



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

*press release*

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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](http://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](http://www.shanghaipasteur.ac.cn)