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Inserm

La science pour la santé
From science to health



Inserm **60** Years of Science for Health

October 29th, 2024
at the Embassy of France in the United States
4101 Reservoir Rd NW – Washington DC 20007

Speakers' booklet





His Excellency Ambassador Laurent Bili Ambassador of France in the United States

Mr. Laurent BILI is the Ambassador of France to the United States. A graduate of the French National School of Public Administration (ENA) (Victor Hugo Year, 1989-91), Laurent Bili joined the French Foreign Ministry's Strategic Affairs and Disarmament Directorate (1991-93). Seconded to the Defense Ministry as Deputy Diplomatic Adviser (1993-95), he then held several positions at the Quai d'Orsay: First Secretary and then Second Counsellor at the Embassy of France in Ankara (1995-99), First Secretary, Permanent Representative of France to the Western European Union (WEU) (1998-2000), Adviser to the European Union's interim Political and Security Committee (PSC) in Brussels (2000-02), Head of Strategic Affairs (2002).

In 2002, he was Director of the Private Office of the Minister Delegate for European Affairs and became technical adviser at the Diplomatic Unit of the Presidency of the French Republic (2002-07). He successively held the positions of Ambassador to Thailand (2007-09), Director of the Defense Minister's civilian and Military Office (2009-10), Ambassador to Turkey (2011-15) and then to Brazil (2015-17). Laurent Bili was then Director-General for Global Affairs, Culture, Education and International Development at the French Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs and G7/G20 Sous-Sherpa (2017-2019). Prior to his appointment in Washington, Laurent Bili was Ambassador to China since September 2019.



Didier Samuel Chairman and CEO of Inserm

As a physician and a researcher, Prof. Didier Samuel was appointed Chairman and CEO of Inserm by the Council of Ministers meeting of 1 February 2023, on the proposal of the Minister of Higher Education and Research and the Minister of Health and Prevention.

As a doctor and a researcher, Didier Samuel has devoted himself to both fields throughout his career. Professor of hepatology at the University of Paris-Saclay, director of the hepatology and hepatic resuscitation department at the Paul-Brousse hospital and medical director of the liver transplantation program within this same hospital, Didier Samuel took charge of and followed more than 4,500 liver transplant patients.

Dean of the Faculty of Medicine of the University of Paris-Saclay since 2017, Professor Samuel chaired the Conference of Deans of Medicine between 2022 and 2023. He also chaired the French National Research Coordination Committee, until his appointment as CEO of Inserm.

Since 2005, Professor Didier Samuel led a research unit within Inserm devoted to physiopathogenesis and treatment of liver diseases. As an active member of the International Society for Liver Transplantation between 2007 and 2015, his expertise in the field of liver diseases and liver transplantation is internationally renowned.

are honored to welcome you to the celebration of
Inserm's 60th anniversary

MASTER OF CEREMONIES



Fabien Agenes

Inserm Representative in North America

Dr. Fabien Agenes is a research scientist and the current Inserm representative in North America. He leads the Inserm office in Washington DC, which focuses on strengthening collaborations between Inserm and North American labs, promoting the French life sciences ecosystem, and contributing to Inserm's international strategy. From 2020 to 2024, he managed European and international affairs for Inserm in the Auvergne Rhône-Alpes region, aiding researchers of this region in building collaborations and participating in Horizon Europe programs. Previously, he served as a science attaché for the Consulates General of France in Los Angeles CA and Vancouver BC. Dr. Agenes has an extensive research background in immunology, with major contributions regarding the development of the immune system and its homeostasis, including positions at the Pasteur Institute, the Basel Institute for Immunology, CEA Grenoble, and the University of Montréal.

9:30

60 years of Scientific Cooperation



Pascal Griset

President of Inserm's History Committee, Professor at Sorbonne University

Pascal Griset is a professor of contemporary history at Sorbonne University and president of the Committee for the History of Inserm. His research focuses on innovation, research policies, and research organizations in France and Europe. A former Fulbright Visiting Fellow, he is a member of several committees, including the Committee for the History of Health Administrations (CHAS) and the Committee for Economic and Financial History of France (IGDPE).

He previously chaired Section 42 (Interdisciplinary Research on Communication) of the CNRS National Committee and directed the Institute of Communication Sciences (ISCC-CNRS) from 2013 to 2018. He also coordinated the Horizon 2020 InsSciDE project (2018–2022) and co-chairs the Research Chair in Science Diplomacy with Patrick Fafard (University of Ottawa).



Kim Pelis

Director of the Office of NIH History and Stetten Museum

Kim Pelis, PhD, is the Director of the Office of NIH History and Stetten Museum at the National Institutes of Health, Bethesda, Maryland. She joined the office in 2022, after 16 years as lead speechwriter to the NIH Director. Pelis received her PhD at the Johns Hopkins Institute for the History of Medicine. Her dissertation led to the book, Charles Nicolle, Pasteur's Imperial Missionary: Typhus and Tunisia (Rochester, 2006). Her postdoc, jointly sponsored by the Wellcome Institute and the Science Museum, London, focused on the history of blood transfusion: a topic on which she has published several sole-authored articles.

10:00

Keynote Speech

Michel Sadelain

Director of the Center for Cell Engineering Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center

Michel Sadelain, MD, PhD, is the Director of the Center for Cell Engineering and the incumbent of the Stephen and Barbara Friedman Chair at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center. Dr. Sadelain's research focuses on human cell engineering and cell therapy to treat cancer and hereditary blood disorders. His laboratory has made several seminal contributions to the field of chimeric antigen receptors (CARs), from design to clinical translation. His group was the first to publish dramatic molecular remissions in patients with chemorefractory acute lymphoblastic leukemia following treatment with CD19 CAR T cells.



10:45

ROUND TABLE

Emerging Infectious Diseases: Bridging Transatlantic Efforts

CHAIRS :

Yazdan Yazdanpanah

Director of the Institute for Immunology and Infectious Diseases, Inserm, Director ANRS EID

Professor Yazdan Yazdanpanah is Director of the ANRS Emerging Infectious Disease, head of the Institute Immunology, Inflammation, Infectiology and Microbiology at INSERM, and head of Infectious Disease department at Bichat Claude Bernard Hospital in Paris. He is M.D. specialized in infectious diseases and holds a Master of Science in Epidemiology from Harvard School of Public Health and a Ph.D. degree in public health from Bordeaux University. His main focus are research in clinical science and Public Health of emerging infectious diseases, HIV and viral hepatitis.

H. Clifford Lane

Deputy Director for Clinical Research and Special Projects, NIAID

Dr. H. Clifford Lane is the Clinical Director and Deputy Director for Clinical Research at NIAID, NIH, overseeing human research activities. He joined the NIH in 1979 after earning his medical degree from the University of Michigan. A leading researcher in immunology, HIV/AIDS, and emerging infectious diseases, Dr. Lane has made major contributions to HIV research and has led international clinical trials. He co-chairs national health guideline panels for HIV and COVID-19. Dr. Lane is a member of several prestigious medical societies and has received numerous awards for his contributions to public health. [More information.](#)



SPEAKERS :

Jeanne Marrazzo

Director of the NIAID

Dr. Marrazzo is the Director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases at the NIH, where she oversees a \$6.3 billion budget that supports research to advance understanding, diagnosis, and treatment of infectious, immunologic, and allergic diseases. She was previously the C. Glenn Cobbs Endowed Chair and Director of Infectious Diseases at the University of Alabama at Birmingham Heersink School of Medicine. She is a Fellow of the American College of Physicians and the Infectious Diseases Society of America, and was Treasurer of the IDSA from 2021-2023, having served on the board since 2018.

Dr. Marrazzo researches the vaginal microbiome, sexually transmitted infections, and HIV pre-exposure prophylaxis. She has had leadership roles in the NIH HIV Prevention Trials Network and the Infectious Diseases Clinical Research Consortium. She has been a leading voice in communicating science during the COVID-19 pandemic.





Vittoria Colizza

Sorbonne University, Research Director Inserm U1136

Vittoria Colizza is a Research Director at INSERM and Sorbonne Université, Faculty of Medicine. Dr Colizza is a leading expert in network science and data-driven models to predict and control epidemics, including H1N1, Ebola, MERS-CoV, COVID-19, and mpox. She has contributed to public health strategies by providing insights on how mobility and social networks influence disease transmission. Her work has been instrumental in informing policy decisions related to epidemic preparedness and response. In recognition of her contributions, she was awarded the Italian Knighthood in 2020 and the French Legion d'honneur in 2023.

11:45

Joint Opportunities Under Horizon Europe



Elli Chatzopoulou

Director of National and International Partnerships at Inserm

Dr. Chatzopoulou received her PhD in Neuroscience from Université Pierre et Marie Curie. Before joining Inserm in 2009, she was employed as a Scientific Information and Public Relations Officer at the INCF (International Neuroinformatics Coordinating Facility) Secretariat, hosted at Karolinska Institutet (Stockholm, Sweden). In addition, from 2016 to 2018 she held a position of advisor on matters of Higher Education and Research for the President of the regional council of Paris Region. She is currently the Director of the Department of National and International Partnerships at Inserm.



Florent Bernard

Science Counsellor at the European Union Delegation in Washington DC

Dr. Florent Bernard is the Counsellor for Research and Innovation at the European Union Delegation to the United States in Washington, DC. He assists in the strengthening of transatlantic research and innovation synergies, notably through the European R&I programme 'Horizon Europe'. Prior to this position, he was an International Relations Officer for the European Commission working on EU-China and EU-India cooperation. Dr. Bernard has a Ph.D. in molecular biology from the Université Libre de Bruxelles, he also studied at the University of Georgia, USA; the University of Barcelona, Spain; and the University of Florence, Italy. He is an Honorary Citizen of the State of Georgia, USA.



Douglas Millay

Associate Professor at Cincinnati Children's Hospital

Dr. Millay is a Professor in the Division of Molecular Cardiovascular Biology at Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center. The Millay laboratory discovered the muscle-specific proteins (Myomaker and Myomerger) that are necessary and sufficient for myoblast fusion. Using this information, we developed a gene therapy delivery vehicle to treat genetic muscle diseases, such as Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy. He works within the MAGIC consortium, hosted by Inserm, to accelerate the development of muscle gene therapy tools.

1:30

ROUND TABLE

Frontiers of Neurology and Mental Health : a French-American Dialogue

CHAIRS :

Etienne Hirsch

Director of the Institute for Neurosciences, Cognitive Sciences, Neurology, Psychiatry, Inserm

Etienne Hirsch is a neurobiologist involved in research on Parkinson's disease and related disorders. He is currently the director of the National Institute for Neurosciences, Cognitive sciences, Neurology and Psychiatry at INSERM and head of "Experimental therapeutics of Parkinson disease" at the ICM at Pitié-Salpêtrière hospital in Paris. He obtained several prizes including Tourette Syndrome Association Award in 1986, Young researcher Award, European Society for Neurochemistry in 1990, Grand Prix de l'Académie de Sciences, Prix de la Fondation pour la recherche biomédicale « Prix François Lhermitte » in 1999, Chevalier de l'ordre des palmes académiques in 2009, Prix Raymond et Aimée Mandé of the French National academy of Medicine in 2011, elected Member of the French National Academy of Pharmacy in 2011. He was nominated Chevalier de l'Ordre National du Mérite in 2023. He is author of more than 350 peer reviewed articles.

Nora Volkow

Director of NIDA

Nora D. Volkow, M.D., became Director of the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) in May 2003. Dr. Volkow's work has been instrumental in demonstrating that drug addiction is a brain disorder. As a research psychiatrist, Dr. Volkow pioneered the use of brain imaging to investigate how substance use affects brain functions. [Read more](#)

SPEAKERS :

George Koob

Director of NIAAA

George F. Koob, Ph.D., is an internationally-recognized expert on alcohol and stress, and the neurobiology of alcohol and drug addiction. He is the Director of the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism (NIAAA) and also a Senior Investigator at the National Institute on Drug Abuse where his laboratory is studying the neurobiology of drug and alcohol addiction. He has been honored by the government of France with the insignia of Chevalier de la Légion d'honneur (Knight of the Legion of Honor) for developing scientific collaborations between France and the United States.

Leonardo Cubillos

Director of the Center for Global Mental Health Research, NIMH

Dr. Leonardo Cubillos is a clinically active addiction psychiatrist and economist who has over 30 years of experience in medicine, health policy, health economics, and global health. Dr. Cubillos is the Director of the Center for Global Mental Health Research at the National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH). Dr. Cubillos is responsible for providing scientific leadership and direction to research in global mental health at NIMH. He is a member of the Strategic and Technical Advisory Group on Mental Health, Brain Health and Substance Use (STAG-MNS), which advises the WHO Director-General on matters relating to mental health, neurological disorders, substance use and addictive behaviors. He worked as a senior health specialist at the World Bank and was the National Director-General of Health Insurance and acting Vice-Minister of Health in the Ministry of Health of Colombia. Dr. Cubillos is clinically active in the United States, where he works with adults with comorbid mental health and substance disorders.



Marion Leboyer

Head of Department Inserm U955, Paris-Est Créteil University

Marion Leboyer, MD, PhD, is Professor of Psychiatry at the University of Paris Est Créteil in France. She is co-chair of the Department of Psychiatry (Hôpitaux Universitaires Mondor, Créteil) and she runs the Translational Neuropsychiatry laboratory (Inserm). She is also CEO of a non-profit foundation, Fondation FondaMental, dedicated to support research in psychiatry. Professor Leboyer has co-authored more than 1000 international publications (h-factor = 127). In December 2021, she received the Inserm Research Grand Prix. Her research has contributed to identifying genetic and environmental risk factors associated with major psychiatric disorders, particularly genetic vulnerability factors, immune dysfunctions, environmental risk factors and brain imaging abnormalities in mood and psychotic disorders. She is the Principal Investigator of several international and national research projects, including the Program-project in Precision Psychiatry (80 MEuros) funded in 2022 and the Brain&Mind biocluster (100 MEuro) funded in 2023.



Mickael Naassila

Head of Inserm unit 1247, Picardie University

Mickael Naassila, PhD is a Professor of Physiology and expert in the neurobiology of alcohol addiction. He is the head of the U1247 INSERM unit, President of the French society of alcoholology and of the European society for biomedical research on alcoholism. He is also vice-president of the French federation of addictology and the International society for biomedical research on alcoholism. He is the coordinator SMARTBINGE project (NCT06084832- Smartphone Application for University Students With Binge Drinking Behavior), the AlcoolConsoScience project and the National research network on alcohol REUNIRA.

2:30

Research Ethics : Discussing current challenges



François Hirsch

Member of the Ethics Committee, Inserm

François Hirsch spent 30 years at Inserm, including a secondment at the Immunology Branch of the NCI (Bethesda) and another at the Ethics Unit of the European Commission (Brussels). After acting as Inserm Ethics Committee's Secretary General, François Hirsch is now one of its members. At the international level, François Hirsch acts as Secretary General of the International Association for Responsible Research in Genome Editing (ARRIGE) and as representative of French Research Ethics Committees (CPP) at the European network of research ethics committees (EURECNet). He also co-chairs the initiative VolREthics aiming at better protecting the healthy volunteers in clinical trials, globally.



Jill Fisher

Professor, Center for Bioethics, University of North Carolina

Jill A. Fisher, Ph.D. is Professor of Social Medicine in the Center for Bioethics at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. She is the author of *Medical Research for Hire: The Political Economy of Pharmaceutical Clinical Trials* (Rutgers University Press, 2009) and *Adverse Events: Race, Inequality, and the Testing of New Pharmaceuticals* (New York University Press, 2020). More information about Dr. Fisher as well as many of her publications can be found at her website: www.jillfisher.net.

3:15

ROUND TABLE

Environment, Climate and Health Research: Sustainable Collaborative Strategies

CHAIRS :



Robert Barouki

Paris-Cité University, APHP, Director of Public Health at Inserm

Robert Barouki, MD, PhD, is Professor of Biochemistry at Université Paris Cité and head of the Inserm Institute of Public Health. His research is focused on the impact of environmental contaminants on human health, in particular POPs and EDCs and more generally on the links between the exposome and health. He is involved in several EU projects: PARC (linking exposure to health), Heals and Neurosome (exposome), HERA (setting the research agenda in environment climate and health) Oberon (EDC testing), IHEN (setting the agenda for human exposome research) and EIRENE (european exposome infrastructure). He has also been involved in the networking of French and European research in the field of environment and health as well as in communicating scientific data to citizens.

David Balshaw

Director of the Division of Extramural Research and Training, NIEHS

David Balshaw, PhD, is the Director of the Division of Extramural Research and Training at the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS), overseeing grant programs with an annual budget of over \$500 million. Trained in Pharmacology and Biophysics at the University of Cincinnati and UNC Chapel Hill, he joined NIEHS in 2003 as a Program Director. He has led a diverse grant portfolio focused on advancing 'omics technologies, systems approaches, exposure assessment, and the concept of the exposome. Balshaw also represents NIEHS in various NIH, U.S. government, and international programs to advance exposure science and the exposome concept.



SPEAKERS :

Gary Miller

Director, Center for Innovative Exposomics at Columbia University

Dr. Miller serves as Vice Dean for Research Strategy and Innovation, Professor of Environmental Health Sciences, Professor of Molecular Pharmacology and Therapeutics, and Director of the Center for Innovative Exposomics. Dr. Miller is a leader in the field of exposomics, which studies the comprehensive and cumulative effects of physical, chemical, biological, and social mediators that impact biological systems. He serves on the advisory panel of the National Institutes of Health All of Us Research Program.



Paige Lawrence

Professor and Chair Environmental Medicine, Director Institute of Human Health and the Environment, University of Rochester

B. Paige Lawrence, PhD is the Wright Family Research Professor and Chair of Environmental Medicine and Professor of Microbiology & Immunology. She is Director of the NIEHS Rochester Environmental Health Science Center, and inaugural Director of the University of Rochester Institute for Human Health and the Environment. Her research focuses on determining how environmental signals influence the immune system. She is a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science and Academy of Toxicological Sciences, Deputy Editor of Environmental Health Perspectives, and Associate Editor for Toxicological Sciences. She has served on numerous research, policy and educational review panels and advisory committees for agencies in the USA and Europe.





Robert Wright

Co-Director, Mount Sinai Institute for Exposomic Research & Chair, Department of Environmental Medicine

Dr. Robert Wright is a pediatrician, toxicologist, and environmental epidemiologist. He earned his MD from the University of Michigan in 1989 and completed fellowships in Pediatric Emergency Medicine, Medical Toxicology, and Environmental Epidemiology at Northwestern University, Brown and Harvard. Since joining Mount Sinai in 2012, he established the Lautenberg Laboratory for Exposomics in 2014 and co-founded the Mount Sinai Institute for Exposomic Research in 2017. Dr. Wright directs the NIH-funded Mount Sinai Human Health Exposure Analysis Resource Targeted Lab Hub and the NIEHS P30 Core Center at Mount Sinai. He also founded the PROGRESS birth cohort in Mexico City. He has been the PI for over 20 NIH grants and has published over 450 papers.

Rémy Slama

Senior Investigator, Inserm, IBENS, PARSEC - Paris Recherche Santé Environnement Climat

Rémy Slama is an environmental epidemiologist specializing in the exposome, atmospheric pollutants, endocrine disruptors, and climate change, and their health impacts. Since spring 2024, he has been at the Biology Institute of ENS Paris, developing PARSEC (Paris Recherche Santé Environnement Climat), a research initiative supported by Inserm and ENS, focused on optimizing climate change mitigation strategies. A senior investigator at Inserm and Professor at ENS, he previously held the public health chair at Collège de France (2022) and led Inserm's Public Health Institute (2020-2024). He is a recipient of the ISEE Tony McMichael mid-career award.

Arthur David

Professor at EHESP, Research Chair at Irset-Inserm U1085

Arthur David is a professor at the French School of Public Health (EHESP), he does all his research work at the Research institute for environmental and occupational health (Irset Rennes). He has developed through the years expertise in chemical exposomics using high-resolution mass spectrometry (HRMS) to characterize the human internal chemical exposome (chemical contaminants accumulating in humans) in a variety of biospecimen. All the HRMS methods and open access bioinformatics tools he has developed with his group are now being applied at large scale in epidemiological studies to investigate the environmental etiology of several chronic diseases in several national and H2020 EU projects. He also developed expertise in drug metabolism using HRMS to study the influence of environmental factors on pharmacokinetics.

4:15

International Joint Labs: a new Inserm initiative to enhance collaborations



Didier Samuel

Chairman and CEO of Inserm



José Alain Sahel

Distinguished Professor and Chairman, Ophthalmology, University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine

José-Alain Sahel, MD, is the Endowed Distinguished Professor and Chair of Ophthalmology at the University of Pittsburgh/UPMC. He founded the Vision Institute in Paris (Sorbonne Université-Inserm-CNRS, 2008) and one in Pittsburgh (2023), both large interdisciplinary research hubs. His work focuses on understanding and preventing vision loss from photoreceptor degeneration, leading pioneering efforts in artificial retina, gene therapy, and optogenetics. He has co-authored over 700 papers, holds 90 patents, and co-founded companies developing therapies for vision restoration. Sahel is a member of several prestigious academies and has received numerous awards, including the 2024 Wolf Prize in Medicine. In 2023, President Macron appointed him to the Conseil Présidentiel de la Science.



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Thank you for your participating!

ANY QUESTIONS?

Contact us :

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