Created in 1964, the French National Institute for Health and Medical Research is a public scientific and technological organization. Overseen jointly by the French Ministries of Research and Health, INSERM’s vocation is to promote health for all.

Missions

It is by stressing and nourishing the continuum between the different fields of research in fundamental biology, cognitive and applied medicine and public health that INSERM meets its overriding objectives, which are to improve our understanding of human diseases, and to ensure that patient, the medical community, and our national and international partners benefit rapidly from the latest research findings.

Key Figures

- 445 millions € budget in 2002
- 366 research units, 21 clinical research centre
- 13,000 research professionals
- 6,500 scientific publications
- 1,000 industrial cooperation contracts
- 4,400 international research projects
- 374 current license agreements

International Cooperation

- 4,400 international projects (2,240 with European countries, 1,330 with North America)
- 5,800 international publications stemming from cooperation
- 2,000 Inserm researchers on mission abroad
- 860 foreign scientists, fellows and students hosted in Inserm laboratories
- 28 co-operation agreements with 23 countries
- 98 % of INSERM laboratories have at least one cooperative project with a foreign laboratory

Cooperative agreements with European countries, industrialized countries and developing countries: free exchanges of researchers, joint research projects. Participation in international research with the European Union, World Health Organization, and the Human Frontier Science Program. Posts for foreign postdoctoral students and high-level researchers. Workshops. International conferences, exchanges of know-how. Fellowships for training young French researchers abroad.