The Embassy of France Hosts the Signature of an Agreement between the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine, Pierre et Marie Curie University, Inserm and CNRS

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The partnership agreement signed on July 12, 2017 at the Embassy of France in Washington, DC, between three French research institutes, the University Pierre et Marie Curie of the Sorbonne Universités in Paris, the Institut National de la Santé et de la Recherche Médicale (Inserm); and the Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique (CNRS) on the one hand, and the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine, on the other hand, promotes collaborative research and education in the fields of medicine and biomedical sciences around the Institut de la Vision now located in Paris and Pittsburgh.

The agreement was signed during the Louis J. Fox Center for Vision Restoration Conference, held on July 11 and 12 at the Embassy of France in Washington, DC. This annual symposium gathers the world’s leading experts in the field of optic nerve regeneration.

Signataires de l’accord : (de gauche à droite) Dr. Sidney Wiener, CNRS ; Dr. Josâ©-Alain Sahel ; Gâ©rard Araud, Ambassadeur de France aux Etats-Unis ; Dr. Jean Chambaz, Universit© Pierre et Marie Curie ; Dr. Yves Levy, Inserm ; Dr. Arthur Levine, Universit© de Pittsburgh.

This agreement focused on Josâ©-Alain Sahel and his colleaguesâ€™ work. They will be exporting an innovative research model from France that brings together patients, start-ups, basic research and technological advancement in the same building, as it has already been tested in France at the Institut de la Vision.

The objective is to develop joint research cooperation, exchanges of academic personnel as well as scientific, educational and scholarly materials. This entirely fits with the Embassy’s objective to increase the attractiveness of France and the mobility of talent across the Atlantic.
This agreement will further strengthen the robust scientific and educational partnerships between Pittsburgh and Paris, bringing to bear our outstanding intellectual capacities to address some of the most significant diseases that lead to blindness and vision impairment through basic and translational research, said Sahel.

Taking on an immense challenge like the quest to cure blindness requires that we not only have bold ideas, but also the brightest minds to work on them. The University of Pittsburgh is proud to be a part of this international partnership that will bring together the world-class scientific community at Pitt with researchers from France under the able leadership of Dr. Sahel, said Arthur S. Levine, M.D., Pitt’s senior vice chancellor for the health sciences and John and Gertrude Petersen Dean of Medicine.