



Air Liquide Foundation: Launch by Institut Pasteur of Shanghai of a research program on respiratory infections

press release

Contacts:

Air Liquide Foundation
Xavier Drago
+33 (0)1 40 62 51 43

Corporate Communications
Air Liquide Group
Corinne Estrade-Bordry
+ 33 (0)1 40 62 51 31
Garance Bertrand
+ 33 (0)1 40 62 59 62

The origin of many **respiratory diseases** still remains unknown, making their diagnosis difficult. In **Shanghai (China)**, for example, **40% of all respiratory ailments are not correctly identified**. These diseases strike all generations and are often incapacitating. They are the leading cause of infant mortality.

On 10 April, the **Air Liquide Foundation and Institut Pasteur of Shanghai** will sign a **partnership** to advance research on **the identification and prevention of respiratory infections** through a **three-year** research program. The researchers of Institut Pasteur of Shanghai hope, through this program, to identify the action of **new viruses** and develop **more efficient diagnostic** methods in order to improve the treatment of respiratory infections. A team of **10 scientists** will be dedicated to this research program.

The research project of Institut Pasteur of Shanghai meets the need for the development of **molecular biology** techniques to establish more rapid and efficient medical diagnoses in the treatment of respiratory infections. These diagnostic technologies will make use of "**biological microchips**", a new molecular biology technology. The research program, financed in 2009 with a grant of €50,000 by the Air Liquide Foundation, provides for:

- The study of a patient population, with the aim of developing a sampling and treatment method for biological samples;
- The standardization of the methodology for using microchips;
- The creation of a data base on the new infectious agents detected.

A better knowledge of the causes and factors of these infections will permit, in the longer term, the development of a **system for monitoring and preventing epidemics** in cooperation with the Chinese public health authorities.

The Air Liquide Foundation supports this program in the framework of **its corporate philanthropy mission in favor of scientific research for the improvement of the respiratory function**.

The Air Liquide Foundation

With a budget of 3 million euros over five years, the **Air Liquide Foundation** supports corporate philanthropy actions in **three areas**: scientific research for the preservation of the environment, scientific research for the improvement of the respiratory function and support for micro-initiatives in the countries where the Group is present.

www.fondationairliquide.com

Air Liquide is the world leader in gases for industry, health and the environment, present in over 75 countries with 43,000 employees.

Institut Pasteur of Shanghai

Created in 2004 by its three founders (the Chinese Academy of Sciences, the Municipality of Shanghai, Institut Pasteur), **Institut Pasteur of Shanghai** is a Chinese non-profit national institute. Its missions rely on the experience of Institut Pasteur and the Chinese Academy of Sciences in the areas of **biomedical research, public health and education**. With over 110 scientists, Institut Pasteur of Shanghai develops research programs on infectious diseases, particularly in virology, immunology, epidemiology and vaccinology.

www.shanghaipasteur.ac.cn