science & Technology supporting the fight against infectious diseases" includes five partners: the Rodolphe Mérieux Laboratory in the University of Antananarivo, the Rodolphe Mérieux Laboratory in the Charles Mérieux Centre in Bamako, the GHESKIO Centres in Port-au-Prince, the Biotechnology Centre of the University of Yaoundé and Fondation Mérieux in France.

The funding obtained will make it possible to:

- develop a network between the various countries involved in this region and establish links with other existing international organizations,
- promote and harmonize research at a national and local level,
- and improve skills in the scientific community through training: research methodologies, quality assurance, research project management, distribution and communication of results, etc.

ReST-ACMI should particularly make it possible to reinforce applied research on the subject of tuberculosis and Acute Lower Respiratory Infections (ALRI) with the implementation of common research projects and the harmonization of research methods for these diseases.
NEW PROSPECTS WITH INSTITUT PASTEUR

In April 2009, Fondation Mérieux and Institut Pasteur signed an agreement intended to promote cooperation and combined expertise in the fight against infectious diseases in developing countries. This partnership has four aims:

- develop diagnostic tools adapted to local constraints,
- federate local and international initiatives in a common healthcare context,
- support applied research of specific diseases in poor countries,
- transfer knowledge and operational tools in the field.

It will enable the development of interactions between the International Institut Pasteur Network and the members of Fondation Mérieux’s GABRIEL network. Various joint projects have thus been initiated in the field in Madagascar, Laos, Cambodia and China.

RESPIRATORY INFECTIONS: A PRIORITY RESEARCH AREA

The Foundation’s laboratory teams in Lyon and Beijing have conducted extensive research on respiratory infections, particularly healthcare priorities such as pneumonia, influenza and tuberculosis.

IMPROVING MULTI-RESISTANT TUBERCULOSIS DIAGNOSIS

While tuberculosis continues to devastate in developing countries and treatment resistances are increasing significantly, particularly in Asia and in Africa, the healthcare sector is lacking reliable epidemiological data that could give a clearer idea of this scourge. The techniques currently available are expensive, slow (around 8 weeks) and involve contamination risks during handling for both technicians and the environment. In partnership with Hain-Lifescience, FIND Foundation and UNITAID, Fondation Mérieux has introduced a molecular diagnostic technique for multi-resistant tuberculosis in the GABRIEL network, offering rapid reliable results under safe conditions, for improved patient care. This test should make it possible to conduct reliable epidemiological studies to assess the prevalence and progression of multi-resistant tuberculosis and adopt healthcare policies accordingly.

The Foundation now intends to broaden the scope of its research to other tuberculosis drug resistances in partnership with CAMS, Harvard University, WHO and Ecole Polytechnique de Lausanne, through a tuberculosis bacillus genome sequencing project, supported by the Rodolphe Mérieux Laboratories.
COMBATING ACUTE LOWER RESPIRATORY INFECTIONS IN CHILDREN

These infections currently represent the primary cause of mortality for children in developing countries: one child dies from pneumonia every 15 seconds... Two million die each year... Over 20 different viruses and many bacteria are the cause of these infections.

Identifying and understanding these pathogens, that are sometimes multi-resistant, are a priority for the Foundation. For this purpose, it initiated a multi-center study in partnership with the Luxembourg company, Fast-Track Diagnostics, the members of the GABRIEL network, local pediatric departments and microbiology laboratories. Through the use of standardized tests, the study should make it possible to specify the cause of these diseases by identifying the pathogens involved, the analysis of the pneumococcal serotypes involved in the different countries all over the world and also in antibiotic resistance phenomena. The results of this study should promote a better prevention policy, particularly by anticipating the impact of immunization.

FONDATION MÉRIEUX MOBILIZES ITS FORCES IN THE FIGHT AGAINST INFLUENZA A

The mobilization of the applied research teams has made it possible to validate a molecular diagnostic kit for the detection of influenza A H1N1 and make it available to members of the GABRIEL network, through specific training, in Haiti, Brazil, China, Mali, Lebanon, Madagascar, Laos and France.

The Foundation is also involved in the CoPanFlu program, coordinated by EHESP, and aimed at implementing an international epidemiological influenza study.

More broadly, work conducted by the Foundation in partnership with the North American company Affymetrix has also enabled the development of a genomic analysis tool of the various influenza virus strains. This tool, which should make it possible to track genetic mutations of influenza viruses within the scope of WHO monitoring networks, has been operational since 2009.
FURTHER AIMS FOR APPLIED RESEARCH

In 2009, the Foundation continued its research on various diseases representing major healthcare issues in developing countries:

- hemorrhagic fevers, particularly with research conducted in partnership with the French Military Health Services on the Crimea Congo virus, at the Jean Mérieux P4 Laboratory,
- diarrheic diseases, with the Beijing unit and the Rodolphe Mérieux Laboratory in Cambodia,
- malaria in Madagascar (benefit of screening) and Cambodia (enzyme deficiency and mixed infections),
- HIV in Laos.

Eric Leroy, 2009 Christophe Mérieux Prize winner

The latest prize was awarded to Dr. Eric Leroy and his team for their work on emerging viral diseases in Central Africa.

Representing 400,000 Euros, this Prize awarded by Institut de France for Fondation Christophe et Rodolphe Mérieux is intended to assist research on infectious diseases in developing countries and reward research teams working continuously in the very heart of these countries.

Dr. Eric Leroy is the Director of Research at Institut de Recherche pour le Développement and Director of the Emerging Viral Disease Unit at Centre International de Recherches Médicales de Franceville (CIRMF), in Gabon.

His best-known research has enabled the characterization of the Ebola virus genome and understanding of the mechanisms of onset in humans and great apes. The research unit directed by Dr. Eric Leroy is home to one of the only high-safety laboratories on the African continent fit for handling highly pathogenic viruses. It is equipped with a technical platform suitable for diagnosing most forms of viral hemorrhagic fever and arboviruses liable to prevail in Central Africa. On a regular basis, it diagnoses suspected cases and epidemics of Ebola and arboviruses in Gabon and throughout Central Africa, at the request of WHO and the countries concerned.

The Christophe Mérieux Prize will provide support for a project for a joint laboratory associating CIRMF and the Faculty of Medicine on the Health Science University campus in Libreville. This new unit is set to become an observatory of transmissible diseases. The combination of service, research and training, in a hospital-university partnership, will be unique in Central Africa.
Training and
knowledge exchange
In order to promote appropriation of the tools implemented in developing countries and support those directly involved in healthcare in their countries, the Foundation has placed training and the dissemination of scientific innovation at the heart of its action.

For this purpose, it relies on the capacities of Les Pensières Conference Centre, located on the banks of Lake Annecy and dedicated to international public health. Over the past year, 1500 people took part in the Foundation’s lectures and conferences worldwide. This number is constantly on the rise, helping increase the skills essential for the implementation of effective healthcare policies in developing countries.

**Dedicated to healthcare professionals and scientists, the bilingual GLOBE Internet portal aims to improve and increase expertise and develop and motivate an international exchange network.**

Over the past year, 1500 people took part in the Foundation’s lectures and conferences worldwide. This number is constantly on the rise, helping increase the skills essential for the implementation of effective healthcare policies in developing countries.

**GLOBE uses new technologies of information and communication to promote North-South and South-South exchanges. GLOBE users are invited to play an active role and to contribute to the dynamism of the network.**

**Three primary themes are discussed:**

- **Science and biology laboratory activities:** strengthening of biomedical laboratory management quality by making available various technical procedures,
- **Epidemiology and disease monitoring:** improvement of basic knowledge by providing specific tools required to conduct epidemiological studies and set up monitoring systems,
- **Prevention and vaccines:** development of skills and raising awareness of prevention activities, particularly those associated with vaccines, identification of local expertise, support for a specific experience exchange network.

**Actions conducted by the Foundation in 2009 include:** expert or laboratory technician training, diploma training, international scientific conferences, information and exchange portal, setting of sub-regional laboratory network.

GLOBE: OFFICIAL LAUNCH IN JUNE 2009

2009 was marked by the launch of the GLOBE (Global Link for Online Biomedical Expertise) portal, an operational online biomedical training and information tool.

The portal is intended to be very operational by offering various online tools:

- **An exchange platform** and a private work environment for various professional networks (GABRIEL, RESAOLAB, etc.),
● **e-learning** via interactive modules and standard procedures,

● **online library with documentary resources, news and events.**

Biologie Sans Frontières, the University of Geneva, WHO and the company IXXO are the partners of this programme and participate to its development and diffusion.

From July to December 2009, more than 1,200 persons from 95 countries have connected to GLOBE and used online services. The network counts today 120 members including GABRIEL and RESAOLAB networks.

**HEALTHCARE PROFESSIONAL TRAINING**

**TENTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ADVAC INTERNATIONAL COURSE IN VACCINOLOGY**

ADVAC celebrated its tenth edition at Les Pensières Conference Centre, in the presence of Professor Stanley Plotkin. Since its inception in 2000, almost 650 people have attended the international ADVAC course (Advanced Vaccinology). Doctors, academics, industrialists from 93 countries have thus contributed to the success of this course and its international reputation.

Organized in partnership with the University of Geneva and Sanofi Pasteur MSD, ADVAC covers a range of themes: research and development on new vaccines, epidemiological, economic and ethical issues, immunization strategies, vaccine safety and communication issues.

**EUROPEAN COURSE IN APPLIED EPIDEMIOLOGY: INTOEPI**

Fondation Mérieux has set up this European course in epidemiology, in partnership with the European Center of Disease Control and Epiconcept.

The primary aim of this three-week course targeted at healthcare professionals is to increase the participants’ expertise in monitoring and applied research activities.

The first edition of this course was attended by 28 participants from 25 European countries, giving them an opportunity to discuss and enhance their knowledge of epidemiology methods.

One of the long-term aims is to set up an epidemiologist network sharing a common methodology and working together.

**FRENCH VACCINOLOGY COURSE**

The Foundation organized, in partnership with the University of Geneva and Sanofi Pasteur MSD, three French Courses of Vaccinology entitled “Why vaccinate children and adolescents? When and why not to vaccinate”?

268 health professionals participated to these trainings held in Paris, Tours and Rouen.
RESAOLAB
OPERATIONAL LAUNCH

Initiated in 2008 in a partnership with the Ministries of Health in the three countries concerned (Mali, Burkina Faso, Senegal), RESAOLAB entered its operational phase in 2009. Lasting for three years and receiving financial support from AFD (French Development Agency), the purpose of this programme is to increase the potential of diagnostic laboratories. It focuses on three main subjects: continuous staff training, quality management and epidemiological monitoring.

These areas are approached transversally across the three countries so as to pool the knowledge and expertise of each one. The long-term aim is to harmonize practices and set up a sub-regional laboratory network.

The programme was organized in 2009 with a first steering committee in Dakar, the recruitment of a project manager in each country and the set-up of national committees. The work carried out so far has been used to prepare a quality assurance plan and an equipment and training programme.

RESAOLAB follows on from the ACTION BIOMALI programme completed in 2009 with very positive results, mentioned in the Strengthening of Health Infrastructures section.

UNIVERSITY COURSES IN CAMBODIA AND MADAGASCAR

Fondation Mérieux pursued its actions supporting university training for pharmacy students in Cambodia, in the Phnom Penh Faculty of Pharmacy, and also in Madagascar.

Since 2006, Fondation Mérieux has been involved in Antananarivo in a partnership with Fondation Pierre Fabre and the Faculties of Pharmacy in Grenoble and Toulouse in training pharmacy students: refurbishment of lecture and practical rooms, and elaborating course content. 25 students should graduate in pharmacy in 2010 after 5 years of study. A total of 100 students are currently enrolled in this university course.

BAMS COURSE IN MALI:
SECOND GRADUATE CLASS

Managed by the Charles Mérieux Centre in Bamako, the BAMS (Bachelor of Science in Biological and Applied Medical Sciences) laboratory technician course is organized with the Bamako Faculty of Medicine and Pharmacy and ESTBB (Ecole Supérieure de Techniciens Biochimie-Biologie – Université Catholique de Lyon). After the first course was successfully completed in 2008, 16 further students graduated in 2009, laboratory professionals from Mali, Burkina Faso, Senegal and Niger. The third class of BAMS students started in September.
MAJOR SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

“MOVING FORWARD IN THE DIAGNOSIS OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES”

After a first conference in 2008 focusing on the issue of tuberculosis diagnosis in developing countries, the Foundation organized a second conference on malaria, in partnership with WHO and Roll Back Malaria. Researchers, scientists and doctors from all over the world attended presentations and discussions on the epidemiological status of the disease, the various diagnostic technologies currently available and the prospects offered by research, increasing local diagnostic capacities.

“CENT GARDES” CONFERENCE

The "Cent Gardes" conference was held in Delhi (India) in March 2009 and focused on HIV / Tuberculosis and HIV / Hepatitis coinfections. After the opening of the conference by Professor Françoise BARRE-SINOUSSI, Nobel Prizewinner for Medicine, 90 researchers and doctors attended presentations based on the following themes: epidemiology, immunopathology, immunization, diagnosis and clinical patient follow-up, treatments and vaccination strategies.

SECOND CHARLES MÉRIEUX CONFERENCE

This conference organized in November 2009 in partnership with Centre Jacques Cartier focused on the theme "What contributes to the success of training healthcare workers in developing countries". 200 people took part in the various workshops organized within the scope of this conference with contributions from major international names such as Professor Ogobara Doumbo, Doctor Jean-Christophe Rufin and Professor Elias Zerhouni.

SCIENTIFIC CONFERENCES AT LES PENSIÈRES AND ABROAD

The Foundation organized various international conferences, in partnership with Sanofi Pasteur and other major industrial firms in the health sector. More than 800 people took part in these events discussing specific healthcare themes:

- "Antigenic variation and immune evasion" ➔ April 2009, Les Pensières (Annecy, France)
- "Infectious diseases: from basis to translational research" ➔ April 2009, Cape Town (South Africa)
- "Cholera vaccine" ➔ April 2009, Les Pensières
- "Vaccine acceptability" ➔ April 2009, Les Pensières
"Combining immunotherapy and vaccination to treat chronic infectious diseases"
➔ June 2009, Les Pensières

"Current challenges and new methodological approaches to access vaccine effectiveness and vaccination impact"
➔ September 2009, Les Pensières

"Aging and immunity"
➔ September 2009, Sienna (Italy)

"Global Laboratory Initiative (GLI) meeting on tuberculosis"
➔ October 2009, Les Pensières

"Workshop: Vaccine and infectious diseases"
➔ October 2009, Osaka (Japan)

POST-DOCTORAL GRANTS
FOCUS ON NEGLECTED TROPICAL DISEASES
In 2009, the Foundation continued to award post-doctoral grants to young researchers from African institutions to enable them to conduct research projects on neglected tropical diseases. It is important to note that “neglected” diseases have devastating effects in developing countries. Leishmaniasis, onchocerciasis, lymphatic filariasis, schistosomiasis, trypanosomiasis are all diseases with a low mortality rate, but a particularly high morbidity, affecting over one billion people, excluding them from economic and social life.

The Foundation is involved in a grant programme launched in 2008 along with four other European foundations: Fondazione Cariplo, Fundação Calouste Gulbenkian, Nuffield Foundation and Volkswagen Stiftung.

30 grants up to 120,000 Euros should be awarded over 3 years.

Of the 100 projects submitted, 20 were short-listed in June 2009 for a final selection in early 2010.

PROJECT GRANTS
The Foundation has also allocated grants from different training projects. Among the projects selected in 2009:

● Training of health professionals on humanitarian actions – Humacoop NGO – France

● University degree on retrovirology at the University Cheick Anta Diop of Dakar – Senegal

● Master on politics and public health management – Ecole des Hautes Etudes en Santé Publique – France

● University of young researchers – Sidaction - France
Mother-Child Support

Besides strengthening clinical biology potential, the Foundation strives to improve healthcare for victims of infectious diseases, particularly women and children.

CREATION OF STREET CHILDREN HEALTH SOLIDARITY FUND

This fund was set up in 2009 to cover projects in Mali, Senegal, Madagascar and Haiti. It has enabled:

- In Senegal: support from the Dakar social emergency services (SAMU SOCIAL) for the care of children.
- In Madagascar: support provided to various associations within the scope of the Antsirabe Lutheran Hospital to assist deprived children.
- In Mali, the implementation of agreements with National hospitals and social emergency services for the care of hospitalized patients and street children.

Some figures for SAMU SOCIAL in Bamako in 2009: 864 treatments provided, 127 hospitalizations and 157 cases of medical support, 753 health education “talks”, including 578 on the streets.

MICRO-CREDITS DEVELOPMENT

- In Haiti, in partnership with the association ACME (Association pour la Coopération avec la Micro-Entreprise), continuation of the micro-credit programme for seropositive women followed in the GHESKIO Centres.
- In Mali: support for micro-credit projects of the Women Association to Help and Support the Widows and Orphans of AIDS, funded by Fondation Marc and Fondation Mérieux.

Since 2005 and up to the end of 2009, 1,800 beneficiaries with a 92% repayment rate.
TUBERCULOSIS AND HIV DIAGNOSIS STRENGTHENING

- **China:** in conjunction with the Chinese Ministry of Health and the National Reference Laboratory for tuberculosis (Chinese CDC), support action for patients failing tuberculosis treatment in the Zhe Jiang and Heilong Jiang provinces.

- **Laos:** introduction by the Centre of Infectiology Christophe Mérieux of the viral load for the therapeutic follow-up of patients living with HIV.

- **Ethiopia:** support for access to diagnostics and care for patients infected with tuberculosis in rural environments in the Southern region of the country. Action conducted in partnership with Inter Aide and the regional health authorities.

**Within the scope of the assessment of patients under treatment, the calculations demonstrate a 92% recovery rate and a 5% mortality rate.**

**2280 new cases were diagnosed, 94% of which during the first 3 months of infection.**

ASSOCIATION SUPPORT FOR FIELD PROJECTS

- **With Fondation Franco-Malgache pour le Développement:** sponsorship agreement for a support training project for Aquasure, a pilot surface water treatment programme to produce drinking water in Madagascar.

- **In Mauritius:** support for Association Chrysalide for the reintegration of sero-positive women co-infected with hepatitis.
Governance
at December 31, 2009

BOARDS OF DIRECTORS

Representatives of the Founding Members:
- Alain MÉRIEUX - President
- Claudine FRIEH
- Karine MEHLER
- Sophie MÉRIEUX
- Alexandre MÉRIEUX

Qualified persons:
- Pr. Christian BRÉCHOT
- Didier CHERPITEL
- Pr. François GROS
- Dominique PELLA
- Pr. Dominique PEYRAMOND
- Dr. Robert SEBBAG

Government representative:
- Monsieur LE PRÉFET DU RHÔNE

SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE

- Pr. Françoise BARRE-SINOUSI*
  Institut Pasteur (France)

- Pr. Steward COLE
  École Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne (Switzerland)

- Pr. Ogobara DOUMBO
  Malaria Research and Training Center, Bamako (Mali)

- Pr. Pierre-Marie GIRARD
  Institut de Médecine et d’Épidémiologie Appliquée
  Hôpital Bichat, Paris (France)

- Dr. David HEYMANN
  Health Protection Agency (Royaume-Uni)

- Dr. Kai Man KAM
  Tuberculosis reference laboratory,
  Department of Health, Hong Kong (China)

- Pr. Arnold S. MONTO
  University of Michigan (U.S.A.)

- Pr. Johan NEYTS
  Faculté de Médecine de l’Université de Louvain (Belgium)

- Pr. Albert OSTERHAUS
  Erasmus University Rotterdam (The Netherlands)

- Pr. Fabien ZOULIM
  INSERM - Lyon (France)

* Since March 2010.

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

- Benoît MIRIBEL
  Director General
- Paul CAROLY
  General Secretary
- Dr. Christophe LONGUET
  Medical Director
- Guy VERNET
  Scientific Director
Main partners

- AGENCE DE MÉDECINE PRÉVENTIVE
- ASSOCIATION POUR LA COOPÉRATION AVEC LA MICRO ENTREPRISE (ACME)
- BILL AND MELINDA GATES FOUNDATION
- BIOMÉRIEUX
- CHINESE ACADEMY OF MEDICAL SCIENCES (CAMS)
- CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL
- CENTRE JACQUES CARTIER
- CHILDREN’S VACCINE PROGRAM AT PATH
- CRUCELL BERNA BIOTECH
- ECOLE DES HAUTES ÉTUDES EN SANTÉ PUBLIQUE
- EPICONCEPT
- EUROPEAN CENTRE FOR DISEASE PREVENTION AND CONTROL
- EUROPEAN COMMISSION
- EUROPEAN SOCIETY FOR PAEDIATRIC INFECTIOUS DISEASES
- EUROPEAN VACCINES MANUFACTURERS
- FIOCRUZ
- FONDAZIONE CARIPLO
- FONDATION CHRISTOPHE ET RODOLPHE MERIEUX
- FONDATION GATTEFOSSE
- FUNDAÇÃO CALOUSTE GULBENKIAN
- GHESKIO
- GLAXOSMITHKLINE
- INTER AIDE
- INSTITUT PASTEUR
- IXXO
- JOHNS HOPKINS BLOOMBERG SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH
- MERCK
- NATIONAL FOUNDATION FOR INFECTIOUS DISEASES
- NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF ALLERGY AND INFECTIOUS DISEASES
- NATIONAL VACCINE PROGRAMME OFFICE
- NOVARTIS VACCINES
- NUFFIELD FOUNDATION
- PFIZER
- ROLL BACK MALARIA
- SAMU SOCIAL
- SANOFI PASTEUR
- SANOFI PASTEUR MSD
- UNIVERSITY OF GENEVA
- VOLKSWAGEN STIFTUNG
- WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION
### Balance Sheet

**Assets**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Fixed Assets</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Intangible fixed assets</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Property, plant and equipment</td>
<td>4,820</td>
<td>5,631</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Investments and other financial assets</td>
<td>17,606</td>
<td>19,917</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>22,427</td>
<td>25,550</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Current Assets</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inventories</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accounts receivable</td>
<td>870</td>
<td>789</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other receivables</td>
<td>5,366</td>
<td>2,129</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Short and long term investments</td>
<td>76,790</td>
<td>78,357</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cash and cash equivalents</td>
<td>1,096</td>
<td>477</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deferred charges</td>
<td>306</td>
<td>264</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>84,438</td>
<td>82,017</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Assets</strong></td>
<td>106,865</td>
<td>107,567</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Capital and Liabilities**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Foundation Capital</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Capital</td>
<td>64,916</td>
<td>64,700</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reserves</td>
<td>884</td>
<td>884</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Retained earnings</td>
<td>30,142</td>
<td>37,429</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Annual result</td>
<td>(1,784)</td>
<td>(7,287)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>94,158</td>
<td>95,726</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Provisions for contingencies</td>
<td>302</td>
<td>241</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Appropriations for Foundation activities</td>
<td>571</td>
<td>2,149</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Liabilities**

<p>| | | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Financial debts</td>
<td>3,791</td>
<td>3,244</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accounts payable</td>
<td>1,419</td>
<td>1,099</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Financial commitments</td>
<td>1,408</td>
<td>4,175</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other debts</td>
<td>644</td>
<td>613</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deferred income</td>
<td>4,570</td>
<td>320</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unrealized currency adjustments</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>11,834</td>
<td>9,451</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Capital &amp; Liabilities</strong></td>
<td>106,865</td>
<td>107,567</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>€’000</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2009</td>
<td>2008</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>INCOME</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Services revenue</td>
<td>162</td>
<td>169</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Donations</td>
<td>336</td>
<td>207</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Operating subsidies</td>
<td>4,353</td>
<td>4,559</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Depreciations and expenditure carried forward</td>
<td>198</td>
<td>244</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other current business income</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>273</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other financial income</td>
<td>92</td>
<td>103</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Financial depreciations carried forward</td>
<td>3,540</td>
<td>53</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net income from short term investments</td>
<td>734</td>
<td>1,118</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Extraordinary income</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total income</strong></td>
<td><strong>9,428</strong></td>
<td><strong>6,726</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>EXPENDITURE</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>External purchase and expenditure</td>
<td>4,701</td>
<td>2,787</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Taxes and duties</td>
<td>363</td>
<td>259</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Salaries</td>
<td>1,471</td>
<td>1,263</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social contributions</td>
<td>666</td>
<td>560</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Allowances for amortization and operating expenses</td>
<td>1,066</td>
<td>816</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Donations and subsidies received</td>
<td>3,717</td>
<td>3,603</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grants allocated</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Financial provisions and depreciation</td>
<td>513</td>
<td>4,750</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net book value of sold assets</td>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other miscellaneous expenditure</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Financial expenses</td>
<td>157</td>
<td>85</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exceptional costs</td>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Allowances for extraordinary amortizations and contingencies</td>
<td>61</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Income tax</td>
<td></td>
<td>-2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total expenditure</strong></td>
<td><strong>12,791</strong></td>
<td><strong>14,177</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>INTERMEDIATE BALANCE</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Income carried forward from previous years</td>
<td>2,149</td>
<td>2,313</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Commitments on assigned resources</td>
<td>571</td>
<td>2,149</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>ANNUAL RESULT</strong></td>
<td><strong>-1,784</strong></td>
<td><strong>-7,288</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
FONDATION MERICUX
Foundation recognized as being of public utility
17 rue Bourgelot
69002 LYON

Statutory auditors’ report on the financial statements
Year ended December 31, 2009

This is a free translation into English of the statutory auditor’s report issued in French and is provided solely for the convenience of English speaking users. The statutory auditor’s report includes information specifically required by French law in such reports, whether modified or not. This information is presented below the opinion on the Foundation’s financial statement and includes an explanatory paragraph discussing the auditor’s assessment of certain significant accounting and auditing matters. These assessments were considered for the purpose of issuing an audit opinion on the Foundation’s financial statements taken as a whole and not to provide separate assurance on individual account captions or an information taken outside of the Foundation’s financial statements. This report should be read in conjunction and construed in accordance with French law and professional auditing standards applicable in France.

To the Directors,

In accordance with our appointment as statutory auditor by your Committee, we hereby report to you for the year ended December 31, 2009 on:

- the audit of the accompanying financial statements of FONDATION MERICUX;
- the justification of our assessments;
- the specific verifications and disclosures required by law.

These financial statements have been approved by the Committee. Our role is to express an opinion on these financial statements, based on our audit.

1. OPINION ON THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

We conducted our audit in accordance with professional practice standards applicable in France. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, using sample testing techniques or other selection methods, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a reasonable basis for our opinion.

In our opinion, the financial statements give a true and fair view of the financial position and the assets and liabilities of the Foundation as of December 31, 2009 and the results of its operations for the year then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in France.
II. JUSTIFICATION OF OUR ASSESSMENTS

In accordance with the requirements of article L.823-9 of the French Commercial Code (Code de commerce) relating to the justification of our assessments, we hereby inform you that our assessments covered the appropriateness of the accounting policies adopted. These assessments were performed as part of our audit approach for the financial statements taken as a whole and contributed to the expression of our opinion in the first part of this report.

III. SPECIFIC VERIFICATIONS AND DISCLOSURES

We have also performed the specific verifications provided for by law, in accordance with the professional practice standards applicable in France.

We have no comment to make as to the fair presentation and consistency with the financial statements of the information given in the financial report and in the documents addressed to the Directors with respect to the financial position and the financial statements.

Villeurbanne, June 4, 2010
The Statutory Auditor
DELOITTE & ASSOCIÉS
French original signed by Nathalie LORENZO CASQUET

As statutory auditors of FONDATION MERIEUX, we hereby confirm that the above translation of our auditors' report on the financial statements of FONDATION MERIEUX for the year ended December 31, 2009 appropriately reflects the content and opinion of our original report issued in French language.

For identification purpose, we also confirm that the financial statements of FONDATION MERIEUX for the year ended December 31, 2009 show:

- revenues of 4 945 618 euros;
- operating income of -3 377 519 euros;
- net income of -1 784 364 euros;
- shareholders' equity of 94 157 733 euros;
- total assets and liabilities of 106 864 503 euros

This is a free translation into English of the statutory auditors' report on the financial statements issued in the French language and is provided solely for the convenience of English speaking users.

The statutory auditors' report includes information specifically required by French law in such reports, whether qualified or not. This information is presented above the opinion on the financial statements and includes an explanatory paragraph discussing the auditors' assessments of certain significant accounting and auditing matters. These assessments were considered for the purpose of issuing an audit opinion on the financial statements taken as a whole and not to provide separate assurance on individual account captions or on information taken outside of the financial statements.

This report should be read in conjunction with, and is consigned in accordance with, French law and professional auditing standards applicable in France.

Villeurbanne, June 30, 2010
The Statutory Auditor
DELOITTE & ASSOCIÉS
Nathalie LORENZO CASQUET
BREAKDOWN OF 2009 INCOMES
(not including provisions and exceptional incomes)

- Income from Foundation Capital: 33%
- Miscellaneous Incomes: 2%
- Other Revenue: 4%

€11.9 million total for 2009

(1) including bioMérieux in-kind donation
(2) including deferred committed income from previous year

BREAKDOWN OF 2009 EXPENSES
(not including provisions and exceptional expenses)

- Administration and Other Expenses: 22%
- Activities: 78%

€11.9 M million total for 2009
(not including deferred committed income)

BREAKDOWN OF EXPENSES BY ACTIVITY

- Applied Research: 28%
- Strengthening of Health Infrastructures: 12%
- International Offices: 10%

- Training and Knowledge Exchange: 40%
- Mother-Child Support: 9%
- Specific Projects: 1%
GEOGRAPHICAL SEGMENTATION OF ACTIVITIES

- CARIBBEAN: 3%
- INDIAN OCEAN: 12%
- AFRICA: 27%
- EUROPE: 34%
- ASIA: 24%

79 persons in the world

STAFF GEOGRAPHICAL SEGMENTATION

- CARIBBEAN: 1%
- INDIAN OCEAN: 4%
- ASIA: 10%
- FRANCE: 52%
- AFRICA: 33%

EVOLUTIONS IN EXPENSES BY FIELD OF ACTIVITIES

- Strengthening of health infrastructures: 388, 478, 251, 104, 500
- Applied research: 1,266, 2,643, 3,665, 1,266, 1,496
- Training and knowledge exchange: 478, 2,567, 1,914, 2,271, 1,124
- Mother-Child support: 2,227, 2,643, 3,685, 2,929, 2,567
- Specific projects: 397, 874, 87, 45

2007: 388, 478, 251, 104, 500
2008: 1,266, 2,643, 3,665, 1,266, 1,496
2009: 478, 2,567, 1,914, 2,271, 1,124
2010: 2,227, 2,643, 3,685, 2,929, 2,567
(estimate)