The French Office for Science and Technology in Los Angeles hopes that you are having a great summer. While the sun is shining and the temperatures are rising, scientists are working hard and July has been rich in discoveries and publications, as you will see in the news sections.

Mid July, FDA approves approved Truvada (emtricitabine/tenofovirdisoproxilfumarate), the first drug approved to reduce the risk of HIV infection in individuals who are at high risk of HIV infection and who may engage in sexual activity with HIV-infected partners. Truvada, taken daily, is to be used for pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) in combination with safer sex practices to reduce the risk of sexually-acquired HIV infection in adults at high risk. "Every year, about 50,000 U.S. adults and adolescents are diagnosed with HIV infection, despite the availability of prevention methods and strategies to educate, test, and care for people living with the disease. New treatments as well as prevention methods are needed to fight the HIV epidemic in this country" said FDA Commissioner Margaret A. Hamburg.

Last but not the least, we would like to congratulate, Razmig Kandilian for being awarded the Chateaubriand Fellowship award in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics by the Office of Science and Technology of the French Embassy of the United-States. This program focuses on providing research students with an enriched experience of working in the best laboratories in France and to establish further scientific corporations between the US and France. Razmig is a UCLA PhD student under the guidance of Professor Laurent Pilon. He will spend 10 months at the University of Nantes in the GEPEA laboratory, which concentrates on process engineering in the fields of food, environment, and marine bioressources valorization.

Thank you and Bonne lecture!

Anissa Ghafarian, Science and Technology Intern
Manon Lecomte, Deputy Scientific Attaché
Fabien Agenes, Scientific Attaché

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