The Inserm European and international project is based on the search for opportunities and partnerships with high added value to bolster its position as Europe’s leading biomedical academic institution. The profile and performance of the Institute, now recognized as a research and innovation leader, have been strengthened by the positive outcome to the calls for tender for the 7th Framework Programme for Research and Technological Development (FP7) and Horizon 2020—the European Research Council (ERC) included—closer ties in Europe, Asia, Africa and North America, and the consolidation of discovery promotion strategies.

KEY FIGURES AND SIGNIFICANT FACTS

A LONG-STANDING TRADITION OF EUROPEAN AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

6000

More than 6,000 European and international collaborations reported by Inserm research teams, with foreign partners in almost 100 countries: mostly the USA, home to more than 20% of these collaborations, and the European Union and neighboring countries, which account for more than 60%

2400 700

Many researcher exchanges in Europe and beyond: almost 2,400 foreign employees in Inserm laboratories, more than 700 foreign researchers employed by Inserm and around 50 Inserm researchers in positions abroad

Reported European and international collaborations

- Around 20 agreements, around 30 associated European and international laboratories (LEA/LIA) and 8 European and international research groups
- 2 representative offices abroad in Brussels, Belgium, and in Washington, D.C., USA

INDISPUTABLE INTERNATIONAL REACH

1st

Number 1 biomedical research organization in Europe and number 2 in the world after the American National Institutes of Health (NIH), with nearly 12,000 publications a year

9th

9th most innovative public research organization in the world based on Thomson-Reuters rankings in 2016

50%

Growing number of European and international joint publications: more than 50% of Inserm publications are the result of foreign collaborations
Europe’s leading coordinating institution and partner in FP7 collaborative health projects and among the top hosts for ERC winners in the field of life sciences for this very program

The only French research organization in the world’s Top 100 institutions, with the best progress over the last three years (75th of 8,000 candidates) in the Nature Index 2016 Rising Stars

Inserm’s publications

A strong position in the European Research Area:
- coordination of 36 FP7 “Health” projects, involvement in 183 such projects, 112 ERC winners within this framework, and coordination of 2 of 13 ESFRI European research infrastructures (ECRIN and ERINHA);
- in response to the first three Horizon 2020 calls for projects (2014, 2015 and 2016) to address societal challenges, Inserm is participating in 42 collaborative health projects, including 8 as a coordinator and as part of the ERC, and welcoming more than 65 new ERC winners to its laboratories. The Institute coordinates European projects and initiatives, including the EU Joint Program – Neurodegenerative Disease Research (JPND) targeting Alzheimer’s and other neurodegenerative diseases, the ZikAlliance consortium uniting European and Latin American partners against the Zika epidemic and the Joint Action on Antimicrobial Resistance. The Institute will also participate in the Joint Programming Initiative on Antimicrobial Resistance (JPIAMR) and the European joint program in biomonitoring targeting health and environment (HBM4EU), etc.

A MAJOR ROLE IN RESEARCH WITH INTERNATIONAL CHALLENGES

The REACTing (REsearch and ACTion targeting emerging infectious diseases) consortium was formed in 2013 under the supervision of the French National Alliance for Life Sciences and Health (Aviesan), which was created in 2009 and is overseen by Inserm. It unites key French players in a multidisciplinary approach in an effort to prepare and coordinate research to combat the threat of a pandemic and take action against all emerging infectious diseases. It was called on in summer 2014 to coordinate the fight against Ebola and in 2015 to combat the Zika virus.
A NEW COOPERATION STRATEGY BY 2020

HELPING TO BUILD THE EUROPEAN RESEARCH AREA

• Promoting targeted bilateral cooperation
• Bolstering Inserm’s involvement in European programs, including Horizon 2020
• Playing an influential role among European Union institutions through the Aviesan alliance and the CLORA (Club of French associated research organizations in Brussels) or major European initiatives (JPND, JPIAMR, etc.)

INVESTING IN INTERNATIONAL PARTNERSHIPS WITH HIGH ADDED VALUE

• Consolidating relationships with major scientific powers and raising the Institute’s profile: USA, Canada (particularly Quebec on the themes of aging and neurodegenerative diseases) and Israel
• Strengthening collaborations with new emerging scientific powers: China (infectious diseases), India (chronic metabolic diseases) and Brazil (neuroscience)
• Guaranteeing an incentive policy for developed countries in Asia: Japan, Taiwan, Singapore and South Korea, particularly in the fields of aging and cell and regenerative therapy
• Maintaining ties with Africa, particularly with North Africa in the field of genetics
• Participating in structuring activities in countries of the Global South (Sub-Saharan Africa and South-East Asia) through the group Aviesan Sud, coordinated by Inserm within Aviesan (current infectious disease initiatives in close collaboration with the ANRS)
• Aligning with international research leaders, particularly within the Heads of International Research Organizations (HIROs) association

Speech of Yves Lévy, CEO of Inserm, during the international symposium organized by Inserm and the CEPI (see opposite) in Paris in February 2017
PLAYING AN ACTIVE ROLE IN MAJOR INTERNATIONAL BODIES

Within key international multilateral bodies: Inserm participates in meetings organized alongside the United Nations General Assembly and at the WHO, particularly as part of the Global Health Crises Task Force launched in 2016 by the United Nations Secretary-General. A significant collaboration in the field of vaccine development has also been rolled out with the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (CEPI).

BOOSTING THE APPEAL OF THE INSTITUTE IN EUROPE AND BEYOND

• Boosting Inserm’s reach and profile abroad, particularly through its 2016 commitment in the European Human Resources Strategy for Researchers (HRS4R)
• Encouraging European and international mobility within laboratories
• Improving the welcome extended to foreign researchers
TOOLS TO IMPROVE THE COOPERATION POLICY

SCIENTIFIC TOOLS

- **European and international scientific seminars** on themes like aging, health and environment, diabetes and other metabolic diseases, health technologies
- **International researcher exchanges**, related to agreements signed with targeted partners

STRUCTURING TOOLS

- **European and international institutional collaboration agreements**
- **Associated European and International Laboratories (LEA/LIA)**: virtual collaboration structures between Inserm and foreign research teams, created for a four-year period
- **Mixed European and International Units (UME/UMI)**: Inserm research laboratories, created for a five-year period in partnership with a foreign institution and located abroad
- **Joint Research Groups (GC)**: to date, research laboratories created by Inserm and the Helmholtz Association, for a five-year period and located in France
- **European and International Research Groups (GDRE/GDRI)**: research networks without legal status, created for a four-year period and bringing together several French and foreign (from one or more countries) research teams around a specific research field or theme
- **International sites/platforms of the French national agency for research on HIV and viral hepatitis (ANRS)**, an autonomous agency within Inserm
SUPPORT TOOLS

- **An international mobility guide**, offering a host of useful practical and regulatory information on international mobility, both incoming and outgoing
- **A procedure to help set up Horizon 2020 collaborative projects**, allowing the holders of collaborative projects coordinated by Inserm to draw on the Inserm Transfert project set-up expertise
- **The coordination of the French national point of contact (PCN) for the Horizon 2020 “Health” Challenge**, a national network intended to keep the French scientific community informed as to funding opportunities for this Challenge
- **A support cell for ERC project holders**, comprising a host of relevant Inserm administrative expertise to support ERC project holders
- **The coordination of guidance sessions for ERC project holder interviews**, organized in close collaboration with the CNRS, supervised by Aviesan and geared towards the French life sciences research community

INFLUENCE TOOLS

- **Transnational scientific programming proposals**: supervision of Aviesan alliance work in the field of life sciences and health to define the priorities for funding by the French National Research Agency (ANR) and the European Commission as part of Horizon 2020
- **The drafting of position papers**: on cross-disciplinary life sciences and health research topics (structure and programming of Horizon 2020, protection of personal data, use of animals for scientific purposes, etc.), as part of Aviesan
- **Organization of or participation in strategic meetings**: in Europe, e.g. the Aviesan Meeting in Brussels and meetings with the European Commission and Parliament, and beyond, e.g. meetings with the UN and the WHO

During the 5th Aviesan Meeting in Brussels, in June 2016, the Alliance presented its missions based on three themes of research in life sciences and health.
Inserm is an organisation dedicated to biological and medical research as well as human health.

It is involved in the entire range of activities from the research laboratory to the patient’s bed.

Inserm is a founding member of Aviesan, the French National Alliance for Life Sciences and Health.

www.inserm.fr