President Françoise Barré-Sinoussi, President, France

Françoise Barré-Sinoussi, PhD, is the Director of the Regulation of Retroviral Infections unit at the Institute Pasteur in Paris. She has been involved in retrovirology research since the early 1970s. She is recognized for her contributions to HIV and AIDS research, in particular as the first author of the publication that reported in 1983 the discovery of a retrovirus, later named HIV, in a patient at risk for AIDS. In 1988, she became responsible for her own laboratory at the Institute Pasteur and initiated research programmes on viral and host determinants of HIV/AIDS pathogenesis. Between 1988 and 1998, she was also involved in collaborative programmes on HIV vaccine research, using primate models. Today, the research of her team is focused on mechanisms required to induce protection against HIV/AIDS in human and non-human primates.

Along with her research activities, Prof. Barré-Sinoussi has been involved in promoting integration between HIV and AIDS research and actions in resource-limited countries, in particular through the Institute Pasteur International network and the coordination of research programmes conducted in South-east Asia as part of an official cooperation between the French National Agency for Research on AIDS and Viral Hepatitis (ANRS) and the Ministries of Health in Cambodia and Vietnam, reflecting her strong commitment to building capacity, training and technology transfers on site in Africa and Asia. She also serves as Co-Chair of the Global Scientific Strategy, Towards an HIV Cure, being developed under the auspices of the IAS.

Prof. Barré-Sinoussi is author and co-author of 270 original publications and more than 120 articles in book reviews. She has received more than 10 national or international awards, including the Nobel Prize for Medicine in 2008 together with Professor Luc Montagnier for her contributions to HIV and AIDS. She has been awarded Doctor Honoris Causa of a number of universities and in February 2009 she was elected a member of the French Academy of Science.