

## Discours Claude Bertrand – RIR 2016

Mesdames et Messieurs les Présidents,  
Chers collègues,

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

It is an honour for me to open the 7<sup>th</sup> edition of the international R&D dating.

This event was created in 2009 and has since been crowned with successes. It constitutes a key event to break down barriers, federate, facilitate and reinforce research and innovation efforts in the healthcare 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 increase the competitiveness of French research & innovation at a global level.

By organizing this International R&D Dating each year, ARIIS and AVIESAN are fostering synergies to 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 efforts 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-to-one meetings between academic researchers and industrial representatives.

The themes targeted by the International R&D Dating during the last years have been: neurosciences, cardiovascular and metabolic diseases, infectious diseases, cancer, inflammation, rare diseases and personalized medicine in 2015.

This year, the 7<sup>TH</sup> International R&D Dating focuses on the theme: «*Neurosciences and Psychiatry* » in partnership with AVIESAN's Neurosciences, Cognitive Sciences, Neurology and Psychiatry thematic institute. It is attended by more than 60 representatives from 16 companies and 47 academic research scientists.

This 7<sup>th</sup> edition will provide the opportunity for healthcare companies to demonstrate their involvement in the fields of neurosciences and psychiatry. On the other hand, the organization of the French research in centers of investigation and governmental “investment for the future” funding allowed the creation of an exceptional ecosystem favoring translational research, large cohorts of well characterized patients, biobanks, imaging facilities, data repositories. The French government has highlighted its priority for brain diseases by launching 3 national plans the “Plan Maladies neurodégénératives 2014-2019”, the “Plan d'action en santé mentale 2015-2020” and the “Plan Autisme 2013-2017”. The healthcare industry and its R&D sector are very active in the fields of neurosciences and psychiatry and more innovations will emerge in the future from strong R&D partnerships between academic and industrial teams.

Furthermore, in the last years, large body of evidence indicates that neurologic and psychiatric disorders share common biological alterations of the nervous system opening the possibility to develop common therapeutic strategies.

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 to its development in France with its partners from the academic research.

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 conclude, I would like to announce, if you don't already know it, that I will be leaving the presidency of ARIIS at the end of the month. Indeed, I won't renew my current mandate after 5 exciting years. I would like to express my very sincere thanks to all the industrial members of the association for their commitment and leadership on the key projects of the association, and in particular for these R&D Dating events. I would also like to thank our academic partners for their strong collaboration on the organization of these events of major importance in particular AVIESAN and its president, Yves Levy. Together, we were able to gather all the actors of French research and develop collaborations between industrials and academics, that contributed to the increase awareness of the scientific and innovation attractiveness in France. These actions will be obviously continued and expended by my successor. The opening of the association to others industries especially those of the e- health and the implementation of a new more agile governance will allow ARIIS to consolidate and to increase its actions and impact at the service of innovation to accelerate the discovery of new therapeutic solutions for patient needs.

Thank you for your attention.