

Discours Claude Bertrand – 30 juin 2015

Madame la Ministre (Mme Touraine),
Monsieur le Secrétaire d'Etat (Thierry Mandon),
Monsieur le Président d'AVIESAN, Cher Yves,
Mesdames et Messieurs les Présidents,
Chers collègues,

Permettez-moi Madame la Ministre de m'exprimer en anglais pour ces rencontres internationales de la recherche.

It is an honour for me to open the 6th edition of the international R&D dating.

This event was created in 2009 and has since been crowned with success. It constitutes a key tool to break down barriers, federate, facilitate and reinforce research and innovation efforts in the health field on our territory. By enabling face-to-face meetings between global R&D leaders from the healthcare industry and high-level academic researchers, this event enhances the visibility of cutting-edge academic research in France, encourage international and French investments and support the competitiveness of French research & innovation at a global level.

By organizing the International R&D Dating each year, ARIIS and AVIESAN are fostering synergies that initiate original and profitable partnerships which can drive innovations of the future in our sector. In a complex and constantly changing economic and regulatory environment, it is necessary to encourage and simplify research through partnerships. If we favour public-private partnerships, we shall be accelerating therapeutic advances for the benefit of patients.

Since 2009, this one-day event comprises two sessions: a morning presentation of cutting-edge findings and programs by academic researchers selected for the excellence & originality of their work, and, in the afternoon, the one-on-one meetings between the researchers of the academic and industrial fields.

The themes targeted by the International R&D Dating during the last years have been: neurosciences in 2009, cardiovascular and metabolic diseases in 2010, infectious diseases in 2011, cancer in 2012 and inflammation in

2013. The first edition was attended by 13 companies, today 23 companies are represented.

This year, the 6TH International R&D Dating focuses on the theme: «*From Rare Diseases to Personalized Medicine*» in partnership with AVIESAN's genetic, genomic and bio-informatic thematic institute and the support of The French Foundation for rare diseases. It is attended by 70 representatives from 23 companies and more than 50 academic research scientists.

This 6th edition will provide the opportunity for healthcare companies to demonstrate their involvement in the field of rare diseases. Rare diseases are defined by their frequency, lower than 1/2000, and often correspond to extreme forms of more common diseases. In Europe, 20 million people suffer from a rare disease. Since the launch of specific regulations in the USA and Europe in 1983 and 1999, respectively, more than 4600 drugs have been marketed as orphan designated drugs. In 2014, the 470 marketed drugs in the USA or Europe, designated as orphan drugs, targeted 211 pathologies in cancer, metabolic, neuromuscular, and infectious diseases. The health industry R&D sector is active in the field as demonstrated by the figures I've just mentioned and more innovations in the future will emerge from strong R&D partnerships between academic and industrial teams.

Furthermore, in the last years, developments in rare diseases have enabled knowledge improvements for many pathophysiological mechanisms, as you will see during the morning presentations for example in ocular, muscular, renal, neurological diseases ...paving the way for new treatments in more common diseases.

To conclude, I would add that we are deeply honoured by the long standing commitment of the government for this event, especially expressed today by the presence of Madam Marisol TOURAINE, Social Services and Health Minister and Mr Thierry Mandon, State Secretary for Research and Higher Education.

Actually, translational research is strongly encouraged by both the Health Industry Strategic Board (CSIS) chaired by the French Prime Minister and the Health Industry Contract (CSF) chaired by the Ministry for the Economy, Industry and Digital Affairs and ARIIS, as you all know, is totally committed since its creation in 2010 to its development in France with its partners from the academic research.

Finally I would like to particularly greet the presence of R&D decision-makers from international health companies who came from all around the world for this unique day and who are ready to invest in France! I also would like to thank R&D decision makers from French healthcare companies who actively work with French academic research.

To innovate tomorrow, we need to work all together today! Thank you for your attention.