



## PRESS RELEASE

# Reinforcing the Franco-Ivorian Partnership Through the Creation of an International Research Platform in Global Health

In Abidjan on Tuesday, January 24, 2023,

This Tuesday January 24, 2023, [ANRS | Emerging Infectious Diseases](#), [University of Bordeaux](#) and the [French National Research Institute for Sustainable Development \(IRD\)](#) will come together with the [Ministry of Health, Public Hygiene and Universal Health Coverage \(MSHP\)](#), the [Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research \(MESRS\)](#), the [Ministry of Economics and Finance \(MEF\)](#), the [PAC-CI association](#) and the [French embassy](#) in Côte d'Ivoire to sign an agreement to create a new International Research Platform in Global Health<sup>1</sup> (PRISME). This international and interinstitutional initiative will contribute to the definition of strategies to prepare and respond to the emergence and re-emergence of epidemics.

As part of the [scientific days](#) of the Ivorian PAC-CI research program held in Abidjan on January 23 and 24, various French<sup>2</sup> and Ivorian institutions gather together in order to strengthen their scientific research partnership. This new stage of cooperation forms the continuation of a relationship that began in the 1990s between Côte d'Ivoire, France, and their researchers.

Signed in 1996 between the government of the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire (represented by the Ministry of Public Health and the Ministry of Economics and Finance) and the government of France (represented by ANRS and the French Embassy in Côte d'Ivoire), an agreement marked the creation of the PAC-CI program so that the two countries could conduct HIV research together<sup>3</sup>. A collaboration that has continued to evolve ever since. In 2010, the PAC-CI program framework agreement was renewed by the program's four founding members and three new partners: the University of Bordeaux, Inserm, and MESRS.

A Franco-Ivorian project management platform, coordinated by the PAC-CI association and the [Global Health in the Global South \(GHiGS\) team from the Inserm Bordeaux Population Health Research Center \(U1219\)](#), was also created in the same year in order to optimize the management of studies conducted

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<sup>1</sup> According to Professor Jeffrey P. Koplan, "Global Health" is an area of study, research, and practice that places a priority on improving health and achieving equity in health for all people worldwide.

<sup>2</sup> [Inserm](#) is also a stakeholder in this agreement. Its Chairman and Chief Executive Officer will also sign the agreement.

<sup>3</sup> The aim of the PAC-CI program is to train staff in medical research and to implement research into infectious diseases whose findings will be useful for the populations affected.

by the PAC-CI program in Africa, as well as on other continents. ANRS | Emerging Infectious Diseases, Inserm, the University of Bordeaux and IRD, with the support of the French Embassy in Côte d'Ivoire, today wish, together with MSHP, MESRS, MEF and the PAC-CI association, to continue the terms of their partnership in order to include them at the heart of global health issues. It is with this dynamic [and continuing the partnership experience with Guinea](#) that a new International Research Platform in Global Health (PRISME) is being created in Côte d'Ivoire.

This will make it possible to:

- provide a consultation framework and a shared research space to promote knowledge-sharing among the signatories;
- identify priorities for research through to creating value from the results of that research;
- form scientific and technical frameworks at national, regional, and continental levels.

Thanks to its expertise, the Franco-Ivorian binational platform created in 2010 will contribute to the implementation of large-scale multinational research projects within the International Research Platform in Global Health set up in Côte d'Ivoire.

Since 1996, and with the support of this project management platform, the research conducted by the PAC-CI program has among other things given rise to 755 publications in peer-reviewed journals and to the formulation of national and international treatment guidelines. In addition, 132 students obtained a Master's degree and 48 completed a dissertation. Through the various research projects, PAC-CI has developed a vast network of partners with some 35 countries throughout the world.

*"Twenty-seven years after its creation, PAC-CI has firmly positioned itself across several promising areas, showing itself to be adaptable and responsive to new research challenges for the benefit of population health.*

*Its numerous areas of strength is an asset, insofar as it enables commitment to new emerging themes while maintaining global scientific activity of a very high level. It is thanks to this that a new "global health" area is currently emerging.*

*With its two major assets, internationalization and scientific engineering, the evolution of PAC-CI towards its new name (PRISME CI: International Research Platform in Global Health - Côte d'Ivoire) will enable it to consolidate these strengths and move forward in terms of governance, interdisciplinarity and academic anchorage. "*

**Thérèse N'Dri, joint-coordinator of the PAC-CI program; Raoul Moh, Executive Director of the PAC-CI program; Adama Coulibaly, Minister of Economics and Finance; Pierre Dimba, Minister of Health, Public Hygiene and Universal Health Coverage, and Adama Diawara, Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research.**

*"The creation of this International Research Platform in Global Health represents a pivotal moment in this historic scientific collaboration and constitutes a successful enterprise between France and Côte d'Ivoire since the 1990s. This agreement reinforces our work together and promotes interdisciplinary research that will improve population health by drawing on, among other things, the training and expertise of young researchers. "*

**Yazdan Yazdanpanah (Director of ANRS | Emerging Infectious Diseases); Dean Lewis (President of the University of Bordeaux); Gilles Bloch (Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Inserm); Valérie Verdier (Chairwoman of the Board and CEO of IRD) and Xavier Anglaret, (joint coordinator of the PAC-CI program - Bordeaux Population Health, Inserm and University of Bordeaux).**

### About the PAC-CI association

The PAC-CI association is a non-profit association governed by Ivorian Law no. 6-315 of September 21, 1960. It was created in 2009 to manage the PAC-CI program. Its members consist of healthcare personnel and technical and administrative personnel specializing in medical research. Its mission is to encourage the design and implementation of health research projects for the benefit of the population as well as to train clinical and epidemiological research professionals capable of conducting studies that meet the highest international standards.

### About ANRS | Emerging Infectious Diseases and its actions in Côte d'Ivoire

ANRS | Emerging Infectious Diseases, created on January 1, 2021, is an independent Inserm agency directed by Professor Yazdan Yazdanpanah. Its missions are to facilitate, evaluate, coordinate, and fund research into HIV/AIDS, viral hepatitis, sexually transmitted infections, tuberculosis, and emerging and re-emerging infectious diseases (particularly emerging respiratory infections, including COVID-19, viral hemorrhagic fevers, and arboviruses).

ANRS | Emerging Infectious Diseases is invested with the role of coordinating research into infectious diseases at national and international level, in conjunction with the public science and technology establishments (EPSTs) involved in research and capacity-building in partner countries. To this end and with a general objective of improving population health, it promotes the networking of researchers, French institutions, associations and the community, as well as public decision-makers committed to its thematic areas. [Learn more about the agency's activities in Côte d'Ivoire.](#)

### About Inserm

Founded in 1964, the French National Institute of Health and Medical Research (Inserm) is a public scientific and technological institute which operates under the joint authority of the French Ministries of Health and Research. The institute is dedicated to biomedical research and human health, and is involved in the entire range of activities from the laboratory to the patient's bedside. It also partners with the most prestigious research institutions in the world that are committed to scientific challenges and progress in these fields.

### About the University of Bordeaux

Inheriting a long history spanning nearly six centuries, the University of Bordeaux is a multidisciplinary and international research university. With almost 54,000 students, 6,000 staff, including almost 3,200 teacher-researchers and researchers, it is a major player in the Nouvelle-Aquitaine region and one of France's largest universities, renowned for the excellence of its research, the quality of its diplomas – from the Bachelor of Technology to the PhD, and its ability to innovate.

The University of Bordeaux produces knowledge in science and technology, in biology and health, and in human and social sciences. By structuring research and training in these different fields, it prepares the citizens of tomorrow by supporting them in their personal and professional projects.

Certified as an "initiative of excellence", it contributes to major scientific advances with its academic and socioeconomic partners in France and internationally. It ensures their dissemination within the

public space and facilitates their technological and industrial transfer, in line with its humanist values and its commitment to environmental and societal transitions.

### **About IRD - French National Research Institute for Sustainable Development**

IRD is a multidisciplinary French public research organization committed to equitable partnerships with countries in the Global South for nearly 80 years. As a contributor to the achievement of the international development agenda, its research priorities are aligned with the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Together, scientists and the Institute's partners propose concrete solutions to the global challenges facing societies and the planet. This win-win relationship makes science and innovation one of the primary levers for development.

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