



Pasteur Gillings Day: A Celebration of Visionary Philanthropy

PARIS, April 20, 2015 - The Institut Pasteur today hosted Drs. Dennis and Mireille Gillings for the 'Pasteur Gillings Day,' with a varied program of activities including scientific presentations and tours of the Pasteur Museum, the Global Health Center and other important facilities.

A key element on the agenda was an update on the partnership between the Institut Pasteur's US affiliate, the Pasteur Foundation, and the University of North Carolina (UNC) Gillings School of Public Health. A recent development here was establishment of the *Dennis and Mireille Gillings Global Public Health Fellowships*, designed to produce leaders who can successfully navigate the complexity of partnering money and medicine. Awarded annually, the fellowships will support post-doctoral scientists to join one of the *Institut Pasteur's* 33 International Network sites based in 26 countries on 5 continents.

In his welcoming remarks, Professor Christian Bréchet, President of the Institut Pasteur, stressed the importance of US-French relations and scientific exchange. "I would like to recognize the Gillings' leadership in strengthening scientific collaboration through these fellowships. Mireille and Dennis are to be commended on their visionary philanthropy."

"Future public health leaders will rely on dynamic collaboration spanning continents and cultures, along with skills in setting strategy, identifying measurable targets and managing budgets," said Dr. Mireille Gillings. "Our goal is to train leaders who can help society to address threats posed by pandemics and chronic diseases, by improving accessibility of modern diagnostics and treatments for all."

"We are enthusiastic to do our part to drive future public health advances on the scale seen with innovative vaccines and biopharma therapies," said Dr. Dennis Gillings. "It is groundbreaking to partner with prestigious organizations such as the Institut Pasteur and the UNC Gillings School of Global Public Health to accelerate progress."

Other items on the agenda of the Pasteur Gillings day included scientific presentations, among them : Nobel Prize Laureate, Pr. Françoise Barré-Sinoussi, Pr. Arnaud Fontanet on the Center for Global Health, Dr Maria Van Kerkhove on the Outbreak Intervention Taskforce for Ebola, Pr. Pierre-Marie Lledo on Neurosciences.

ABOUT THE INSTITUT PASTEUR

The Institut Pasteur, a private foundation with officially recognized charitable status set up by Louis Pasteur in 1887, has become a world-renowned center for biomedical research with an international network of 33 institutes worldwide. In the pursuit of its mission to prevent and fight against diseases in France and throughout the world, the Institut Pasteur operates in four main areas: scientific and medical research, public health and health monitoring, teaching, and business development and technology transfer. More than 2,500 people work on the Institut Pasteur's campus in Paris. Much of the Institut Pasteur's work focuses on the study of infectious diseases, genetic and neurodegenerative diseases and certain cancers, along with research into the properties of living organisms. Since its inception, 10 researchers working at the Institut Pasteur have been awarded the Nobel Prize for Medicine. For more information on the Institut Pasteur, visit www.pasteur.fr