

ANRS | Emerging Infectious Diseases IN BRIEF

2022 EDITION



www.anrs.fr

OVERVIEW



YAZDAN YAZDANPANA
• Director

Since its creation in 1988 at the time of the AIDS epidemic, ANRS has always been the agency of all researchers. Now more than ever, ANRS | Emerging Infectious Diseases plays a very particular role in the French and international scientific landscape: that of reference stakeholder, interinstitutional leader, accelerator of research in times of epidemic crisis, and provider of support when preparing responses to future infectious threats.

MISSIONS: THE CONTINUUM

FACILITATE - EVALUATE - COORDINATE - FUND

1

Animate, evaluate, coordinate, regulate and fund research into HIV/AIDS, viral hepatitis, STIs, tuberculosis and emerging infectious diseases

2

Promote scientific, strategic, innovative, and integrative paradigms, notably One Health¹ and Global Health²

3

Disseminate and create value from the findings of the supported research, conduct scientific intelligence

4

Support the consideration of the interests and needs of affected people, in conjunction with associations

5

Sponsor and ensure the pharmacovigilance of clinical trials

6

Contribute, in conjunction with the public authorities, to the preparedness and response to health crises

1. Human-animal-environment – 2. Unlimited by geography or population



We are very attached to the way the agency operates.

The fight against AIDS has invented something original: the “ANRS model”, in which research is independent and decompartmentalized, where civil society and patient associations can put forward their points of view. The associations are now key players in HIV research. It is a success.

Hugues Fischer

- Member of Act Up-Paris and its representative within the TRT-5 CHV collective of associations fighting HIV, hepatitis, and STIs
- Member of the ANRS | Emerging Infectious Diseases Scientific Advisory Board



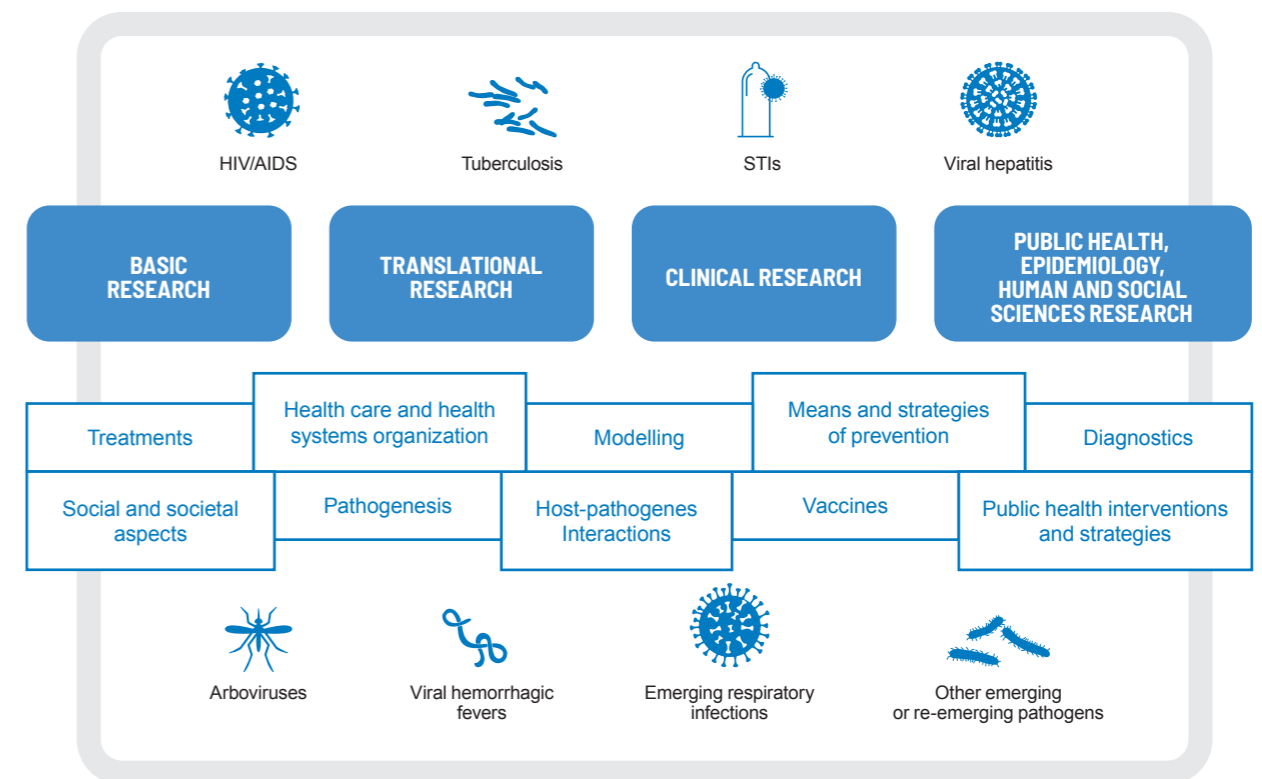
Patient associations have their voices heard at the agency.

The associations are interfaces between patients, members, and institutions. We can voice our needs and concerns because the associations are represented not only on its Advisory Board and Scientific Advisory Board, but also on the scientific committees for the evaluation of research projects.

Agnès Michel

- Member of French hepatitis and liver disease federation *SOS hépatites et maladies du foie*
- Former member of the ANRS | Emerging Infectious Diseases Advisory Board

THE AGENCY COVERS ALL THE RESEARCH DOMAINS WITHIN ITS REMIT



STATUTES AND SUPERVISORY BODIES

ANRS | Emerging Infectious Diseases is an independent agency of Inserm, placed under the supervision of the French Ministry of Higher Education and Research and the Ministry of Health and Prevention. Its operations are governed by the “Modalities of scientific and financial administrative organization”, a document which can be downloaded from www.anrs.fr.

FROM RESEARCH INTO HIV/AIDS TO EMERGING INFECTIOUS DISEASES: FROM REACTIVITY TO PROACTIVITY IN EPIDEMICS

ANRS, created in 1988 to combat the AIDS epidemic by federating French research, remains an original scientific agency model in the French academic landscape.

Some highlights

BETWEEN 1988 AND 1995

Founding work on AZT monotherapy (ANRS 002 Concorde) and dual therapy (ANRS 017 Delta).

IN THE 1990s

Pivotal research on reducing mother-to-child transmission of HIV in France and West Africa.

IN THE 2000s

Success of tritherapy trials in patients for whom previous treatments had failed.

IN THE 2010s

Scientific contributions to trials on **HIV therapeutic simplification** and pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP).

IN 2012

Establishment of the **ANRS C022 HEPATHER** cohort, the only one of its kind in Europe, including over 21,000 patients infected with hepatitis B or C.

IN 2016

Clinical research resulting in the decision to make **hepatitis C treatment universal and free of charge in France**, and significant discoveries on **hepatitis C host cell entry and prevention of transmission among drug users in Vietnam**.

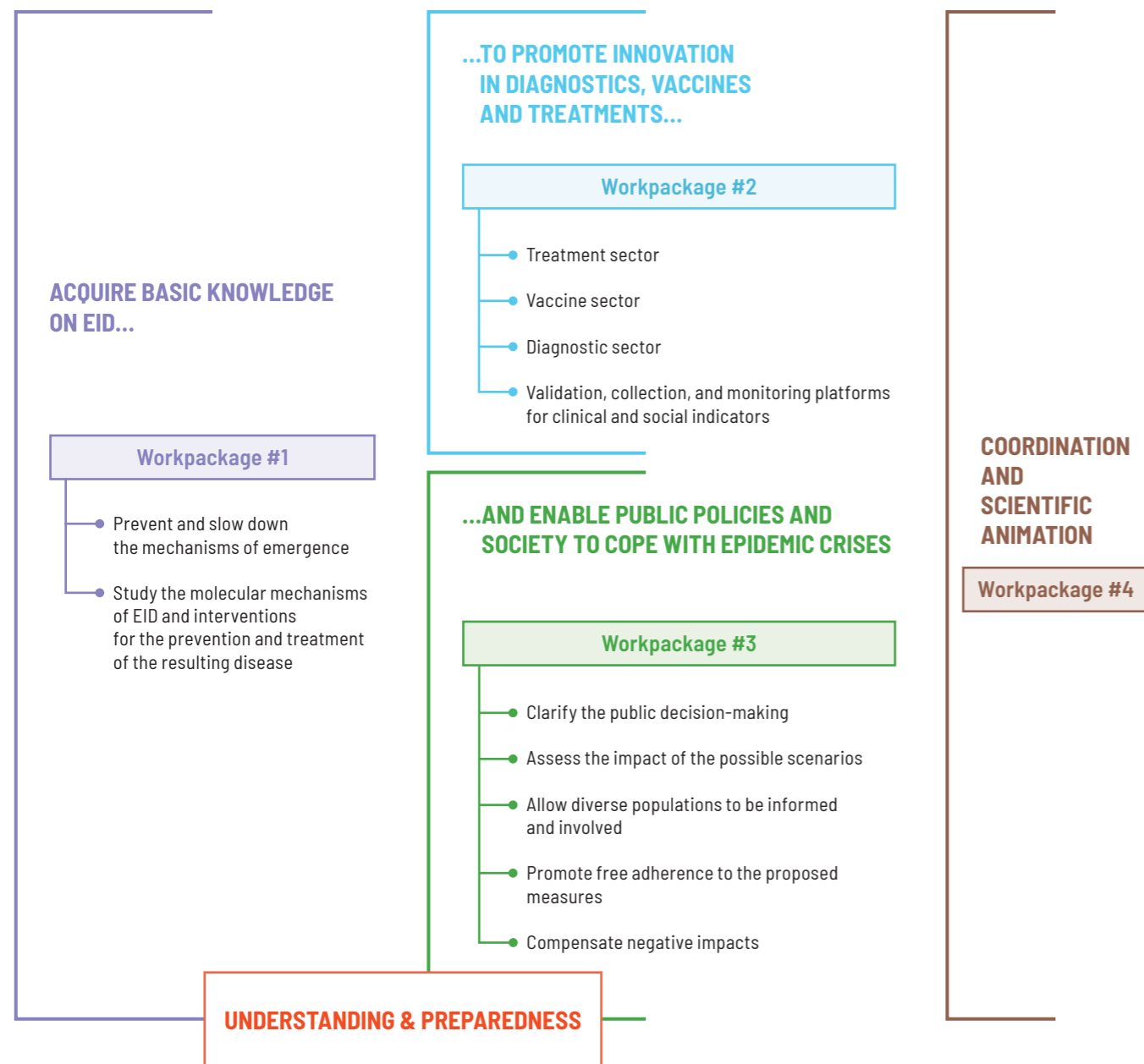
“UNDERSTAND, PREVENT AND CONTROL EMERGING INFECTIOUS DISEASES”: THE PRIORITY RESEARCH AND RESOURCES PROGRAM (PEPR)

The Emerging Infectious Diseases Priority Research and Resources Program (PEPR) is led by Inserm and implemented by ANRS | Emerging Infectious Diseases, along with its various French academic partners that are members of its Advisory Board: CEA, CIRAD, CNRS, INRAE, Institut Pasteur, IRD, universities, and hospitals.

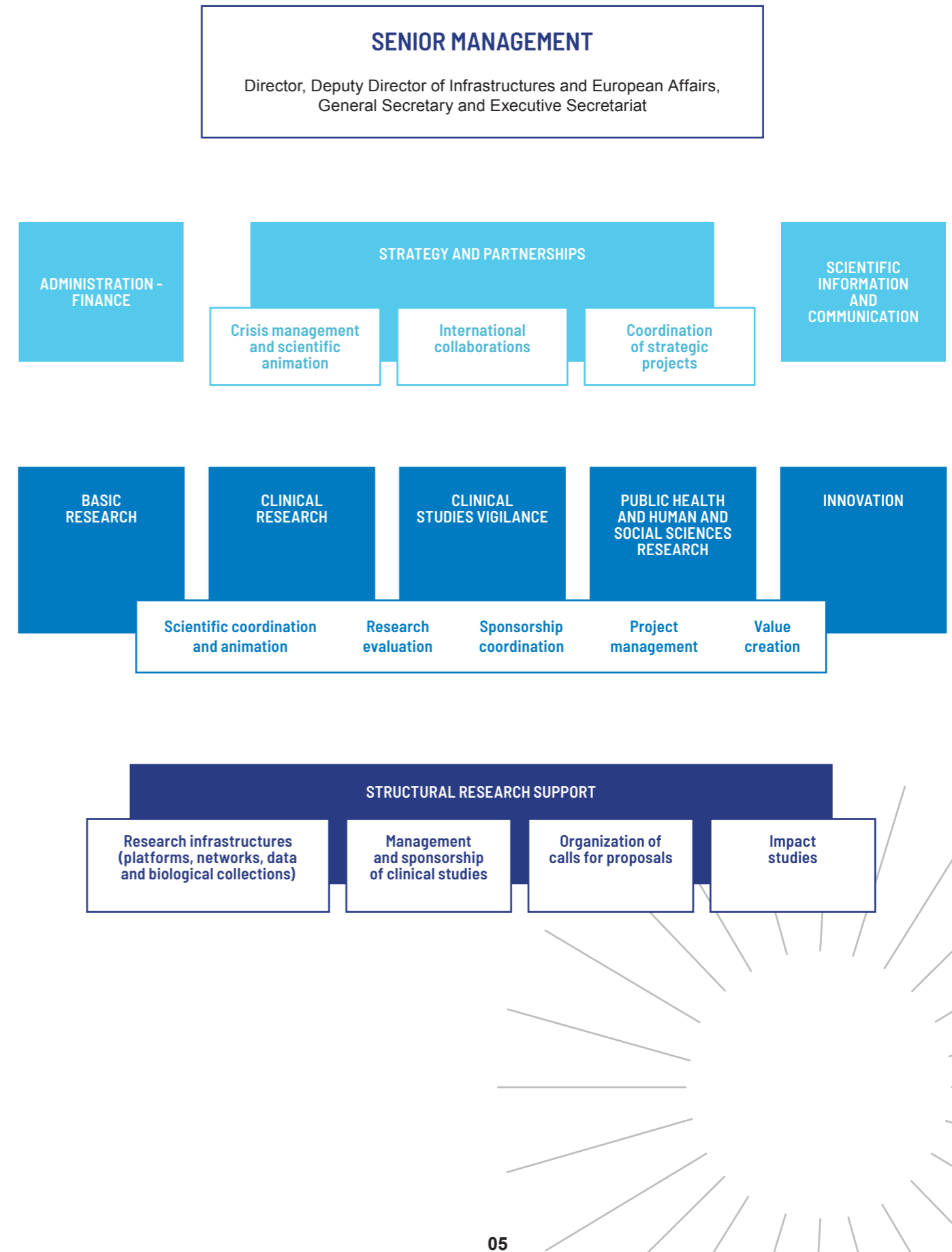
The objective is to better understand, prevent and control emerging and re-emerging infectious diseases by forming interdisciplinary and multi-institutional relationships and by taking into account the interdependence of animal, human, and ecosystem health. It has a budget of 80 million euros for the 2021-2025 period.

In order to meet the objectives of this PEPR, ANRS | Emerging Infectious Diseases has developed a strategy to fund research presented below.

The deployment of this PEPR and the agency's actions will tie in closely with the other components of France's national strategy for acceleration in terms of emerging infectious diseases and chemical, biological, radiological, or nuclear (CBRN) threats, particularly the Preventing Zoonotic Diseases Emergence (PREZODE) PEPR.



ORGANIZATION AND GOVERNANCE



BODIES

The agency has three bodies to guide it in its strategic decisions.

THE ADVISORY BOARD 01

The Advisory Board is tasked with making proposals on the agency's main strategic orientations, its actions, budget, and management report, as well as on any questions relating to its operation.

It is composed of representatives of the French Ministries of Higher Education and Research, Health and Prevention, Europe and Foreign Affairs, Inserm, CNRS, IRD, Institut Pasteur, CEA, INRAE, universities, university hospitals, associations and NGOs, foreign institutions, and experts.



PRESIDENT

• Isabelle Richard, University of Angers, France



PRESIDENT

• Sharon Lewin, University of Melbourne, The Doherty Institute, Australia

THE SCIENTIFIC ADVISORY BOARD 02

The role of the Scientific Advisory Board is to give an opinion on the main orientations of the scientific program and the actions of the agency, lead forward-looking reflection, and draw up reports on the work undertaken.

It brings together 19 scientific personalities and three association representatives, appointed by the Advisory Board at the suggestion of the agency director, for a four-year term, renewable once.



VICE-PRESIDENT

• Guido Silvestri, Georgia Research Alliance, Emory University School of Medicine (Atlanta), USA

THE PARTNERS BOARD 03

The Partners Board is a place for sharing information on the activity of the agency, current events and research issues within its thematic field.

It helps to coordinate its members' efforts in preparing and responding to emergent event-related crises, in the various scientific, industrial, and public action components of this response.

The body is made up of personalities from hospitals and universities, industry, health agencies, scientific and health authorities, learned societies, young healthcare and research professionals, associations and NGOs, and civil society.

SCIENTIFIC EVALUATION AND FACILITATION

RESEARCH EVALUATION AND ANIMATION

To accomplish its research funding and coordination missions, the agency has set up Specialized Scientific Committees (CSS), responsible for evaluating the projects submitted:

CSS11

Basic research on HIV/AIDS, TB and STIs

CSS12

Basic research in viral hepatitis

CSS13

Clinical research

CSS14

Research in public health and human and social sciences

CAPNET AND NATIONAL RESEARCH PRIORITY ACCREDITATION

CAPNET (*ad hoc* national steering committee for therapeutic trials and other research into COVID-19) was set up in order to organize French research into COVID-19. This inter-institutional consultation body is tasked with regulating a health crisis studies in order to accelerate those that fall within the scope of the national research priorities defined by the agency's *ad hoc* Scientific Advisory Board and which are the most promising. CAPNET uses the scientific and methodological evaluations conducted by the agency's *ad hoc* Scientific Advisory Board when assigning National Research Priority (PNR) status to projects with potential strong impact

and the ability to provide direct results to the ongoing health crisis. This makes it possible to fast-track the deployment of these projects, particularly thanks to exclusive access to an accelerated regulatory approval file evaluation procedure. Since its creation in October 2020, CAPNET has evaluated over 200 projects and issued PNR status to over 75 of them. Steered since the start of the health crisis by the interministerial research unit (Ministry of Solidarity and Health and Ministry of Higher Education, Research, and Innovation), CAPNET is now led by ANRS | Emerging Infectious Diseases.

EXPERT GROUPS: SCIENTIFIC ANIMATION & COORDINATION

One of the principal missions of the agency is to coordinate and animate research within the thematic fields of its scope of intervention. The objective is consult scientific experts and enable interactions between researchers from different institutions, and sometimes from different specialties: this promotes research collaborations, stimulates reflection

on specific subjects, enables the design and implementation of innovative projects, identifies priority research areas or, on the contrary, areas that receive less attention and which are just as necessary. The researchers get together as part of various expert groups: coordinated actions, working groups, networks, task forces, etc.

COMMITMENTS TO QUALITY AND ETHICS

The agency develops a quality approach that structures the measures taken to ensure the protection of the people involved in the research it supports and the integrity of its findings. Since 2002, the agency's ethics

charter has described the best practices in HIV and hepatitis research in low and middle-income countries, clarifying and adapting the reference texts for research on human subjects.

PRIORITY TO OPEN SCIENCE

Open science, a concept involving the transparent dissemination of scientific research findings, methods, and products, promotes scientific integrity and the democratization of access to knowledge.

The agency has formalized several objectives and will support the scientific community in achieving them, through a concerted and progressive approach.

INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATIONS AND NETWORKS

Aware that major health issues call for concerted international responses, and keen to support research in low and middle-income countries (LMICs) particularly affected by infectious diseases, the agency is developing an ambitious international research strategy that is resolutely focused on the triptych of prevention, preparation, and response. Its international actions tie in with a scientific dynamic that is firmly embedded within the challenges of global health and based on the development of infrastructures and networks for research, with a continued effort to coordinate French research players.

SUPPORT FOR RESEARCH IN LMICs

Since the 1990s, ANRS has developed partnerships in sub-Saharan Africa, Southeast Asia, Brazil, and Egypt to support the development of research, thereby giving rise to "partner sites". These partnerships between the local authorities and the agency can be hosted virtually within cooperation programs or, as is most often the case, within one or more national institutions.

These partner sites, which are at the heart of over two thirds of the projects funded by the agency in LMICs and led by local teams in collaboration with their French and foreign counterparts, are true places of scientific facilitation

and training. They benefit from long-term support for training, equipment and infrastructure, the development of networks and the support of young researchers. They are also vectors for value creation from research findings and their transposition into public policies.

Other structuring collaborations, initiated by large-scale projects, tie in with a process of reinforced institutional partnership, particularly with the teams and authorities of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Guinea, Mali, and Zambia.

The agency, which relies on more than 30 years of strong scientific collaborations throughout the world, is committed to co-constructing innovative partnerships with its partners. For example, in May 2022, the first international research platform in global health (PRISME) was created in Guinea. PRISME finds its strength in the federation of various French and local institutions around a common scientific, technical and academic cooperation project.

INTEGRATION INTO EUROPEAN AND INTERNATIONAL NETWORKS AND ALLIANCES

As part of its international commitment, the agency is a member of various networks and regularly forms partnerships with international organizations and initiatives, private foundations, and associations, whether as part of interinstitutional or specific research project agreements.

At European level, this structuring commitment is notably reflected in the coordination of France's participation in the Global Health-EDCTP3 Joint Undertaking, a partnership between European countries and sub-Saharan Africa, supported by the European

Union and aimed at supporting collaborative research to develop new clinical interventions. Beyond Europe, the agency is strongly committed to the GloPID-R alliance, for the construction of regional hubs aimed at improving the coordination and funding of research priorities in the Asia-Pacific and Southern African region.

It is also collaborating with WHO in the domains of HIV, hepatitis and STIs, to contribute to its global normative work and aid decision-making by health stakeholders in LMICs.

The aim of the Be Ready CSA (Coordination and Support Action) is to improve the European Union's preparedness and response capabilities to emerging infectious threats by better coordinating research and innovation funding. In order to meet this objective and to initiate the building of the European Partnership for Pandemic Preparedness, the agency is leading a group of 24 European organizations and public institutions that are the reference for epidemic preparedness and response in their respective countries.

STRATEGIC PROJECTS

One of the missions of ANRS | Emerging Infectious Diseases is now to champion strategic international projects as operator of capacity-building programs. It federates and coordinates resources for international projects involving

French research institutions and their partners. It was with AFROSCREEN that the agency initiated this new prerogative. The coordination of the CSA Be Ready project is part of this dynamic.

AFROSCREEN

ANRS | Emerging Infectious Diseases, in partnership with *Institut Pasteur*, IRD and 25 laboratories from 13 African countries, launched the AFROSCREEN project in July 2021.

This project, funded by the French Development Agency, meets an urgent need for surveillance of the development of SARS-CoV-2 variants and other emerging pathogens by bolstering laboratory genome sequencing capacity.

Americas

Europe

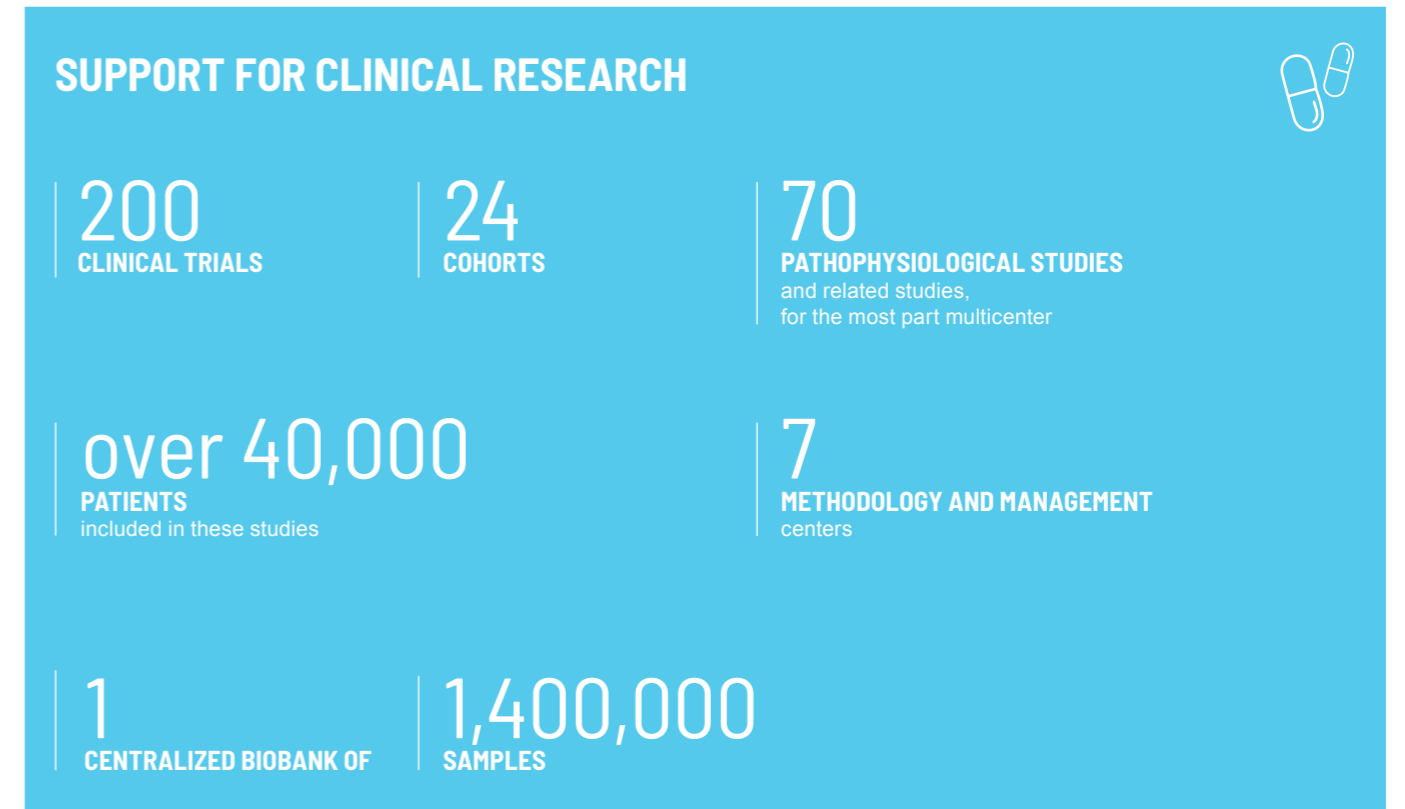
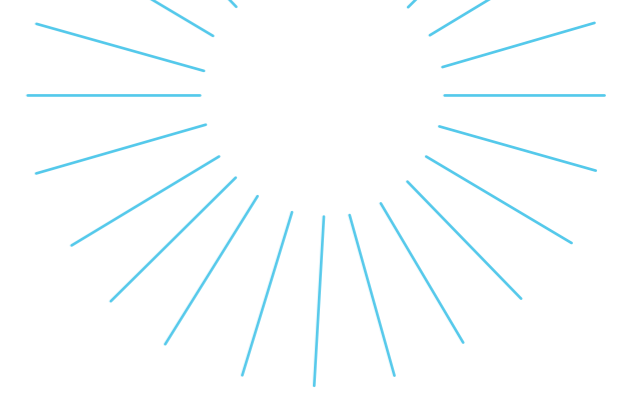
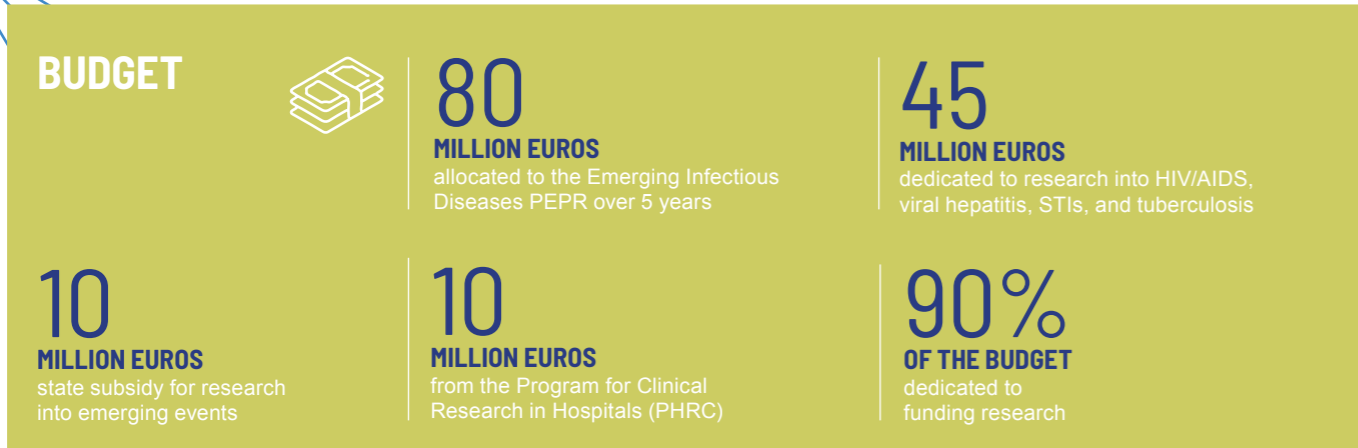
Africa and Middle East

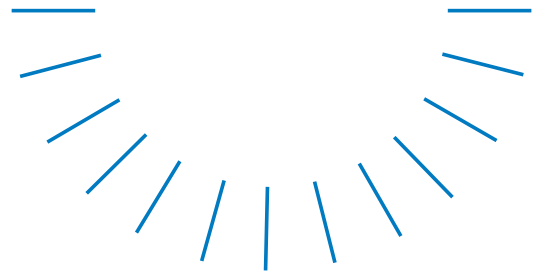
Asia-Pacific



- Partner site
- Global health international research platform (PRISME)/ Regional coordination
- Other scientific collaborations
- Fewer than 10 projects funded/sponsored
- Between 10 and 50 projects funded/sponsored
- More than 50 projects funded/ sponsored

KEY FIGURES FOR 2021





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