

2026 Scientific Days of the ANRS MIE

**Innovation to accelerate the
response to infectious
diseases**

Cité internationale universitaire de Paris
1 & 2 April 2026

PRESS KIT

CONTACT:

06 98 92 15 42 | presse@anrs.fr

As it does every year, the ANRS MIE is organising its Scientific Days, the agency's major annual event. This is an opportunity for speakers – whether researchers, institutional partners, representatives of associations or industry – to present recent advances in research into infectious diseases, and a chance to discuss future prospects and priorities.

Innovation: a cornerstone of epidemic preparedness

One of the ANRS MIE's key objectives is to prepare for future epidemic outbreaks in order to respond effectively. However, controlling an epidemic requires advance preparation. This involves the development of effective diagnostic, preventive and therapeutic tools. It therefore depends on innovation.

Innovation is one of the cornerstones of preparing for and responding to future epidemics and pandemics.

That is why the theme of the 2026 edition of the Scientific Days is **'Innovation to accelerate the response to infectious diseases'**.

The ANRS MIE's leading role in innovation

The geopolitical situation is changing. At a time when funding for medical research is declining and the future of international health programmes is uncertain, France and Europe have an important role to play.

Epidemic crises are, of course, genuine medical emergencies, but they also act as a powerful catalyst for innovation. The ANRS MIE is one of the leading agencies in Europe addressing emerging infectious diseases. **It plays a leading role in driving innovation in France and Europe.**



In collaboration with other agencies, in particular the Health Innovation Agency, and government departments in France, ANRS MIE leads, funds and coordinates research into emerging and re-emerging infectious diseases, with a constant focus on developing innovations. The agency plays a leading role in this field in France and across Europe.

Prof. Yazdan Yazdanpanah, Director of ANRS MIE



The ANRS MIE Scientific Days : Key points about the 2026 edition

The 2026 edition will take place over two days, Wednesday 1 and Thursday 2 April 2026, at the Cité internationale universitaire de Paris. Speakers will focus on presenting the latest advances in research into infectious diseases, for the benefit of human and animal health and ecosystems.

The next generation of researchers will also be given the opportunity to showcase their work.

THE THEME OF THIS YEAR'S EVENT

This year's central theme is 'innovation' in relation to preparedness and response to infectious diseases. It is explored through a logical scientific programme covering:

- **Session 1: New methods of surveillance and diagnosis**
- **Session 2: Vaccinology in the age of new technologies**
- **Session 3: Innovative therapeutic approaches**

New methods of surveillance and diagnosis are essential for anticipating health crises. They rely on epidemic modelling to synthetic biology, which relies on technological platforms and the use of computational science. The aim of synthetic biology is to develop new biological systems in the laboratory with a view to creating tools that are useful to society.

Vaccinology has entered a new era, driven in particular by the contribution of artificial intelligence and RNA-based technologies. This is redefining the way vaccines are designed. Advances in mucosal immunology are also making significant strides, paving the way for nasal vaccines.

Therapy has also benefited from innovation. New approaches are emerging, such as the production of antibodies directly within the body or the development of a drug candidate against tuberculosis. The use of innovative tools is leading to a better understanding of the evolving strategies of viruses, thereby enabling the development of more effective therapeutic tools.

This 2026 edition places innovation at the heart of its three key areas: new diagnostic methods, vaccine innovation and therapeutic strategies.

Dr Fabrice Porcheray,
Chair of the Scientific Advisory
Board for the 2026 Scientific
Conference



Some highlights from the 2026 Scientific Days

Several highlights centred around the opening speeches (*keynotes*) and round-table discussions stand out in this programme.

The focus will be on the role of artificial intelligence in biomedical discoveries and the contribution of new technological approaches to HIV and, possibly, emerging infectious diseases:

Keynote, Wednesday 1 April

Artificial Intelligence agents for accelerating biomedical discoveries

Keynote, Thursday 2 April

Novel approaches to HIV vaccine research: is it translatable to other infectious diseases?

The topics of supporting innovation in France and access to innovation in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs) will also be explored:

Roundtable 1, Wednesday 1 April

Promoting academic research: opportunities and support

Keynote, Wednesday 1 April

*The African Medicines Agency:
Driving regulation to shape the future
of biomedical research and access in Africa*

Roundtable 2, Thursday 2 April

*How can we ensure global access to new treatments?
Discussions on HIV*



Some flagship projects of the 2026 Scientific Days

Three flagship projects from these Scientific Days have been selected to illustrate the contribution of new technologies to surveillance, diagnosis and vaccinology.

Project 1. MUCOBOOST.

A NASAL VACCINE AGAINST COVID-19

Vaccination has reduced the risk of severe disease, but the circulation of SARS-CoV-2 and recurrent infections remain a reality. Against this backdrop, attention is also turning to the first line of defence, at the level of the nasal mucosa, where the virus first establishes infection.

MUCOBOOST forms part of this approach by evaluating an intranasal vaccine booster compared with an mRNA booster. The project aims to document the safety and immunogenicity, and to characterise the mucosal immune response within the context of a clinical trial.

WHO SHOULD YOU CONTACT FOR MORE INFORMATION?

↳ **Mathieu Epardaud** (INRAE, University of

Tours), for the scientific rationale, mucosal immunity and the vaccine candidate's development pathway to clinical evaluation



PRESENTATION

Thursday 2 April at 11:00 am

Vaccinology in the age of new technologies

From mucosal immunology to nasal vaccines: a scientific journey



Project 2. **PReViX.**

MODELLING TO SUPPORT PREPAREDNESS FOR THE EMERGENCE OF A NEW RESPIRATORY VIRUS

When a new respiratory virus emerges, the public response is shaped very early on, often before reliable data is available. The first cases are counted, surveillance is organised, and the available information remains inconsistent, with biases, delays and significant uncertainty regarding the dynamics of transmission. PReViX focuses on this initial phase of a respiratory outbreak, from the first signs to the first countermeasures.

The project does not aim to identify the next pathogen in advance. It aims to develop an integrated approach, combining modelling and field data, in order to improve the ability to rapidly interpret the initial information available and to inform an early public health response.

WHO SHOULD YOU CONTACT FOR MORE INFORMATION?

↳ **Mircea T. Sofonea** (University of Montpellier, Nîmes University Hospital), Senior Lecturer, for the challenges of preparedness for respiratory emergencies, the integrative modelling of initial cases and the identification of early countermeasures

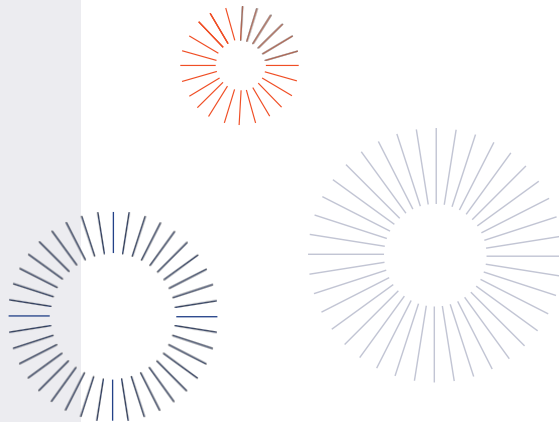


PRESENTATION

Wednesday 1 April at 11.00 am

New methods of surveillance and diagnosis

Pandemic preparedness for Respiratory Virus X: integrative modelling from first cases to early public health countermeasures



Project 3. **VORTEX.**

DEVELOPMENT OF A NON-INVASIVE SAMPLING METHOD FOR RAPID DIAGNOSIS

In the event of a respiratory epidemic, diagnosis depends not only on analytical performance. It also depends on turnaround times, organisation and acceptability, which determine the capacity for large-scale testing. VORTEX tackles this challenge with an approach that is both a tangible and scientifically rigorous project: analysing volatile organic compounds in exhaled air with a view to developing a rapid, non-invasive diagnostic method for emerging respiratory infections. Project type: scientific study (PEPR MIE, 2023 award winner). Pathogen group: respiratory viruses.

The project aims to identify and then validate specific signatures in the volatilome. The aim is not to announce a test that is ready for deployment, but to establish robust evidence by distinguishing between reliable signatures and background noise.

WHO SHOULD YOU CONTACT FOR MORE INFORMATION?

↳ **Delphine Parraud** (Hospices Civils de Lyon), early-career researcher

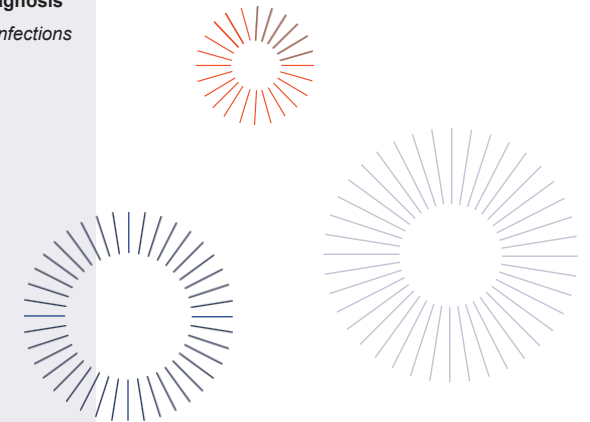


PRESENTATION

Wednesday 1 April at 1.45 pm

New methods of surveillance and diagnosis

Non-invasive diagnosis of respiratory infections through the analysis of volatile organic compounds and breath signatures



Wednesday 1 April 2026

12.45pm – 1.00pm

Start Programme: supporting the next generation of scientists. Meeting with the recipients of the 2025 doctoral grants

- Yazdan YAZDANPANAH, Director of ANRS MIE
- Coline BANCEL, Programme Officer for the Start Programme, ANRSMIE

1.00 pm – 1.15 pm

Support for project leaders from the Innovation Committee

- ANRS MIE Innovation Department

1.15 pm – 1.30 pm

No innovation without community involvement: community stakeholders at every stage of research

- Christophe ROUQUETTE, Activities Coordinator, TRT-5 CHV
- Nicolas LORENTE, Head of the Community Research Unit, Coalition PLUS

Networking session, in the Honnorat lounge



6.00 pm – 6.15 pm

“Promoting academic research: opportunities and support”, a continuation of the discussions

- With the panellists from Round Table #1

6.15pm – 6.30pm

The European BE READY Partnership for the French scientific community

- Natalia MARTIN, Head of the Europe Division, ANRS MIE
- Laurent JABOEUF, European Programmes Coordinator, ANRS MIE
- Quentin GADAY, Project Officer for European Scientific Programming, ANRS MIE
- Hervé RAOUL, Deputy Director of ANRS MIE and Head of European Affairs

Thursday 2 April 2026

12.30pm – 12.45pm

Start Programme: supporting the next generation of scientists. Focus on two networks of young researchers

- Network of Young Researchers in the Social Sciences on HIV/AIDS and Sexual Health (RJCSS HIV)
- ANRS MIE Young Basic Research Community Network (AMYB)

12.45pm – 1.00pm

Clinical Research Training Programme ANRS MIE - AFRAVIH: Achievements and future perspectives for 2027

- Alpha DIALLO, Head of Vigilance Department, ANRS MIE
- Léa LEVOYER, Pharmacovigilance Officer, ANRS MIE

13:00 – 13:15

The ANRS MIE International Network: presentation of partnerships in France, West and Central Africa, South-East Asia and Brazil

- ANRS MIE Strategy & Partnerships Department

Dates

Wednesday 1st and Thursday 2 April 2026

Times

Wednesday 1 April, from 09.5 to 18.00

Thursday 2 April, from 08.5 to 18.00

Venue

Cité internationale universitaire de Paris

www.anrs.fr

Accreditation via the ANRS MIE press office:

06 98 92 15 42
presse@anrs.fr



Spokespersons available

Prof. Yazdan Yazdanpanah, Director of ANRS MIE

Dr Fabrice Porcheray, Head of the Innovation Department – ANRS MIE, Chair of the Scientific Advisory Board for the 2026 Scientific Conference

ABOUT ANRS EMERGING INFECTIOUS DISEASES

ANRS Emerging infectious diseases, established on 1 January 2021, is an autonomous agency of Inserm. Its remit is to lead, evaluate, coordinate and fund research into HIV/AIDS, viral hepatitis, sexually transmitted infections, tuberculosis and emerging and re-emerging infectious diseases (notably emerging respiratory infections, including COVID-19, viral haemorrhagic fevers and arboviruses).

The agency covers all areas of research: basic research, clinical research, public health research, and research in the humanities and social sciences. Its structure places an emphasis on innovation and strengthening international partnerships.

Adopting a *One Health* approach, which addresses human and animal health and the impact of humans on the environment, the agency prepares responses to support the deployment of research during health emergencies

The ANRS Emerging Infectious Diseases Agency operates under the supervision of the Ministry of Research and the Ministry of Health. It is headed by Professor Yazdan Yazdanpanah. The agency brings together and coordinates several national and international networks of researchers and doctors employed by leading research

organisations, universities, hospitals and associations. Patient associations and representatives of civil society are fully integrated into its governance and operations.



RÉPUBLIQUE
FRANÇAISE

*Liberté
Égalité
Fraternité*

anrs
MALADIES INFECTIEUSES
ÉMERGENTES **Inserm**

CONTACT:

06 98 92 15 42 | presse@anrs.fr