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Mérieux Foundation 50th Anniversary

Les Pensières – Center for Global Health
September 14, 2017

The Anniversary

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Speaker biographies

Presentation of the Mérieux Foundation

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The anniversary

To mark its 50th anniversary, the Mérieux Foundation is organizing an International Meeting at the Les Pensières Center for Global Health on the shores of Lake Annecy. The aim of this day is to highlight new collaborative international approaches for fighting the increased risk of epidemics.

Over 150 scientists, researchers, doctors, biologists, humanitarian players and representatives from international organizations, hailing from West Africa, Asia, Latin America, Madagascar, Haiti and the Middle East are meeting together to share their experiences at three round tables dedicated to key challenges:

- **Epidemic risks in developing countries**, chaired by Professor Christian Bréchet, President of Institut Pasteur, France
- **New dynamics in health capacity building: leveraging local resources**, chaired by Professor Ogobara Doumbo, Director of the Malaria Research and Training Centre, Faculty of Medicine, University of Bamako, Mali
- **The global health approach: bringing vulnerable populations more than medical care**, chaired by Dr. Jean William Pape, Founder and Director of the GHESKIO Centers, Haiti

Round table 1: Epidemic risks in developing countries

Man is evolving in an ecosystem that is dramatically transformed by urbanization and deforestation, changing agricultural practices and wars. An epidemic is therefore the result of many factors that include a wider environment in addition to the vector and pathogen. International experts will present the epidemiological risks in developing countries, linked to emerging pathogens (Ebola, Zika...), due to population movements resulting from wars and terrorism (infectious risks in camps in particular).

This first round table will present the context and challenges which the actions in the field, presented in the following round tables, must address.

Round Table Chair:

- **Professor Christian Bréchet**, President, Institut Pasteur

Prof. Bréchet will introduce the topic, providing a landscape of epidemic risks and 'setting the stage' for the presentations to follow. He will analyze the numerous factors that cause or play a role in epidemics (eg. climate change, deforestation, globalization...) and the interactions between the environment, pathogens and vectors. He will also describe the new scientific context and what can be done to better anticipate and manage epidemics, including the role of research organizations.

Round Table Panelists:

- **Professor Rosanna Peeling**, Professor and Chair of Diagnostics Research and Director of the International Diagnostics Centre (IDC) at the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine – UK

Prof. Peeling will discuss the growing threat of antimicrobial resistance and a new era in modern medicine in which common infections will no longer be treatable by antibiotics. She will also explain the role that international initiatives are playing and share the example of what the UK is doing to mobilize resources to address this threat

- **Doctor Xavier Crespin**, Director General of the West African Health Organisation – Burkina Faso

Dr. Crespin will describe the context of epidemics in West Africa and the impact of the recent outbreak of Ebola virus disease. He will explain the ambitious programs undertaken in West Africa by WAHO and others to prepare for future epidemic threats.



- **Professor Xuetao Cao**, President of Chinese Academy of Medical Sciences (CAMS) and Peking Union Medical College – China

Dr. Cao will describe the context of epidemics in Asia and China's experience with epidemic threats such as SRAS. He will explain how China is addressing these threats through both international scientific collaboration and solidarity, including examples such as the partnership with the Charles Mérieux Center for Infectious Disease to strengthen surveillance for infectious disease prevention and control in West Africa and emergency medical support to West Africa during the Ebola outbreak or to Yemen for the cholera outbreak.

- **Michèle Boccoz**, Ambassador for the fight against HIV-AIDS and communicable diseases and the international dimension of Health Research – France

HIV was the first epidemic that necessitated a coordinated, international response. Ambassador Boccoz will discuss what we have learned from HIV and what international organizations are doing to address emerging epidemic risks and the challenges of funding these efforts. She will also share France's perspective.

Round Table Special Guest :

- **Professor David Heymann**, Professor of Infectious Disease Epidemiology at the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine, Head of the Centre on Global Health Security at Chatham House - UK

Prof. Heymann will give a rapid overview of the key takeaways from the presentations on epidemic risks and what international organizations and governments are doing to address them. Drawing from his own experience in epidemic response and preparedness, especially at WHO, he will discuss the importance of local players and NGOs to complement the actions of international organizations and governments.

Duplex : Center of Infectiology Lao Christophe Mérieux

- **SEM Dr. Bounkong Sihavong**, Minister of Health of Lao PDR

Dr. Bounkong Sihavong and the team of the Center of Infectiology Lao Christophe Mérieux, as well as the team from Mérieux Foundation in Laos will participate via Skype. Dr. Sihavong will talk about the collaboration with the Mérieux Foundation to develop the Center of Infectiology Lao Christophe Mérieux in Vientiane, a training and capacity building center for laboratories in the region. The Foundation has also built the Food Safety Laboratory, which is owned by the Lao Ministry of Health and aims to protect the population from foodborne illness.



Round Table 2: New Dynamics in Health Capacity Building: Leveraging Local Resources

This round table brings together scientists who have made major contributions to developing infrastructures, capacities and initiatives that not only improve and protect the health of local populations, but also contribute to advances in science and healthcare on an international scale. The panelists have succeeded in doing so while being based in a low-income setting and the round table will explore how they have achieved this success relying on “homegrown talent”. It will also look at the kind of new partnership models that they have forged with organizations from developing and developed countries.

The concepts discussed in this round table are central to the Mérieux Foundation’s model for action: the principle of not “doing for” but rather “working with” the local authorities and partners to leverage their strengths and catalyze the development of initiatives and capacities that are owned and managed locally.

The round table will highlight examples of initiatives developed with the Mérieux Foundation but also other initiatives that have been successful. As Prof. Doumbo once said: “self-sufficiency may be the wave of the future” and this will be demonstrated through the discussion.

Round Table Chair:

- **Professeur Ogobara Doumbo**, Director of the Malaria Research and Training Centre, Faculty of Medicine, University of Bamako - Mali

Prof. Ogobara Doumbo will introduce the round table theme and explain the need to decentralize scientific research and medicine to give responsibility to people on the ground, reversing the “brain drain” and nurturing young scientists to offer them interesting careers in their own countries. He will highlight three points: 1) the importance of having decentralized laboratories that can perform diagnostics and get epidemiological surveillance data to the health ministry within 48 hours; 2) the need for central laboratories, sufficiently staffed with well-trained technicians to perform diagnostics that determine the specific strain (etiology) of the pathogen to inform the health ministry in real-time before the epidemic reaches bigger cities; 3) the role of mobile diagnostics units that can be deployed to remote infection hotspots, such as the high security BSL3 unit based in Bamako and the program to equip all of the G5 Sahel countries with similar units and train their personnel. He will describe his personal experience and success developing top-level research centers in Mali (Malaria Research & Training Center and the Charles Mérieux Center for Infectious Disease) and the origins of the Mérieux Foundation model for action, which consists in creating laboratories of excellence in the heart of epidemic-prone areas and transferring them to local partners: 8 such Rodolphe Mérieux Laboratories operate today.

Round Table Panelists:

- **Doctor Firdausi Qadri**, Acting Senior Director, Infectious Diseases Division, International Centre for Diarrhoeal Disease Research, icddr,b and Executive Director, Institute for Developing Science and Health Initiatives (ideSHi) and winner of the 2012 Christophe Mérieux Prize – Bangladesh

Dr. Firdausi Qadri will share her experience and explain the impact of the research infrastructures (related to infectious diseases and vaccine development) she has created or collaborates with in Bangladesh and how these centers develop local talents that in turn contribute to advancing science worldwide. Examples will include the Institute for developing Science and Health initiatives (ideSHi), which she created with funding from the Christophe Mérieux Prize and has been a partner in the Mérieux Foundation project to develop a molecular typhoid diagnostic test to measure disease burden, funded by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. She will also describe the role that the International Centre for Diarrhoeal Disease Research, Bangladesh (icddr,b) has played. She will talk about the Rodolphe Mérieux Laboratory and how it is participating in an international research collaboration with the Mérieux Foundation on Guillain-Barré syndrome in the context of the recent Zika outbreak. An active member in the Mérieux Foundation’s GABRIEL network, Dr. Qadri will finally share her view on how it is important for scientists in limited-resource settings to work together. She will describe the GABRIEL network and the international research collaboration and capacity strengthening it enables.



- **Professor Jean Sakandé**, Professor of Biochemistry at the University of Ouagadougou; Head of the laboratory of medical biochemistry of the University Hospital Yalgado Ouédraogo; Former Director of the Medical laboratories service at the Ministry of Health and coordinator of the National Laboratory Network - Burkina Faso

Prof. Jean Sakandé will describe how the ministries of Health of 7 West African countries sought to improve the quality of diagnostic testing and increase laboratory capacity in the region by creating RESAOLAB, the West African Network of Biomedical Analysis Laboratories. He will discuss what makes this regional partnership unique and how it has expanded. He will highlight what has been achieved, notably during the Ebola outbreak, and how it has contributed to broader West African disease surveillance efforts (e.g. WARDS, West Africa Regional Disease Surveillance). He will talk about the work that remains to be done, how RESAOLAB has been transformed into an association, working closely with WAHO (West African Health Organisation), and the progress made towards developing laboratory directorates, dedicated budgets and policy in the member countries. He will also describe what has made this a successful model and how he is sharing the lessons learned from this initiative with other countries such as Haiti.

- **Doctor Abdoul Habib Béavogui**, Director, Maferinyah Training and Research Center in Rural Health – Guinea

Dr. Abdoul Habib Béavogui will describe the development of the National Rural Health Research and Training Centre (CNFRSR) and how it has given access to quality healthcare and services to remote populations: a successful example of decentralized medical care. He will discuss the need to strengthen health systems, as one of the lessons learned from the Ebola outbreak, and demonstrate how increasing capacities in research and training is a cost-effective and sustainable way to improve health and development in a limited-resource setting. Dr. Béavogui, was the head of one of the Guinean vaccination centers participating in the PREVAC study, a large clinical trial of candidate vaccines against Ebola. He will also talk about his experience in international vaccine research collaborations in Guinea during the Ebola crisis and share his views on the role that African scientists and clinicians can play in addressing global health threats.

- **Professor Myron Levine**, Professor and Associate Dean for Global Health, Vaccinology and Infectious Disease, University of Maryland School of Medicine – USA

Dr. Levine will share his experience co-founding and running the Center for Vaccine Development (CVD) in Mali, and how he transformed the way clinical trials of vaccines are conducted. He will also place the discussion in the context of broader trends in research capacity-building and their impact on public health policy.

Round Table Special Guest

- **Doctor. Christophe Paquet**, Director, Health and Social Protection Division, Agence Française de Développement (AFD) - France

Agence Française de Développement has worked with a number of the panelists and was the first partner, along with the Mérieux Foundation, to support RESAOLAB. Dr. Paquet will react to the panel discussion and will share his own experience as well as his perspective on successful partnership models and the role of a public development bank like AFD in health capacity-building.

Duplex : Rodolphe Mérieux Laboratory - Lebanon

Prof. Salim Daccache, Rector of Saint Joseph University, and the team from the Rodolphe Mérieux Laboratory and the Mérieux Foundation in Lebanon will participate via duplex.



Round Table 3: The global health approach: bringing vulnerable populations more than medical care

There is growing awareness of the need to take a comprehensive approach to improve the health of vulnerable populations, going beyond medical care to address basic needs such as providing access to shelter, safe food and drinking water, better nutrition, education and employment, etc. This need becomes all the more acute and difficult to meet in times of conflict, disease outbreaks or natural disaster.

The foundation has learned about the importance of this global health approach through its work, year after year, with local partners. Programs to sustainably improve the health and quality of life of mothers and children are a growing area of action for the Mérieux Foundation and Fondation Christophe et Rodolphe Mérieux. The following short film will give a recent example of what the foundations and their partners in the field are doing to support mothers and children caught in the Middle East crisis in Iraqi Kurdistan and Lebanon.

This round table brings together some of the Mérieux Foundation's key partners from different corners of the globe - all are pioneers in the global health approach.

Round Table Chair:

- **Doctor Jean-William Pape**, Founder and Director of the GHESKIO Centers (Haitian Group for the Study of Kaposi's Sarcoma and Opportunistic Infections) - Haiti

Dr. Pape will introduce the round table, explaining what is global health and the original model he has developed at the GHESKIO Centers. The Centers provide a package of health services, which Dr. Pape calls a "one-stop shop", for poor and vulnerable populations who cannot afford treatment in other institutions. Patients who come for a precise health problem are also examined and treated for other health problems they may have. Dr. Pape will explain how the package of services offered by GHESKIO naturally extended beyond healthcare. When antiretroviral treatment became available, people living with HIV began to live longer and needed a sustainable source of income. This led to the creation of professional training and micro-credit programs in GHESKIO. Pregnant women are often malnourished and antiretroviral treatment should not be taken on an empty stomach, therefore nutrition programs were established. These are just a few examples of the global approach to health that Dr. Pape will share.

Round Table Panelists:

- **Doctor Kamel Mohanna**, Founder and Director, Amel association - Lebanon

Amel is a Lebanese NGO founded by Dr. Mohanna in 1979 in response to humanitarian crises caused by the civil war (1975-1990). It adopts a comprehensive approach to improve the well-being of the refugee population in Lebanon, with programs and services in medicine, psychosocial support, support and empowerment of women, professional training, rural development, child protection, promotion of human rights and assistance to refugees. After a brief overview of his association, Dr. Mohanna will explain how care is provided in a humanitarian crisis. Amel has created 24 centers and 6 mobile clinics in Lebanon. He will also discuss the professional training programs Amel has developed. Dr. Mohanna will be able to share his experience and explain how the association has adapted to the refugees' influx, which represents between a quarter and a third of the country's population.



- **Runa Khan**, Founder & Executive Director of the international NGO, Friendship - Bangladesh

Runa Khan will explain rapidly Friendship's package of health services. Then she will share her perspective on the role of education, since educated women make better health decisions for themselves and their families. Friendship has built and established 78 self-sufficient schools where previously there were no government schools in remote areas of Bangladesh. This gives children (and adults) in marginalized communities the chance to enjoy their basic right to education. The schools have solar panels to generate electricity and were created to be easily dismantled and relocated in the event of a natural disaster, allowing children to continue their schooling.

Friendship's work is also particularly impacted by climate change and the necessity to ensure water-bound communities have access to healthcare and basic needs like food, shelter and clean water. Runa Khan will be able to contribute that experience to the broader discussion.

- **Doctor Serge Breysse**, Director, Action Against Hunger - France

Dr Breysse will discuss the issue and impact of under nutrition and what must be done to prevent, detect and treat it, especially during crises caused by conflict or natural disasters.

Round Table Special Guest

- **Professor Warren Johnson**, B.H. Kean Professor of Tropical Medicine and Director of the Center for Global Health at Weill Cornell Medical College – USA

Warren Johnson, member of the Board of Directors of the Mérieux Foundation USA, is considered by many to be the "father of global health". He will share his insight at the end of the panel discussion and share the lessons learned that have shaped the global health approach.

Duplex – Charles Mérieux Center for Infectious Disease in Mali

Prof. Souleymane Diallo, Director of Charles Mérieux Center for Infectious Disease of Mali and his team will participate via Skype.



PANELISTS BIOGRAPHIES

Round table 1: Epidemic risks in developing countries

- **Prof. Christian Bréchet**, President, Institut Pasteur - France



Christian Bréchet MD, PhD, trained in research at the Institut Pasteur and Faculty of Medicine at Necker Hospital. He completed his PhD in Biochemistry at the University of Paris VII in 1985.

In 1989, he became full professor of Cell Biology and Hepatology, and in 1997 he was appointed as head of the Hepatology Department at Necker Children's Hospital. He was in charge of a research unit at Necker Faculty of Medicine, reporting jointly to Inserm (French National Institute of Health and Medical Research), Paris-Descartes University and the Institut Pasteur. He also led the National Reference Center for Viral Hepatitis from 1998 to 2001.

From 2001 to 2007, Christian Bréchet was the CEO of Inserm where he created a number of programs, in particular the Inserm Avenir grant program for young scientists, the Ecole de l'Inserm which offers a dual medicine-science curriculum as well as European and international research units. He also developed technology transfer and industrial partnerships through the creation of a private subsidiary, "Inserm Transfert".

From 2008 to 2013, he was Vice-President of Scientific and Medical Affairs at Institut Mérieux. Institut Mérieux includes four companies specializing in the fields of *in vitro* diagnostics (bioMérieux), therapeutic vaccines (Transgène, Advanced Bioscience Laboratory) and food safety (Mérieux NutriScience).

Christian Bréchet was appointed President of the Institut Pasteur on October 1, 2013.

His research has mainly focused on viral hepatitis B (VHB) and C (VHC), and in particular their link with liver cancer and the molecular mechanisms of liver regeneration, acute liver failure and cancer. His work combined academic and clinical research and notably led to the development of new therapeutic and *in vitro* diagnostics strategies.

Christian Bréchet is a member of several scientific committees and learned societies. He has won prestigious awards and has authored more than 350 publications in leading scientific and medical journals. His research led to the filing of 13 patents and to the creation of two biotech companies – Rarecells and ALFACT Innovation.

Relationship with the Mérieux Foundation

Professor Bréchet is a former member of the Mérieux Foundation board and Scientific Advisory Board. The Foundation has numerous collaborations with the Institut Pasteur in the field: in Guinea to strengthen laboratory capacity in the surveillance of infectious diseases with epidemic potential; in Tunisia with the project to build a Rodolphe Mérieux Laboratory with a high biosecurity level (BSL3) on the Institut Pasteur campus, as well as in Cambodia, Myanmar and Senegal. Moreover, it is in the Jean Mérieux-Inserm BSL4 laboratory, which belongs to the Mérieux Foundation, that the Ebola virus responsible for the last major epidemic was confirmed and characterized by the Institut Pasteur of Lyon for the first time in March 2014.



- **Prof. Rosanna Peeling**, Professor and Chair of Diagnostics Research and Director of the International Diagnostics Centre (IDC) at the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine - UK



Rosanna Peeling is currently Professor/Chair of Diagnostics Research at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine and Director of the International Diagnostic Centre (IDC). Trained as a medical microbiologist, she was Research Coordinator and Head of Diagnostics Research at the UNICEF/UNDP/World Bank/WHO Special Programme for Research and Training in Tropical Diseases (WHO/TDR) in Geneva and Chief of the National Laboratory for Sexually Transmitted Diseases in Canada before assuming her current position. Her research focuses on defining unmet diagnostic needs and facilitating test development, evaluation and implementation in developing countries. She established the IDC to advocate the value of diagnostics, foster innovation, and accelerate access to quality-assured diagnostics to improve

global health and combat antimicrobial resistance (AMR). She is on the Prize Advisory Panel for the UK Longitude Prize, the European Commission Horizon 2020 AMR Prize and the Global AMR Innovation Fund. She was invited to speak at AMR events at the 2016 UN General Assembly, the 2017 World Economic Forum in Davos and the 2017 World Health Assembly on the use of diagnostics to reduce AMR.

She contributed to the WHO Management and Testing Guidelines for HIV, Hepatitis, Dengue and sexually transmitted infections and served as a member of the WHO/TDR Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee. She is a member of the Global Validation Advisory Committee for the Elimination of Mother to Child Transmission of HIV and Syphilis, the WHO Strategic Advisory Group of Experts on In Vitro Diagnostics (SAGE IVD) and the Social Innovation for Health Initiative.

Concerned about the lack of capacity in critical decision making in diagnostics in developing countries, Professor Peeling collaborated with Fondation Mérieux to organise an Advanced Course on Diagnostics (ACDx), which, over the last 7 years, has trained over 250 policy makers and built leadership in diagnostics in 75 countries.

Professor Peeling was the recipient of a YM-YWCA Women of Distinction Award, a 5NR Award for Canadian Leaders of Sustainable Development, and was the first woman scientist to be awarded the Royal Society of Tropical Medicine's George MacDonald Medal in 2014. Her research was featured in a Discovery Channel documentary on Chlamydia Infection and Infertility, and in Fighting Syphilis, a documentary in the highly acclaimed BBC Kill or Cure series.

Relationship with the Mérieux Foundation

Rosanna Peeling is the director of the Advanced Course on Diagnostics (ACDx), which she designed with the Mérieux Foundation and an international group of leaders and decision-makers working in international research centers and organizations such as the CDC (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention), FIND, the International Diagnostics Centre, ASLM and WHO. ACDx provides an overview of the latest advances in diagnostics and is organized each year by the Mérieux Foundation and the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine at Les Pensières Center for Global Health. The Mérieux Foundation also participates in the Platform for Diagnostics Innovation and Evaluation led by Professor Peeling as part of the ZikaPLAN consortium.



- **Dr. Xavier Crespin**, Director General of the West African Health Organisation – Burkina Faso



Dr. Xavier Crespin, Nigerian, is a medical doctor with a degree in public health, nutrition, administration and management of health services, and health policy and financing.

His career began in 1990 in Niger where he was successively Medical-Spirant, District Chief Medical Officer, Head of the Tahoua Military Sick Bay, Regional Director of Public Health of the Tahoua Region and cumulatively Regional Coordinator of the World Bank-funded "Population" Project and Director of the USAID-funded "Quality Assurance in Health Services" Project during the same period.

From 1998 onwards, he was the Regional Director of Public Health for the Tillabéry region of Niger, where he was Regional Coordinator of the "Health II/IDA" project financed by the World Bank, and National Director of the "Support to Primary Health Care" project funded by the Dutch organization SNV and the European Union. From 2000 to 2005, he was the Representative/Director of the American NGO Helen Keller International (HKI) in Niamey, Niger, and became in 2005 the Resident Representative/Director of HKI in Yaoundé, Cameroon, until 2010.

Prior to his appointment as Director-General of the West African Health Organization (WAHO), he served as Chief of the Health, Child Survival and Development Section in charge of the following sections: Health/HIV, Nutrition, Water-Health and Sanitation, Communication for Healthy Behaviour Change and Humanitarian Action and Emergencies at UNICEF.

Dr. Xavier Crespin, has received several honours including:

- the rank of Officer in the national order of Niger
- the rank of Knight of the Order of Merit of Niger
- the Medal of Honour for work
- the Medal of Honour of Niger Public Health
- Official Testimony of Satisfaction of the Minister of Public Health of Cameroon
- HKI Employee Recognition Ward, delivered by the President and CEO of Helen Keller International (New York, USA).

The author of several scientific publications, Dr. Xavier Crespin speaks and writes fluent French and English.

Relationship with the Mérieux Foundation

The Foundation has just signed an agreement with WAHO and has been working since 2009 with this institution to strengthen health systems in West African countries, especially within the RESAOLAB laboratory network and on epidemiological surveillance.



- **Prof. Xuetao Cao**, President of Chinese Academy of Medical Sciences (CAMS) and Peking Union Medical College - China



Prof. Xuetao Cao is professor and President of Chinese Academy of Medical Sciences & Peking Union Medical College. He received a Ph.D. from the Second Military Medical University (Shanghai, China) in 1990, became Professor in Immunology in 1992 and the Director of the Institute of Immunology in 2001 at the same university.

He is Professor and Director of the National Key Laboratory of Medical Immunology (2006). He was elected as a member of Chinese Academy of Engineering in 2005, Foreign Associate of the German Academy of Sciences in 2013, Foreign Member of EMBO in 2015, and an Honorary Fellowship of the UK Academy of Medicine in 2016.

His major interests are innate response, inflammation and tumor immunotherapy. His group has made contributions to the understanding of innate signaling in immunity and inflammation, identification of regulatory cell subsets and new molecules in dendritic cell-initiated immune response, and translational research of cancer immunotherapy.

As corresponding author, he published more than 230 original papers in peer-reviewed journals, including Cell, Nature, Science, Nature Immunology, Immunity. He is Co-Editor-in-Chief of Cellular and Molecular Immunology, Associate Editor of Journal Molecular Medicine, Cancer Immunology Research, editorial board member of Cell, Annual Reviews of Immunology, Science Translational Medicine, eLife, Cell Res, etc.

Relationship with the Mérieux Foundation

The Mérieux Foundation and Chinese Academy of Medical Sciences (CAMS) have been collaborating for almost 10 years. Together they created the Christophe Mérieux Laboratory in Beijing in 2008.

The Charles Mérieux Center for Infectious Disease in Mali has an agreement with CAMS and the Mérieux Foundation to strengthen infectious disease surveillance, prevention and control in West Africa.



- **Michèle Boccoz**, Ambassador for the fight against HIV-AIDS and communicable diseases and the international dimension of Health Research - France



Michèle Boccoz, a former student of the "École Nationale d'Administration" and an English Professor, joined the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in 1991, where she first worked on European affairs, especially relations with the countries of Central and Eastern Europe and the PHARE and TACIS agreements.

She stayed in the multilateral field by joining, as First Secretary, the representation of France at the negotiations in Vienna (1994-1997) and then France's permanent representation at the United Nations Office in Geneva (1997-2001).

Her interest in research and health issues led her to join the Institut Pasteur, which she accompanied in its international development as Director of International Affairs (2001-2007). She then joined Veolia Environnement as Director of International Communications (2007-2008).

Ms. Boccoz was appointed Deputy Director of the Foreign Minister's Office in 2008, and then Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to the Kingdom of Belgium in 2009.

She was Ambassador of France to Croatia from January 2013 to September 2016, before being appointed on September 8, 2016 to the Council of Ministers as Ambassador in charge of the fight against HIV/AIDS and communicable diseases and the international dimension of Health Research.



- **Prof. David Heymann**, Professor of Infectious Disease Epidemiology at the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine and head of the Centre on Global Health Security at Chatham House – UK



David Heymann is currently professor of Infectious Disease Epidemiology, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine; head of the Centre on Global Health Security at Chatham House, London; and chairman of Public Health England, UK.

Previously he was the World Health Organization's assistant director-general for Health Security and Environment, and representative of the director-general for polio eradication.

From 1998 to 2003 he was Executive Director of the WHO Communicable Diseases Cluster, during which he headed the global response to SARS, and prior to that was director for the WHO programme on Emerging and other Communicable Diseases.

Earlier experiences at WHO include chief of research activities in the WHO global programme on AIDS. Before joining WHO he worked for 13 years as a medical epidemiologist in sub-Saharan Africa, on assignment from the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), where he participated in the first and second outbreaks of Ebola hemorrhagic fever, and supported ministries of health in research aimed at better control of malaria, measles, tuberculosis and other infectious diseases.

Prior to joining CDC, he worked in India for two years as a medical epidemiologist in the WHO smallpox eradication programme. He is an elected fellow of the Institute of Medicine of the National Academies (US) and the Academy of Medical Sciences (UK), and has been awarded several public health awards that have provided funding for the establishment of an on-going mentorship programme at the International Association of Public Health Institutes (IANPHI).

In 2009, he was appointed an honorary Commander of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire (CBE) for service to global public health.

Relationship with the Mérieux Foundation

David Heymann is a member of the Board of Directors of the Mérieux Foundation and Chairman of the Mérieux Foundation USA. He also contributes regularly to the development of the foundation's programs and courses and is, among others, on the Scientific Advisory Board of the Advanced Course on Diagnostics (ACDx), organized each year by the Mérieux Foundation and the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine at Les Pensières Center for Global Health.



Round Table 2: New Dynamics in Health Capacity Building: Leveraging Local Resources

- **Prof. Ogobara Doumbo**, Director of the Malaria Research and Training Centre, Faculty of Medicine, University of Bamako - Mali



Prof. Ogobara Doumbo currently serves as Chair of the Department of Epidemiology of Parasitic Diseases at the University of Mali, Director of the Malaria Research and Training Center at the University of Science Techniques and Technologies of Bamako, Mali, Chair of the Board of the New Ségou University in Mali and Member of the Board of the French "Institut Recherche pour le Développement" (IRD).

He is also an Adjunct Associate Professor of Tropical Medicine at the Tulane School of Public Health, and from 1996-2001 directed the Mali-Tulane Tropical Medical Research Center Program. He sat as a member of the Science and Health Advisory Board at Malaria No More and is an Honorary elected member of the Alpha Omega Alpha US Medical Society. Prof. Doumbo leads the MRTIC-ICER USTTB-NIAID malaria vaccines programs in Mali.

Prof. Doumbo has been the primary and senior investigator for several malaria drug trials, malaria vaccine trials as well as the WHO-sponsored Multilateral Initiative on Malaria/ Special Programme for Research and Training in Tropical Diseases (MIM/TDR) task force on malaria research in Africa. He is a member of the "International Committee for Certification of Elimination of Dracunculiasis" to advise the Director-General of WHO. Prof. Doumbo has received global recognition for his contributions to science, including the Chevalier de l'Ordre National du Mali, Chevalier des Palmes Académiques du CAMES, the Officier de la Legion d'Honneur Française, Officier de l'Ordre du Mérite de France and the Research Award on Malaria in Africa.

Prof. Doumbo received the Christophe Mérieux Prize of the Institut de France and the Spanish Prize of Prince des Asturia in 2008, the International Research award of INSERM in 2013, and was elected as the International Fellow of the American Society of Tropical Medicine in 2016. Prof. Doumbo is also a member of French Academy of Medicine and the first recipient of the Docteurs Mérieux Chair of the French Academies of Science and Medicine and Fondation Christophe et Rodolphe Mérieux.

Relationship with the Mérieux Foundation

Ogobara Doumbo is a member of the Mérieux Foundation's Scientific Advisory Board, the president of the Charles Mérieux Center for Infectious Disease of Mali (CICM), which he helped to create with the Foundation and the Ministry of Health of Mali in 2005, the winner of the 2007 Christophe Mérieux Prize for his research on malaria, and the recipient of the Docteurs Mérieux Chair.

The "Mérieux model" of creating laboratories of excellence in the heart of epidemic-prone areas, which are then transferred to local inhabitants, was first tried and tested in Mali with Prof. Doumbo.



- **Dr. Firdausi Qadri**, Acting Senior Director, Infectious Diseases Division, International Centre for Diarrhoeal Disease Research, icddr,b and Executive Director, Institute for Developing Science and Health Initiatives (ideSHi) and winner of the 2012 Christophe Mérieux Prize – Bangladesh



Dr. Firdausi Qadri is working in Bangladesh in collaboration with international and national organizations on research related to infectious diseases and vaccine development over the last 25 years.

Trained as a biochemist with specialization in immunology and infectious disease research. Key scientific achievements lie in enteric and diarrheal infections and vaccines including *Vibrio cholerae* and enterotoxigenic *Escherichia coli* - major causes of severe diarrhea as well as enteric disease. Emphasis has also been on understanding the immune response in *H. pylori* infected people in Bangladesh and

the responses in patients with typhoid fever as well as vaccinees. Intensive research has been carried out in the field of enteric diseases specifically in the areas of immunology, genomics and proteomic technology and diagnostics and vaccine development. Actively participating in understanding the immunological responses in natural infections as well as in vaccines to better discern factors that need to be improved in available and future formulations.

Over the last few years, Gates funded projects have been initiated. Also recipient of Grand Challenge Exploration projects on typhoid vaccine as well as rice vaccine study development. Also involved in the immunological component of the Gates funded project on underperformance of oral polio and rotavirus vaccine.

Important ongoing project are ongoing include the “Introduction of Cholera Vaccine in Bangladesh” a feasibility study in Dhaka funded by Bill and Melinda Gates foundation. Novel antigen identification for an enterotoxigenic *Escherichia coli* vaccine funded by NIH through grants to the University of Tennessee, Studies of acute and memory immune responses to orally administered vaccines in developing country children and factors that may augment such responses funded by Swedish SIDA. The study of protective immunity to human cholera in Bangladesh, High throughput NAPPA-proteoimmunomics and *Vibrio cholerae* vaccine development are funded by NIH/NIAID. In recent few years other research projects involve randomized double-blind, placebo-controlled trials to evaluate the safety and immunogenicity of Peru-15 vaccine, administered together with measles vaccine to healthy Bangladeshi infants, mucosal immune responses to oral cholera vaccine Peru-15, studies to enhance and improve immunogenicity of cholera and enterotoxigenic *E. coli* (ETEC) vaccines, the development of natural immunity to enterotoxigenic *E. coli* (ETEC) in a cohort of children in Bangladesh, the effect of zinc supplementation and behavior change intervention in improving responses in enteric infections.

She is on advisory panels and members of national and international organizations including fellow of the TWAS- Academy of sciences for the Developing World, Bangladesh Academy of Science, the Infectious Diseases Society of America (FIDSA) and the Bangladesh Medical Research Council and on the advisory panel of the WHO. She is on advisory panels including in research, training and teaching in many Bangladeshi and foreign organizations and institutes. She has published over 200 papers in peer reviewed journals.

Relationship with the Mérieux Foundation

Dr. Firdausi Qadri was awarded the Christophe Mérieux Prize by Fondation Christophe et Rodolphe Mérieux in 2012. With the financial support of the award, she founded the Institute for Developing Science and Health Initiatives (ideSHi). Dr. Qadri is an active member in the Mérieux Foundation’s GABRIEL research network. ideSHi is a founding partner of the Rodolphe Mérieux Laboratory in Chittagong at the Bangladesh Institute of Tropical and Infectious Diseases (BITID). ideSHi is also a partner in the Mérieux Foundation project to develop a molecular typhoid diagnostic test to measure disease burden, funded by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.



- **Prof. Jean Sakandé**, Professor of Biochemistry at the University of Ouagadougou; Medical Biologist, Head of the laboratory of medical biochemistry of the University Hospital Yalgado Ouédraogo - Burkina Faso



Jean Sakandé, Doctor of Pharmacy and Associate Professor of Pharmacy, has been a University Hospital Professor at the University of Ouagadougou since 1999.

A pharmacist and biologist at the Yalgado Ouédraogo University Hospital in Ouagadougou, he has been department head since January 2017, after being deputy head of the department from 2000 to 2017. Since 2000, he is also Deputy Director General of the Philadelphia Clinic in Ouagadougou and Head of the Medical Biology Laboratory, contributing to the creation, implementation and management of one of Burkina Faso's most important private laboratories.

From 2003 to 2013, he was Director of Laboratories at the Ministry of Health of Burkina Faso, where he was responsible for the elaboration and implementation of the national laboratory development policy. He is the president and a founding member of the Burkinabe Society of Clinical Biology, founded in 2012.

He is a consultant to numerous international organizations, (such as the West African Economic and Monetary Union and the World Health Organization), as well as to national administrations, including the Ministry of Health of Burkina Faso. He conducts training courses on laboratory quality assessment, laboratory inspections and support missions in several countries in Africa, the Caribbean and Asia. As an expert in quality management, he participates in the development of the SLIPTA process of the WHO Afro and its implementation in several African countries.

As an international expert for various international organizations, he participates in several conferences and symposiums on the issue of biology laboratories in Africa. Author of about a hundred publications and scientific communications, Jean Sakandé speaks and writes fluent French, English and Mooré.

Relationship with the Mérieux Foundation

Jean Sakandé was a key contributor to the creation of RESAOLAB and Burkina Faso was one of the three countries that founded the network. Prof. Sakandé intervenes as a quality expert and consultant for a European project implemented by the Mérieux Foundation (SPHaïtiLAB), to develop research and laboratory systems in Haiti. He is also a member of the International Scientific Committee and a regular lecturer at the Advanced Course on Diagnostics (ACDx) organized each year by the Mérieux Foundation and the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine at Les Pensières Center for Global Health.



- **Dr. Abdoul Habib Béavogui**, Director, Mafèrinyah National Rural Health Research and Training Centre – Guinea



Abdoul Habib Béavogui is the Director of the Mafèrinyah Training and Research Center in Rural Health and Associate Professor of Parasitology at the Gamal Abdel Nasser University of Conakry.

He has an extensive experience in Malariology, Parasitology and Entomology, Maternal Health and recently Ebola Virus Disease gained during the past twenty years at the University Joseph Fourier of Grenoble (France), the University of Bamako (Mali), the University Claude Bernard of Lyon (France) and since 2011, at the Mafèrinyah Training and Research center in Guinea.

He completed his education in the U.S. at the University of Maryland and in The Netherlands. His training experiences have included preventive and curative care for children and pregnant women and research management (therapeutic efficacy of antimalarial drugs, molecular epidemiology of resistance of *Plasmodium falciparum*, immunology, etc.). His research activities in Mali included projects funded by extramural NIH/NIAID contracts and grants.

At a national level, he has worked for the last two years as lead consultant for several U.S. NGOs in Guinea to train laboratory officers in the diagnosis of malaria using microscopy and rapid diagnostic tests, and developed a training manual on the prevention and management of malaria cases. Recently, he has been the national coordinator of the Favipiravir (JIKI) trial on Ebola and Co-Investigator in an NIH funded JIKIMapp study in Guinea. Since 2016, Dr. Béavogui is the Co-Investigator of the INSERM/NIH sponsored PREVAC trial. He has published more than 20 papers in peer-review journals.

Relationship with the Mérieux Foundation

Guinea is a member country of the RESAOLAB network, created by the Mérieux Foundation with the ministries of health of Benin, Burkina Faso, Guinea, Mali, Senegal and Togo. The 7 countries of this network worked together to respond to the Ebola epidemic.

- **Dr. Myron Levine**, Professor and Associate Dean for Global Health, Vaccinology and Infectious Disease, University of Maryland School of Medicine – USA



Dr. Levine has worked on infectious disease research, continuously, since 1970. He co-founded the Center for Vaccine Development (CVD) in 1974 and served as Director from inception until 2015. He has spent considerable time in developing countries working on the epidemiology, treatment, and prevention of infectious diseases and applied this field experience to studies of the pathogenesis of such infections and development and testing of vaccines.

As a world-renowned expert in the field of Global Health, Myron Levine is a regular lecturer and contributor to the Advanced Course of Vaccinology (ADVAC) organized by the Mérieux Foundation and the University of Geneva in Les Pensières Center for Global Health each year for the past 20 years with support from the Gates Foundation and other public and private partners. Dr. Levine is also working with Prof. Ogobara Doumbo on Malaria Research and Training Center projects.

Relationship with the Mérieux Foundation

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▪ **Dr. Christophe Paquet**, Director, Health and Social Protection Division, AFD – France



After studying medicine in France and epidemiology in the USA, Dr. Christophe Paquet conducted several humanitarian missions with Doctors without Borders (MSF) in Central America, Thailand and the Sudan. He specialized in communicable and tropical diseases and participated in the creation of Epicentre, an MSF epidemiology research group and WHO Collaborating Centre, which he headed until 1999.

Christophe Paquet subsequently joined the National Institute for Public Health Surveillance (InVS) where he managed the International and Tropical Department, while participating in several missions for WHO during epidemics of international importance, such as SARS in 2003. In 2007, he joined Agence Française de Développement (AFD), where he was Project Manager in the Health and Social Protection Unit for 6 years, prior to becoming Head of this Unit in August 2013.

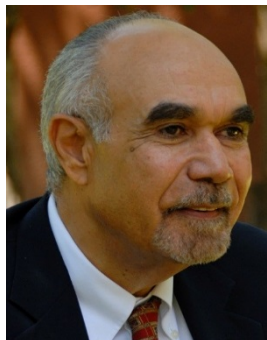
Relationship with the Mérieux Foundation

Agence Française de Développement (AFD) is a long-standing partner of the Mérieux Foundation. Christophe Paquet played a key role in launching RESAOLAB and the foundation's major projects in post-Ebola capacity building in West Africa.



Round Table 3: The global health approach: bringing vulnerable populations more than medical care

- **Dr. Jean William Pape**, Founder and Director of the GHESKIO Centers (Haitian Group for the Study of Kaposi's Sarcoma and Opportunistic Infections) - Haiti



Dr. Jean W. Pape, MD is the founding and current director of GHESKIO and the Howard and Carol Holtzmann Professor of Clinical Medicine, Center for Global Health, Division of Infectious Diseases, Department of Medicine, at the Weill Cornell Medical College of Cornell University. Dr. Pape graduated from the Weill Medical College of Cornell University in 1975. After the completion of his postdoctoral training in infectious diseases at Cornell, he returned to his native Haiti to study child diarrhea. Dr. Pape noted an increase in adult mortality related to diarrhea and with GHESKIO published the first comprehensive description of AIDS in the developing world in 1983. He has become an international leader in efforts to implement programs for the prevention and control of AIDS and tuberculosis in Haiti and other resource-poor countries, providing counsel to international organizations on bioethics, health disparities, and global infectious disease. He has received numerous international awards for his work. In April 2002, French President Jacques Chirac awarded Dr. Pape the Legion of Honor Award for his "contribution to the improvement of the health of the Haitian people and that of people in the world." Dr. Pape was elected to the United States National Academy of Sciences Institute of Medicine in June 2003.

Relationship with the Mérieux Foundation

Jean-William Pape received the 2010 Christophe Mérieux Prize. The Rodolphe Mérieux Laboratory in Port-au-Prince is located in the GHESKIO Centres. Founded by Dr. Pape in 1982, GHESKIO was the first institution dedicated to the fight against AIDS in Haiti and around the world. To support women living with HIV, and on the assumption that educated women make the best decisions for themselves and also for their children, he developed a whole system of training and microcredits, supported by Fondation Christophe et Rodolphe Mérieux, in order to give them access to a job and a stable income. GHESKIO is also a member of GABRIEL, the Mérieux Foundation's research network, and collaborates in numerous research projects. The Mérieux Foundation helped GHESKIO after the 2010 earthquake and worked with the center to provide relief in the aftermath of Hurricane Matthew.

- **Dr. Kamel Mohanna**, Founder and Director, Amel association - Lebanon



Dr. Kamel Mohanna is the President and the Founder of Amel Association International (Lebanon), the General Coordinator of the Arab and Lebanese NGO Network and a Professor of Paediatrics at the Lebanese University.

After graduating, he practiced in Dhofar for six months with vulnerable populations and then went on to work in Lebanon, at a time when his country was struggling with both civil war and Israeli occupation. Dr. Mohanna's work and passion have been recognised by several prestigious awards, including officer of the Légion d'honneur.

Dr. Mohanna leads both the Arab and Lebanese NGO networks' fight for a fairer and more humane world, through the collaboration of civil society of North and South as equal partners.

Relationship with the Mérieux Foundation

The Amel association is a partner with the Foundation and the Principality of Monaco to build a socio-medical center to treat and guide Syrian refugees arriving in the Bekaa region. His association is also involved in the PEARL (Pneumonias' Etiology Among Refugees and Lebanese Population) study on the etiology of respiratory infections among Syrian refugees in Lebanon to improve patient management and reduce morbidity and mortality of respiratory infections. The Rodolphe Mérieux Laboratory in Beirut and another laboratory in Tripoli equipped by the Foundation are involved in the project, which the Gates Foundation is co-funding.



- **Runa Khan**, Founder & Executive Director of the international NGO, Friendship - Bangladesh



Runa Khan, an Ashoka fellow and Schwab Foundation social entrepreneur, is the Founder and Executive Director of Friendship, an NGO supporting remote communities in Bangladesh. Established in 2002, Friendship integrated services can be reached by 4.2 million people, in the Health, Education, Sustainable Economic Development, Disaster Management, Good Governance and Cultural Preservation sectors. She is the Board Member of Global Dignity and Country Chair of Global Dignity Bangladesh and the Founder of Friendship International, which operates from four European countries, fundraising and building relationships for Friendship in Bangladesh. Her work is based on simple logic, empathy, respect, deep sense of justice and innovation.

Runa Khan is a board member of BIC corporate foundation, member of the Business Advisory Board of the School of Business, Independent University Bangladesh. She often gives talks on leadership, volunteerism, development, and social entrepreneurship in International Conferences and Universities. She received several international awards and recognitions, including Green Award by Positive Planet (2016), Social Innovation Leadership Award by the World CSR Congress (2014), Schwab Foundation's (2012) Social Entrepreneur Award, IDB Award for contribution toward Women in development (2008), Rolex Awards for Entrepreneurship (2006), and Ashoka Fellowship (1994).

Relationship with the Mérieux Foundation

The Mérieux Foundation has worked with Friendship to reinforce the diagnostic testing capacities of two Friendship hospital boats, servicing populations in flooded areas in Northern Bangladesh. Each boat has a team composed of a doctor, paramedical staff, a pharmacist and 3 lab technicians to offer patients medicine, infection prevention and minor surgery. The foundation conducted an audit of the labs to analyze practices from sampling to interpreting results, and provided equipment and staff training.

- **Dr. Serge Breyse**, Director, Action Against Hunger - France



Serge is the Director of Expertise & Advocacy Department at Action contre la Faim. Action Against Hunger / Action contre la Faim (ACF) is an international humanitarian organization that fights hunger and its root causes worldwide through nutrition, food security, water and sanitation, health and advocacy. In 2014, ACF International worked in 46 different countries around the world with more than 6,800 employees and volunteers helping 13,6 million people in need.

Serge is a public health doctor. He is an active member of civil society since the 80's and is working in the non-profit sector since 2000, with ACF missions (Congo-Brazzaville, Somalia) as doctor and program manager, then in ACF head-quarters as Head of the medical department. Between 2005 and 2007, he worked as medical advisor for the field with Médecins Du Monde, then with Médecins Sans Frontières as medical coordinator in Cambodia. In 2010, he was Nutrition and Health advisor (technical and advocacy support) for central and West Africa with Save the Children.

Since 2011, he works with ACF, as Advocacy Director, and more recently, as Expertise and Advocacy Director, covering technical support to the field and technical innovation, research activities, and advocacy.



- **Dr. Warren Johnson**, B.H. Kean Professor of Tropical Medicine and Director of the Center for Global Health at Weill Cornell Medical College – USA



Dr. Johnson is the B.H. Kean Professor of Tropical Medicine and the Director of the Center for Global Health at the Weill Cornell Medical College. He has devoted his career to research and training in resource-poor countries, with a focus on tropical diseases, tuberculosis, and HIV/AIDS. His research has served as a vehicle for the training of several generations of outstanding investigators, and the development of long-term research and training programs in Brazil (1969), Haiti (1979) and Tanzania (2006).

He has received over 4 decades of uninterrupted research and training support from the National Institutes of Health, including an NIH Merit Award. He has served as a mentor for over 60 postdoctoral trainees, including 18 NIH K-award recipients. Dr. Johnson has also served as a Director of the American Board of Internal Medicine, the IDSA Council, and on the Advisory Councils of the NIH and the NIAID. In Tanzania, Dr. Johnson directs a multidisciplinary collaboration between Weill Cornell Medical College and the Weill Bugando University College of Health Sciences in Mwanza, Tanzania. In Brazil, he has performed clinical and laboratory studies on leishmaniasis, leptospirosis, schistosomiasis, leprosy, and HIV/AIDS. He was elected to the Brazilian National Academy of Sciences in 2006. In Haiti, he was a co-founder of the Cornell-GHESKIO Program in 1983.

Relationship with the Mérieux Foundation

Warren Johnson is a member of the Board of Directors of the Mérieux Foundation USA and is considered by many to be the "father of global health". The "Warren D. Johnson, Jr. Medical Center" at GHESKIO Centers bears his name and he was involved in the creation of the Rodolphe Mérieux Laboratory built on the same site.



PRÉSENTATION OF THE MÉRIEUX FOUNDATION

Established in 1967, the Mérieux Foundation is an independent family foundation, chaired by Alain Mérieux, and has public interest status. Its mission is to strengthen local capacities to fight the infectious diseases that affect vulnerable populations in developing countries, particularly mothers and children.

Present in 20 countries in West Africa, in Latin America, in Asia and in the Middle East, the Mérieux Foundation focuses on 4 objectives:

1. Increasing vulnerable populations' access to diagnostics by strengthening clinical laboratories in national healthcare systems
2. Enhancing local applied research capabilities by training researchers, developing collaborative programs and creating Rodolphe Mérieux Laboratories, transferred to local partners
3. Encouraging knowledge-sharing and public health initiatives leveraging Les Pensières Center for Global Health
4. Improving conditions for mothers and children taking a global health approach.

The Mérieux Foundation works closely with Fondation Christophe et Rodolphe Mérieux, an independent family foundation under the aegis of the Institut de France, sharing the same public health goals.

The Mérieux Foundation follows four guiding principles:

- A collaborative dynamic, supported by partnerships with local healthcare players, international organizations, academic research, companies, and NGOs
- A long-term vision, with sustained support leading to autonomy and local ownership of infrastructures and programs
- Building networks for international cooperation to share experience and pool skills
- A global health approach from humans to animals, taking into account healthcare, but also nutrition, environmental safety, education, and socio-economic support for patients

KEY FIGURES

- 19 countries where we work
- 29 biology training centers built or renovated
- Over 25 collaborative research programs
- 13 laboratories built
- 31 hospital laboratories renovated
- 12 conferences
- 11 training courses
- Over 100 employees in 13 countries
- An annual budget of close to 25 million euros

