

ACTIVITY REPORT

A year in review of French scientific
diplomacy in the United States

2024

DEVELOP
FACILITATE
SUPPORT
VALUE



© Emilie Nguyen - Embassy of France in the U.S.

06

The Office for Science and Technology

Research and Innovation in France:
Key Figures

Our programs at a glance

10 major events that defined 2024

12

DEVELOP
Bilateral Cooperation

40

FACILITATE
Mobility

46

SUPPORT
French Innovation

54

VALUE
The Scientific Community

64

Distinctions

Science and Technology monitoring

The Office for Science and Technol-
ogy Team



Dear readers,

The year 2024 was part of a continuing flourishing dynamic for Franco-American scientific cooperation, illustrating a common desire to intensify collaborations and develop strategic initiatives in key areas of research and innovation.

This historic cooperation is based on strong ties and ongoing dialogue between researchers, universities and institutions. It reflects a relationship that, to this day, transcends political cycles and relies on networks of scientists engaged in large-scale projects. Scientific cooperation between France and the United States is long lasting, dense, multifaceted, and based on the fact that French and American researchers easily identify with each other, with fluid exchanges that allow collaborative projects to produce unique discoveries.

In 2024, our goal was to create conditions conducive to the emergence of new collaborations, by providing institutional support where necessary and facilitating synergies between academic and industrial actors on both sides of the Atlantic. Our network of attachés and project managers, covering the entire American territory, provides France with a science diplomacy network – an advantage that few world powers currently boast.

Our activities are structured around four major missions, detailed throughout the pages of this report: developing bilateral cooperation, facilitating talent mobility, supporting French innovation and promoting scientific communities. This structuring framework guides our priorities, our actions and most of our interactions with our American partners.

The France Science Summit, organized for the first time in Washington D.C. in 2023, dedicated to the promotion of French research in the United States, as well as to the highlighting of bilateral scientific cooperation projects, again took place in 2024 – in the presence of the special envoy for science, technology and innovation: Mr. Thierry Damerval. This event was extended to Atlanta and San Francisco, through the respective events “France Atlanta Science Summit” and “Science Beyond Borders” which were great successes. The celebration of Inserm's 60th anniversary at the French Embassy was also a highlight, marked by the signing of three International Joint Labs, the launch of the Inserm Abroad network and the reopening of the Inserm Office in Washington to strengthen bilateral collaborations in biomedical research.

French research organizations and universities have, as they do every year, played a leading role in the vitality of transatlantic relations: signing of a letter of intent between CNES and Houston Spaceport, which is part of a boom in Franco-American collaborations in the space sector; signing of an agreement between Rice University and PSL University, covering strategic areas such as energy, climate, artificial intelligence and quantum; signing of a new framework agreement between INRAE and USDA-ARS which further strengthens scientific collaborations in plant and animal genetics, carbon sequestration and aquaculture.

2024 was also marked by the support of the service for two missions to the United States of the Parliamentary Office for the Evaluation of Scientific and Technological Choices. One on the decarbonization of air transport, the other on generative artificial intelligence which highlighted the dynamics of governance and innovation in the sector, while illustrating the growing involvement of universities and institutions in this technological revolution.

Finally, for the first time, the scientific department supported the launch of two fundraising campaigns, the first around the Ice Memory initiative, and the second for the partnership on agrivoltaics between the CNRS and the University of Arizona, with the mobilization of academic and economic stakeholders around innovative projects linked to climate issues.

If 2023 was the year of acceleration, 2024 will have been the year of diversification and dissemination of our actions to promote the expansion of our impact and the strengthening of Franco-American synergies. With the election of President Donald Trump as President of the United States and the measures taken since his inauguration on January 20, 2025, a new landscape is emerging that risks radically transforming this partnership dynamic.

Wishing you a great read,

Mireille Guyader

Counselor for Science
and Technology

The Office for Science and Technology

4 missions



**Develop
Bilateral Cooperation**



**Facilitate
Mobility**



**Support
French Innovation**



**Value
Scientific Communities**

SAN FRANCISCO

Artificial intelligence
Robotics
New numerical technologies

LOS ANGELES

Life Sciences, Health

22 Team members

1

**Science
Counselor**

8

**Science
Attachés**

10

**Deputy attachés
(VIA)**

3

**Assistants -
accountants**

7 Consular
Zones

CHICAGO

Agronomy
Green technologies
Nutrition

BOSTON

Biotechnology

WASHINGTON

Environment, Energy
Climate

STIC (Communication and
Security Information
Technology)

ATLANTA

Innovation
Technology Transfer

HOUSTON

Physics, Nanoscience

5
figures



72
Events



3512
Cumulative Participants



85
Diplomatic Notes



43
Missions Completed



71
Delegations Welcomed

5

Research
Organizations

13

Team members



Research and Innovation in France : Key Figures*



49.5 billion €
2.27% of PIB
devoted to R&D



604 700 individuals
implicated in R&D
(28 500 researchers)



14 500 Doctorate
diplomas awarded
each year



40% of doctorate
degrees awarded to
international students



4th place
in terms of demand
of European patents



7th place globally
in terms of scientific
publications



CNRS 1st position
globally in terms of
scientific publications



57%
of international
co-publications

Research and Innovation in the United States : Key Figures*



806 billion \$ - 3.5% of PIB
devoted to R&D (FY 2021)



8 576 000 individuals
implicated in R&D
(43 000 researchers)



55 000 doctorate
diplomas awarded
each year



41% of doctorate
diplomas awarded to
international students



5 300 universities
250 research
universities



More than 200
acceleration programs



80% of R&D funding
derived from private
financing



21 000 articles
co-published between
France and the United
States each year

Our programs at a glance

Chateaubriand Program

The Chateaubriand Fellowship program finances stays in French laboratories for US university PhD students, for a period of 4-9 months, in the framework of a joint research project. It aims in particular to initiate or strengthen research cooperation between French and American teams.

32 fellowships
financed in 2024

The bilateral funds

Four bilateral funds have been established with American universities spread across the entire territory: the University of California at Berkeley and Davis, Stanford University, the University of Chicago and Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT). The income generated by these endowment funds is used to support scientific collaborations between French research and teaching institutions and these partner universities.

74 projects
financed in 2024

Transatlantic Research Partnership

Launched in 2017 in partnership with the Institut Francais-Villa Albertine, the TRP aims to encourage and support the collaboration of the most promising young French and American researchers, and to promote innovative joint research projects related to the Sustainable Development Goals.

12 scholarships
financed in 2024

NETVA - Start in America

The NETVA program offers young innovative French startups a personalized support program, analysis of opportunities and development of technological partnerships in the United States. This program aims to meet the need for internationalization of French startups developing patent innovative products with high added value.

14 startups
selected in 2024

The 10 major events that defined 2024

MARCH

Signing of a letter of intent between the CNES and Houston Spaceport, which is part of a growing partnership between Rice University and the French space industry, marking a turning point in international cooperation in space exploration. [N° 1.]

MAY

Signing of a Cooperation Agreement between Rice University and PSL University, marking a major milestone in strengthening relations between these two renowned institutions in four priority areas: energy & climate, quantum computing & artificial intelligence, health & medicine, and the future of cities. [N° 3.]

SEPT

1st Edition of the France Atlanta Science Summit (held virtually due to Hurricane Helene), a symposium intended for researchers and students from the French-speaking and Francophile scientific community of the southeastern United States, which was an opportunity to promote the diverse expertise within the France Science network, and to encourage the emergence of new transatlantic collaborations in science and technology. [N° 5.]

OCT

2nd Edition of the France Science Summit, organized by the Office for Science and Technology, the CNRS and INRAE in Washington D.C., to promote French scientific excellence in the United States and Franco-American collaborations in the fields of health, the environment and emerging technologies, with the presence of the special envoy for science, technology and innovation, Thierry Damerval. [N° 7.]

NOV

1st Edition of the Science Beyond Borders in San Francisco to promote transatlantic scientific trajectories, highlighting several professional successes of French individuals in the San Francisco Bay Area and the advantages that collaborations and mobility with France represent for businesses and universities. [N° 9.]

APRIL

OPECST Mission to the United States Concerning Generative Artificial Intelligence, where the meetings highlighted: the decentralization of innovation and talents from academia to industry; the strong involvement of universities and institutions in AI governance; and the mobilization of AI stakeholders on societal issues. [N° 2.]

JUNE

Signing of a Framework Agreement between INRAE and the USDA-ARS, a partnership strengthening scientific collaborations on themes such as plant and animal genetics, carbon sequestration and aquaculture. [N° 4.]

SEPT

Launch of a Fundraising Initiative for the Partnership on Agrivoltaics between the CNRS and the University of Arizona within the Framework of their Joint IRC, an opportunity to raise awareness among potential patrons about an innovative approach to reconciling agricultural production and energy production while responding to climate and economic challenges. [N° 6.]

OCT

Inserm's 60th Anniversary Celebration at the French Embassy in Washington, DC, which provided an opportunity to revisit the historical links between this institute and its partners in the United States and Canada, to build future collaborations through the signing of 3 International Joint Labs agreements, and to launch the Inserm Abroad network to strengthen collaborations in the field of biomedical research. [N° 8.]

NOV

Quantum FADEX, eleven doctoral students from prestigious American universities met their French counterparts, visited CNRS laboratories in quantum science and technology in France, participated in the "Quantum Technologies Research Group" conference, with the aim of having some students return to France to continue their collaboration with local researchers. [N° 10.]



1. Houston



4. New Orleans



2. Washington DC



3. Paris



8. Washington DC



10. Paris



5. Atlanta



6. Los Angeles



7. Washington DC



7. Washington DC



9. San Francisco

01

DEVELOP

Bilateral Cooperation

The Office for Science and Technology in close collaboration with the research organizations represented in Washington, deploys a range of tools at the service of Franco-American scientific cooperation and contributes to strengthening the attractiveness of France to our foreign partners.



France Science Summit



The French Embassy in the United States hosted the France Science Summit for the second consecutive year on Monday, October 28, 2024. This symposium was organized by the Embassy's Office for Science and Technology, by the CNRS office in Washington D.C. and by the INRAE office in Washington D.C. and brought together nearly 150 participants at the Maison Française.

The opening remarks were delivered by the French Ambassador to the United States, Laurent Bili, by the Special Envoy for Science, Technology and Innovation of the MEAE and the MESR, Thierry Damerval, by the Director of the Europe and International Directorate of the CNRS, Alain Mermet, and by the Counselor for Science and Technology of the Embassy, Mireille Guyader.

They highlighted the importance of the Franco-American scientific partnership and discussed French ambitions for the restructuring of research and the organization of major international events such as the Summit for Action on AI and the United Nations Conference on the Oceans.

Four thematic sessions were held throughout the day: new applications of biological and medical research for health, environmental research in the face of global challenges, emerging technologies, and various cooperation tools for scientific mobility. Researchers were invited to present their research during short conferences, then to discuss the benefits of Franco-American bilateral cooperation, the challenges encountered in the context of their work and the major challenges that cross their respective disciplines during these thematic panels.

A flagship event of French scientific excellence in the United States, the France Science Summit 2024 offered the opportunity to around twenty French researchers, at the forefront of research in their respective fields, to present innovative research projects in the fields of health, the environment and emerging technologies.

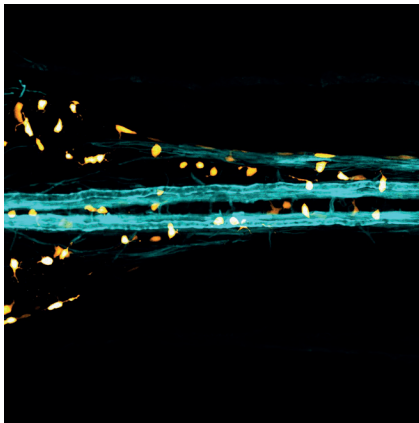
Researchers leading collaborative projects and representatives of French research organizations - CNRS, INRAE and Inserm - had the opportunity to present the various collaboration tools existing with the United States and examples of scientific partnerships of excellence.



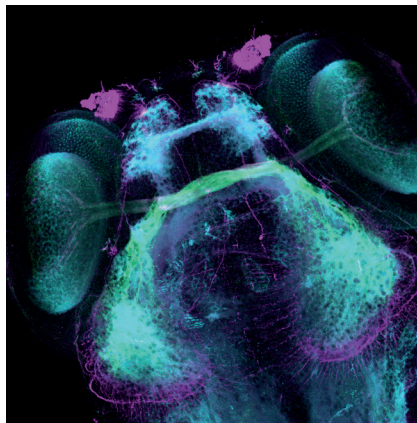
Photo Competition

On the occasion of the *France Science Summit*, The Office for Science and Technology, organized once again a photo competition whose objective was to celebrate the collaboration between France and the United States in the scientific field, while making science more accessible. This competition was open to all scientists from private or public laboratories, having carried out research within the framework of a French-American partnership.

The 10 Finalists Showcased at the Maison Française



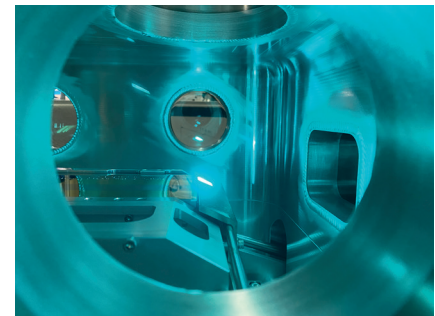
© Laura Fontenas



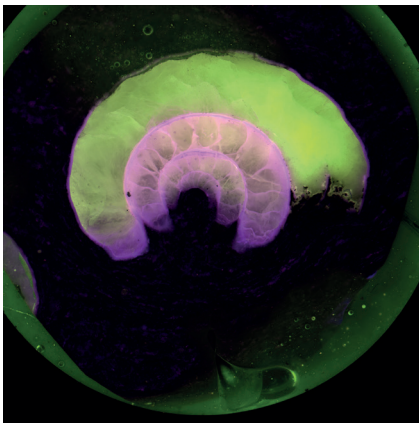
© Caroline Halluin



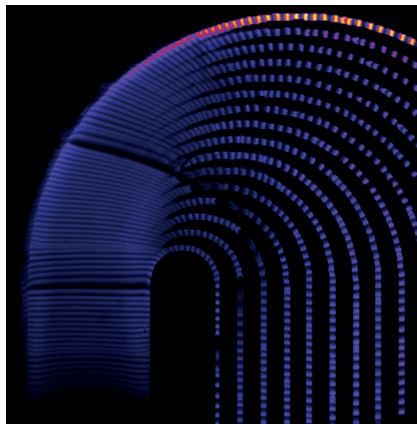
© Virgile Thiévenaz



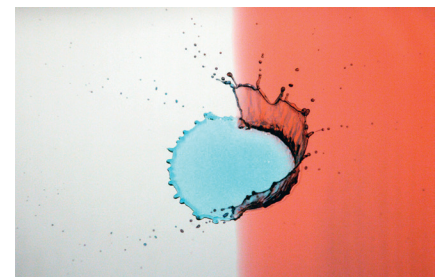
© Antoine Islegen-Wojdyla



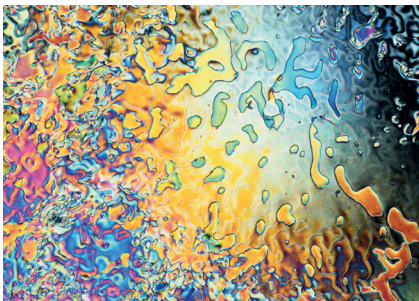
© Anthony Chappaz



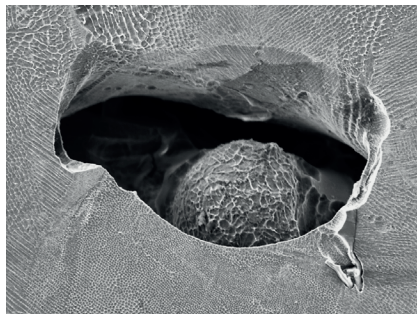
© Alexandre Avaro



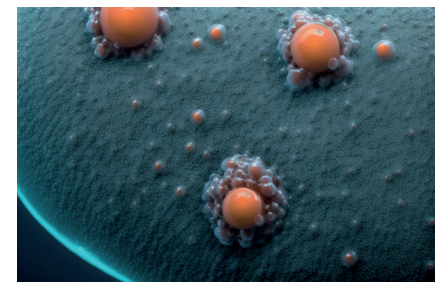
© Alban Sauret



© Marianne Prévôt

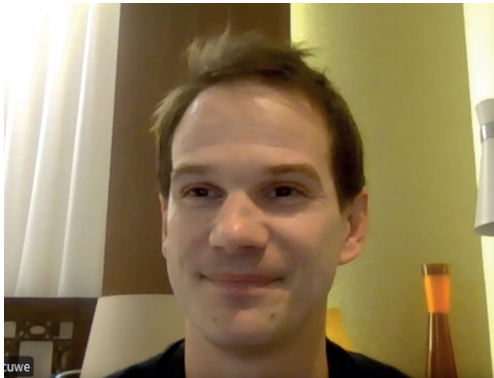


© Amandine Imperge

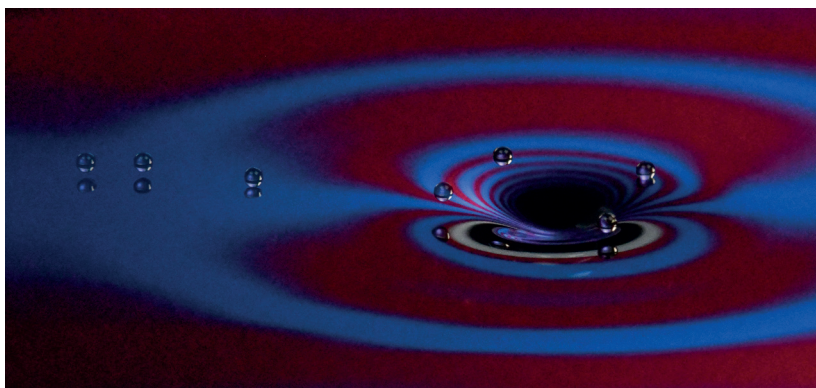
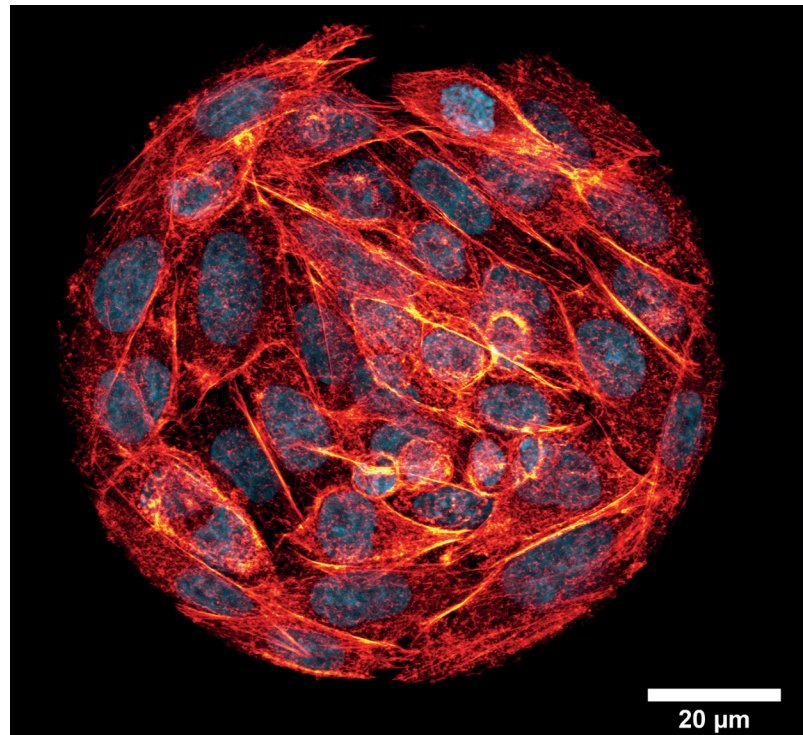


© Vincent Francois Chevrier

Public's Prize



Michel Becuwe,
Assistant Professor at *Marist College*



Franck Boistel,
Student at ESPCI Paris Sciences &
Lettres

Jury's Prize



Regional Editions

Atlanta

**First Edition of the France-Atlanta Science Summit,
dedicated to the Scientific Community of the South East of the United States**

📅 **September 26th**

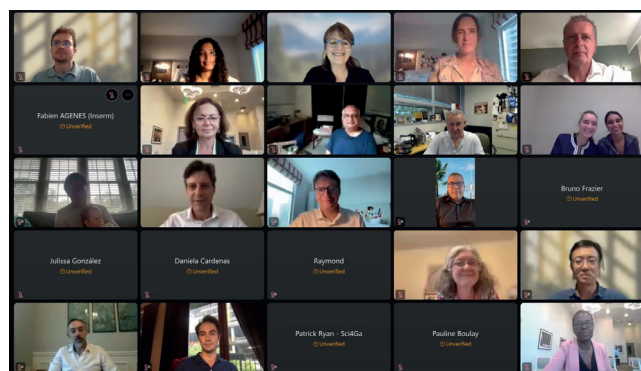
📍 **Atlanta**

On September 26, the first regional edition of the France Science Summit was held in Atlanta. This scientific symposium, while initially planned to be held in person, was held online due to Hurricane Helene.

This event was intended for researchers, scientists and students from the French-speaking and Francophile scientific community in the southeastern United States, which includes the states of Georgia, Florida, North Carolina and Tennessee. The aim of this one-day conference was to strengthen transatlantic scientific cooperation and to highlight successful collaborations between French and American researchers.

The event, organized by the scientific department of the Consulate of France in Atlanta and its partners: the International Research Laboratory 2958 of the CNRS and the Georgia Institute of Technology, brought together several researchers who came directly from France and various states in the southeastern United States. This event was marked by the participation of Raymond Schinazi PhD, a scientist emeritus based at Emory University, as well as by presentations of Franco-American collaborative projects between several institutions, such as the University of Paris-Saclay, the Georgia Institute of Technology, Florida International University, the French Alternative Energies and Atomic Energy Commission (CEA) and the University of Technology of Belfort-Montbéliard.

The France-Atlanta Science Summit was also an opportunity to discuss partnership opportunities and tools offered by the SST, the National Science Foundation (NSF), as well as by research organizations such as the CNRS and INSERM, to facilitate mobility and scientific cooperation: such as the Chateaubriand and Fulbright programs. This summit also highlighted the strengths of the France Science network and inspired new transatlantic collaborations.

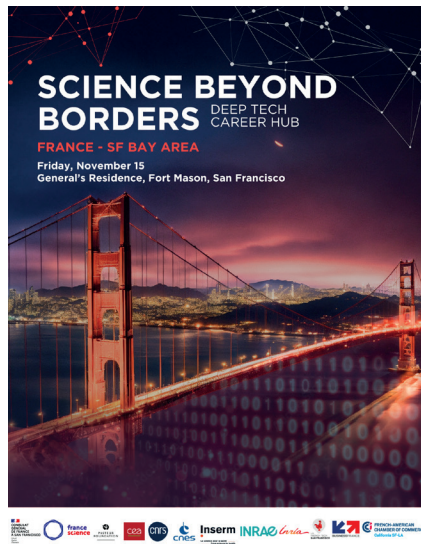


San Francisco

**First Edition in San Francisco of “Science Beyond Borders”,
forum dedicated to Franco-American Synergies in Research and Entrepreneurship**

📅 **November 15th**

📍 **San Francisco**



On November 15, 2024, the scientific department of the Consulate of France in San Francisco, supported by the Washington DC team, organized the event “Science Beyond Borders”, a day of discussions on the theme of transatlantic careers in deep tech, bringing together 160 participants and speakers around the themes of academic mobility, entrepreneurial success and collaborative research.

Inspired by the France-Science Summit, the event mobilized the local French and American scientific communities and strengthened transatlantic ties through experience sharing. The event brought together in person for the first time the majority of the French ecosystem supporting research and innovation in the United States: French research institutes (CNRS, CEA, INRAE, INSERM, CNES, Pasteur Foundation) and Business France, the Franco-American Chamber of Commerce and French Tech.

The discussions highlighted the challenges, opportunities, and the positive impact of Franco-American relations in promoting research and innovation in deep tech. They were an opportunity to see the relevance

of the support offered by French services in the United States, in terms of welcoming startups and companies, networking, mobility of young researchers, and support for research collaborations.

The success of this event helped to strengthen the visibility of the French and French-speaking scientific community in the San Francisco Bay Area and confirmed the importance of such meetings to promote innovation and French talent internationally.



Expanding the Inserm Representative Office in North America

Inserm



La science pour la santé
From science to health

The year 2024 was marked by the strengthening of the Representative Office of the French National Institute of Health and Medical Research (Inserm) in North America, with the arrival in September of a new office director and a project manager, in order to support the development of Inserm's collaborations with the United States and Canada.

The United States is Inserm's leading international partner, with 35% of its scientific co-publications. To strengthen this cooperation and increase its influence, Inserm opened a Representative Office in

Washington, DC in 1998. Since 2023, its CEO, Didier Samuel, has intensified this dynamic through his trips abroad, the strengthening of international calls for projects, the creation of "International Joint Labs" to structure major partnerships, and the development of the Representative Office in North America.

The Inserm Representative Office in North America, integrated into the Mission for Science and Technology of the French Embassy in the United States, represents Inserm in the United States and Canada. It strengthens North American scientific collaborations by supporting existing partnerships and promoting new cooperation aligned with Inserm's strategic priorities. It ensures Inserm's visibility with federal agencies and local stakeholders in life sciences and health, while monitoring scientific advances and research policies in North America. In conjunction with Inserm's thematic institutes, it also contributes to the identification and recruitment of talent through various mechanisms, such as researcher positions, the Atip-Avenir program or junior professor chairs. The Office also relies on the Inserm Abroad network, which brings together Inserm experts within leading foreign research institutions.

The Inserm Representative Office in North America is therefore available to staff of Inserm structures wishing to initiate or strengthen their collaborations with the United States or Canada, as well as North American researchers wishing to establish partnerships with Inserm.



Inserm 60 Years of Science for Health



To mark its 60th anniversary, the French National Institute of Health and Medical Research (Inserm) organized a day of scientific and institutional exchanges on October 29, 2024, at the French Embassy in the United States in Washington, DC. This event was an opportunity

to highlight Inserm's fruitful scientific cooperation with the United States and Canada. It was attended by Inserm President and CEO Didier Samuel, French Ambassador to the United States Laurent Bili, and representatives from numerous prestigious partner institutions in North America (160 registrants, 120 participants, 39 speakers, including 17 French and 22 North American speakers).

Three roundtables were organized to discuss Inserm's priority themes: emerging infectious diseases, neurology and mental health, and the links between the environment, climate, and health. Michel Sadelain, a pioneer and leader in the field of CAR-T cells, presented his work in a keynote speech. To further strengthen scientific cooperation with the United States and Canada, three International Joint Labs were signed with North American scientific institutions: the University of Pittsburgh (ophthalmology and vision), Université Laval (respiratory viral infections), and the University of Ottawa (neuromuscular diseases). The day concluded with the presentation of the 2024 Inserm International Prize to Miriam Merad, a Franco-Algerian researcher and Chair of the Department of Immunology and Immunotherapy and the Precision Immunology Institute at Mount Sinai School of Medicine in New York City.

October 29, 2024, also marked the official launch of the Inserm Abroad network, a new initiative that is part of Inserm's policy of increasing its international appeal and influence. This network brings together Inserm partner researchers working abroad in prestigious research institutions, in order to strengthen the Institute's partnerships around the world and thus meet the current challenges of health research.



Zoom on... the CNRS



The CNRS office in Washington D.C. represents the CNRS in the United States and Mexico. The CNRS has more than 70 structured cooperations, in the form of International Research Centers (IRC), Laboratories (IRL), Projects (IRP) and Networks (IRN), with excellent American and Mexican universities. The CNRS office publishes two monthly newsletters: the AdN, with the Canadian office, on news of the CNRS structured tools in North America and the scientific policy of the three countries, and the Fil de Marianne, on opportunities for researchers based in North America to return to France.



The CNRS office publishes a booklet updated every year: "CNRS in the United States", available in French and English. This booklet published on the website www.washington.office.cnrs.fr presents all of the structured cooperation of the CNRS in the USA: IRC, IRL, IRP, and IRN.

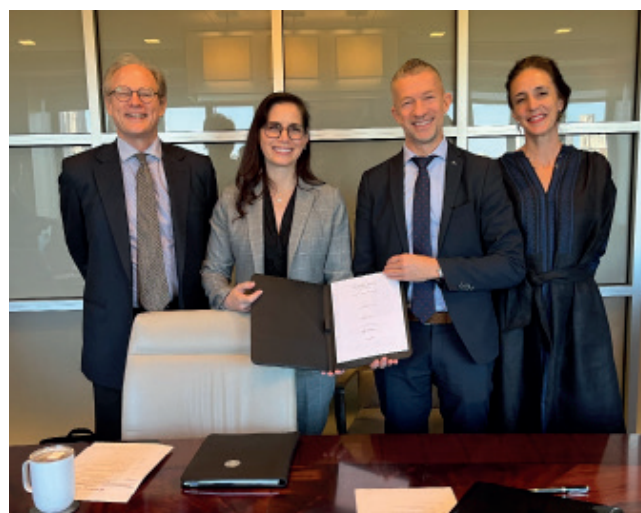
Creation of new *International Research Laboratories, Projects and Network* of the CNRS with American Universities

📅 January 1st

📍 United States



The CNRS has established nine new structured partnerships with American universities in 2024, including two International Research Laboratories (IRL HumanitiesPlus and IRL Particle Physics and Astrology) with the University of Chicago, an International Research Network with Michigan State University, and six International Research Projects with various institutions, including the University of Arizona. The IRL HumanitiesPlus aims to promote transnational interdisciplinary research in philosophy (including the philosophy of science), literature, linguistics, philology, and the arts - with an opening towards the social sciences. The IRL Particle Physics and Cosmology is a laboratory dedicated to particle physics, cosmology, and astroparticles, which aims to study neutrino activity and matter/antimatter asymmetry over the next two decades. Located at the Fermi National Accelerator Laboratory (FNAL), it will play a key role in neutrino research, particularly in the framework of the DUNE project, led by the FNAL, to which France contributes via six CNRS laboratories. These nine structured tools cover the disciplines of human and social sciences, particle physics, Earth and Universe sciences, chemistry, biology and physics, further strengthening bilateral collaborations between the CNRS and American universities.



French Delegation Visits NASA's Space Telescope Science Institute and Goddard Space Flight Center

📅 January 30th

📍 Baltimore



On Tuesday, January 30, a CNRS delegation led by Marc Ferrari, astronomer at the Laboratoire d'Astrophysique de Marseille and co-director of the CNRS International Research Project TARPIN (Trans-Atlantic Research Program for Imaging New-Worlds), visited the Space Telescope Science Institute (STScI) and NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center. The CNRS was accompanied by delegations from CNES, ONERA, CEA and the French Ambassador to the United States, Laurent Bili, as well as the Counselor for Science and Technology at the French Embassy, Mireille Guyader. The aim of these visits was to discuss the future of collaboration between French research organizations and NASA for the next major missions of the American federal agency. This high-level meeting highlighted the CNRS TARPIN IRP, which is hosted at STScI and aims to position itself on future NASA missions. Led in France by Marc Ferrari and in the United States by Rémi Soummer, Director of the Russell B. Makidon Optics Laboratory at STScI, this program aims to design a new type of off-axis, segmented, low-order deformable mirror to simulate the primary mirrors of future large space telescopes.



Strengthening Ties Between the CNRS Office in Washington D.C. and MIT Through the Exhibition "Posing for Freedom: Portraits of Scientists in Exile" and the MIT European Career Fair

📅 February 29th & March 2nd

📍 Cambridge



On February 29, the CNRS Office in Washington D.C. attended the inauguration of the photographic exhibition organized by the Programme d'Aide à l'Accueil des Scientifiques en Urgence (PAUSE), a program in which the CNRS and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) participate. On March 2, the office participated in the MIT European Career Fair, alongside the Office for Science and Technology of the French Embassy in the United States. These two separate events allowed the CNRS to reinforce its ties with the prestigious American institution.





Visit of the French Ambassador and Scientific Tour in Seattle, Vibrant Ecosystem of Research in Neuroscience and Technologies

📅 March 11th to 13th

📍 Seattle

From March 11 to 13, 2024, the San Francisco team accompanied Ambassador Laurent Bili's first visit to Seattle, the second largest city in the San Francisco consular area. An ecosystem where the French presence is growing rapidly, Seattle has also been the stronghold of major technology companies for several years, such as Amazon, Microsoft, Boeing and Blue Origin. In terms of scientific research, Seattle is particularly known for its neuroscience laboratories, led by the University of Washington (UW) and the Allen Institute, and the Fred Hutchinson Center for Translational Medicine. The research environment is comfortably supported by the two major local foundations, Allen and Gates, which in particular help to attract many international talents, including French ones. In addition, the establishment on the UW campus of the CoMotion accelerator - whose director François Baneyx is French - is an important

catalyst for technological innovation. The meeting between the French Ambassador, UW President Ana Mari Cauce and several renowned UW researchers was an opportunity to consolidate existing relationships and collaborations with this vibrant scientific and technological ecosystem, which will result in 2025 in the organization of a FADEX program around neuroscience and artificial intelligence.

Signing of a Letter of Intent between CNES and Houston Spaceport

📅 March 18th

📍 Houston



On March 18, 2024, Rice University hosted Philippe Baptiste, President and CEO of CNES, for a visit that



marked a milestone in international cooperation in space exploration. Accompanied by Rice President Reginald DesRoches and Houston Airport System Aviation Director Jim Szczesniak, Philippe Baptiste signed a letter of intent to strengthen ties between the French and Texas space ecosystems. The agreement provides for increased collaboration in space-related education, commerce, and industrial development, with the Houston Spaceport playing a key role in this alliance. This visit is part of a growing relationship between Rice University and the French space industry, reinforced by the French Space Days in Houston and strategic meetings at the Rice Global Paris Center in November 2023.



Visit to Fermilab by French Ambassador Laurent Bili

📅 March 25th to 27th

📍 Chicago

From March 25 to 27, 2024, the Office for Science and Technology accompanied the Ambassador of France to the United States, Laurent Bili, on his first official visit to Chicago. A visit to Fermilab, a federal particle physics and accelerator laboratory located in Batavia, Illinois, highlighted strong and fruitful partnerships in particle and quantum physics established by France, through institutions such as the CEA, CNES, and CNRS, with notable collaborations such as the Deep Underground Neutrino Experiment (DUNE) and the Proton Improvement Plan-II (PIP-II). Ambassador Bili praised the “invaluable cooperation for the advancement of global research and innovation,” highlighting the significant presence of French researchers at Fermilab.



Signature of an MOU between Emory University and Nantes University, On the Occasion of a Conference on AI Ethics

📅 March 20th

📍 Atlanta

In March 2024, the Atlanta Science Department partnered with Emory University to organize the second edition of SimuvAction, bringing together several experts, professors, and international figures in Atlanta for a series of events aimed at creating a framework for reflection on the governance of artificial intelligence (AI). This edition allowed students from different institutions around the world to debate and simulate the decision-making process at international meetings concerning the ethics of AI, inequalities in access to health care, climate change, data protection, and the development of inclusive policies. A symposium on ethics and governance of AI followed this conference, bringing together several international speakers. On the same day, an MOU was signed between Emory University and Nantes University to strengthen their collaboration within the Emory Center for Ethics. This series of events was made possible thanks to the work of the SST in collaboration with French professor Anne Elisabeth Courrier.



Accompanying a Delegation from CNRS Nuclear & Particles to the Department of Energy (DoE)

📅 April 8th & 9th

📍 Washington DC



On April 8, the CNRS Office in Washington D.C. and two deputy scientific directors of CNRS Nuclear & Particules met with several DoE representatives to take stock of joint programs (EIC, Spiros, CUPID) and structuring activities (International Research Laboratory for Nuclear Physics and Nuclear Astrophysics, International Research Laboratory on Particle Physics

and Cosmology, and International Research Network France-North America Network on the Physics of Exotic Nuclei). Discussions with the DoE, an important partner of the CNRS, showed a shared interest in collaboration and the development of cooperation agreements.

Visit of the Deputy Director of Innovation of AP-HP

📅 April 17th

📍 Boston

During the week of April 17, 2024, the Boston scientific department and its “Team France” partners organized a week of meetings and discussions with the academic



and industrial community of the Boston “health and innovation” ecosystem for Nicolas Castoldi, deputy director in charge of innovation within the AP-HP management. The objective was to better understand the components of this ecosystem in order to better grasp the challenges and risks related to the development of biotech and medtech innovation in a healthcare environment. A meeting with young researchers and young French doctors based in Boston hospitals provided an opportunity to discuss mobility issues and the importance of international collaboration with hospital research centers in the United States.

Ice Memory Foundation US Fundraising Campaign Launched

📅 April 22nd

📍 Washington DC

The Ice Memory Foundation, hosted by the Fondation de l'Université Grenoble Alpes, aims to raise funds to collect “ice cores” from glaciers in danger of disappearing around the world and store them in the sanctuary of the Concordia Station in Antarctica. Their goal is to preserve the irreplaceable information that ice cores contain and to ensure that these hundreds of thousands of years of atmospheric history remain available to scientists of future generations. On April 22, the Office for Science and Technology of the French Embassy organized an event at the Maison Française to launch the fundraising campaign in the United States, with interventions by the President of the Foundation, Jérôme Chappellaz, former director of the French Polar Institute Paul Emile Victor, the Executive Director,

Anne-Catherine Ohlmann, and Professor Dominic Winski, a glaciologist from the University of Maine.





Signing of a Cooperation Agreement between Rice University (Houston, Texas) and Paris Sciences & Lettres University

📅 May 13th & 14th

📍 Paris

On May 13 and 14, 2024, PSL University (Paris Sciences & Lettres) and Rice University signed a strategic cooperation agreement in Paris, at Rice Global in Paris, the campus inaugurated by Rice University in 2023. This agreement, signed by Alain Fuchs, President of PSL, and Reginald DesRoches, President of Rice, marks a major milestone in strengthening relations between these two renowned institutions. The Rice delegation, composed of twenty professors and managers, benefited from the support of the scientific service of the French Embassy in the United States, which played a key role in this collaboration. This partnership aims to develop joint projects in four priority areas: energy and climate, quantum computing and artificial intelligence, health and medicine, and the future of cities. It also includes a student exchange program and shared funding for collaborative research initiatives.



Mission to Promote the Know-How of IRD and INRAE in Collective Scientific Expertise

📅 April 22nd to 26th

📍 Washington DC

INRAE

The Office for Science and Technology in Washington co-organized with the INRAE representative in the United States a program of meetings from April 22 to 26 for a joint delegation from IRD and INRAE. The objective of this visit was to promote their capacity for collective scientific expertise (production of syntheses on the state of scientific knowledge by committees of experts to inform public policy decisions) with American and multilateral organizations (National Academies, OAS, World Bank, Global Environment Facility, World Resources Institute, International Food Policy Research Institute, UN Foundation, Rockefeller Foundation, etc.).

Signing of a Framework Agreement between INRAE and USDA-ARS

📅 June 5th

📍 New Orleans

INRAE

In June 2024, INRAE's CEO and Vice President for International Partnerships visited New Orleans. During this visit, INRAE and USDA-ARS confirmed the signing of a framework agreement aimed at strengthening their collaborations and facilitating scientific exchanges on topics of common interest, such as the selection and genetic improvement of plants and animals, carbon sequestration in soils, and aquaculture. This partnership demonstrates INRAE's determination to consolidate its scientific cooperation policy on the world stage, more specifically in the United States. It also reflects the good cooperation between INRAE and USDA-ARS, which is the leading American institution in terms of the number of co-publications with INRAE.



Renewal of the Framework Agreement between INRAE and the University of Florida

📅 June 15th

📍 Gainesville



The University of Florida Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (UF-IFAS) has been an active partner of INRAE for many years. A first framework agreement signed in 2020 and a Joint Linkage Call (JLC) in 2022 allowed for cross-exchanges of scientists for the emergence of new collaborations through 7 projects on various themes. Building on this success, the two partners wish to strengthen and expand scientific collaborations in areas of common interest. The visit to Florida by International Vice President, Jean-François Soussana, was thus the opportunity to sign the renewal of the framework agreement with this strategic partner. Thanks to this, a second edition of JLC was launched, around new themes:

- Artificial intelligence and Big Data
- Water management and drought monitoring
- Zoonotic diseases
- Sequestration and biological storage of carbon
- Agro-environmental modeling in the context of climate change

Following a virtual workshop in October, where researchers from UF-IFAS and INRAE were able to meet and discuss themes of common interest, several groups submitted collaborative projects, which will be jointly evaluated and funded by the two institutions in early 2025.

Creation of 5 Projects through the CNRS-University of Arizona Joint Thesis Cluster in the Field of Agrivoltaics

📅 June 26th

📍 Tucson



Based on their joint partnership through the International Research Center France-Arizona Institute for Global Grand Challenges, the CNRS and the University of Arizona have agreed to create a thesis cluster on agrivoltaics, an important working theme of the IRC within the framework of the initiative “Food – Energy – Water: Agrivoltaics at Scale”. The thesis projects of the cluster, carefully designed to address agrivoltaics in a global and interdisciplinary manner, were revealed in June 2024:

- Multi-criteria identification of landscapes suitable for photovoltaic installations;
- The political and legal issues of agrivoltaics;
- The emergence of thin-film photovoltaics in an agricultural space;
- Agrivoltaics at scale;
- Models, tools and indicators for the assessment of the impacts and benefits of photovoltaic agriculture.



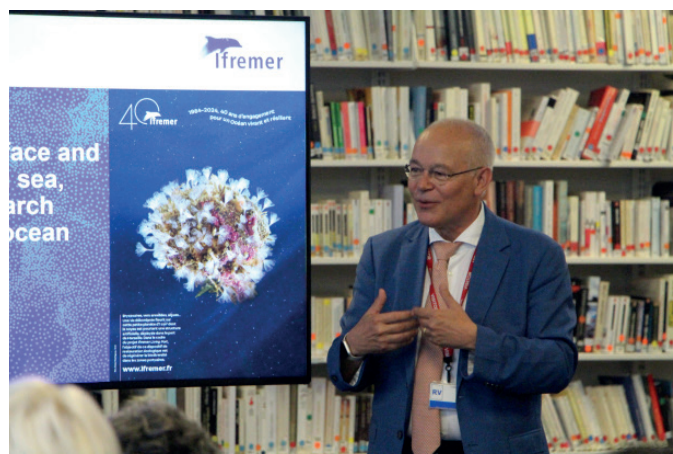
©Morgane Noel

Visit of François Houllier, CEO of IFREMER

📅 June 27th & 28th

📍 Washington DC

The Office for Science and Technology at the French Embassy in Washington welcomed François Houllier, CEO of IFREMER, on the occasion of the bilateral strategic committee with NOAA in Washington DC. The office organized a reception to present IFREMER and its role in French oceanographic research, to an audience composed of federal personnel and foreign diplomats. A webinar presenting research and career opportunities at IFREMER to the French and French-speaking scientific community based in the United States was also recorded.



Visit to the CNRS International Research Laboratory NPA by the French Ambassador to the United States

📅 July 22nd

📍 East Lansing



On July 22, the CNRS Office in Washington D.C., together with the Consul General of France in Chicago, Yannick Tagand, and the Deputy Attaché for Science and Technology of the Consulate General of France in Chicago, accompanied the Ambassador of France to the United States, Laurent Bili, to Michigan State University (MSU). The delegation visited the Facility for Rare Isotope Beams (FRIB) and the International Research Laboratory for Nuclear Physics and Nuclear Astrophysics (IRL NPA), a newly created CNRS international research laboratory in nuclear physics and astrophysics between the CNRS and MSU.



©Facility for Rare Isotope Beams

Launch of a Fundraising Initiative for the Partnership on Agrivoltaics between the CNRS and the University of Arizona within the Framework of their Joint IRC

📅 September 4th

📍 Los Angeles



On September 4, the Résidence de France in Los Angeles hosted an event dedicated to pioneering research in the field of agrivoltaics as an innovative solution for food, water, and energy resilience, carried out within the CNRS-University of Arizona International Research Center. The event launched a fundraising campaign in support of this partnership. Joaquin Ruiz (IRC US Director), Régis Ferrière (IRC Deputy Director) and Greg Barron-Gafford (Coordinator of the Agrivoltaics Partnership) opened the reception by highlighting the importance of the collaborative work carried out and which involves, beyond France and the United States, partners in Mexico, Israel, Morocco and Kenya. Alumni, teachers, journalists, philanthropists and representatives of research institutes were present.



©Christophe Ortega



Visit to the Sustainable Polymers Tech Hub, an Innovation Hub for Sustainable Polymers

📅 September 11th

📍 Chicago

On September 11, the Office for Science and Technology of the Consulate of Chicago, accompanied by the Consul General, visited the Sustainable Polymers Tech Hub in Akron, Ohio. This center is based on a consortium of universities such as the University of Akron and Case Western Reserve University, as well as major industrial players such as BioVerde, Goodyear, Huntsman and Flexsys. This Tech Hub seeks to develop innovative technologies for the large-scale production of sustainable polymers in the United States. Located in the heart of Ohio, a region with many plants specializing in plastics and rubber, it benefits from a strategic location that gives it a unique potential to become a world leader in low-emission polymer technologies. During this visit, discussions took place on the possibilities of collaboration between the Tech Hub and France, to strengthen ties in research and innovation in the field of sustainable polymers.

Visit of a Delegation from the Paris Brain Institute

📅 September 12th to 20th

📍 New York, Boston, Washington et Houston

In September 2024, a delegation of leaders from the Paris Brain and Spine Institute (ICM) visited several US cities of interest. This delegation had the particularity of being composed of the current Director, Alexis Brice, and the future Director (arriving in early 2025), Stéphanie Debette. The visits allowed for rich discussions on science, innovation, research infrastructures and, above all, current and future collaborations. Among the centers of excellence visited, we can note Columbia University and Cornell University in New York, the Texas Medical Center in Houston, and the Broad Institute, the MIT Picower Institute and industrialists in Cambridge. A meeting was also organized with Biogen executives and the new management of the ICM to discuss research programs of common interest. Finally, the visit to the Janelia Research Campus of the Howard Hughes Medical Institute (HHMI) and the laboratories of the National Center for Advancing Translational Sciences (NCATS) in Washington made it possible to consider the initiation of future transatlantic collaborations.



French Delegation at the i2Eye Conference organized at the Pittsburgh Vision Institute

📅 September 15th to 17th

📍 Pittsburgh



The sixth annual i2Eye Conference on Innovative Imaging of Eye Diseases was held from September 15 to 17, 2024 at the UPMC Vision Institute in Pittsburgh (UPMC/Sorbonne Université/Inserm/CNRS), led by Dr. José-Alain Sahel. Inspired by the Institut de la Vision de Paris (Sorbonne Université/INSERM/CNRS), this interdisciplinary center brings together specialists in ophthalmology, biology, physics, neuroscience, and mathematics to advance research on eye diseases. The event welcomed 37 French researchers, mainly from the Parisian institute, and their American counterparts, fostering enriching exchanges. Sylvette Tourmente, Director of the CNRS office in Washington, and Fabien Agenes, new Director of the Inserm Office - North America were also present.

Visit to the CEA LETI Institute

📅 October 1st to 4th

📍 Boston



In early October 2024, the Boston scientific department welcomed a delegation of researchers from a CEA LETI department specializing in health technologies, accompanied by its scientific director. Meetings were organized with several laboratories from MIT, the Broad Institute in Cambridge, Harvard University and Mass General Hospital (MGH) as well as interviews with a few local SMEs. These exchanges made it possible to identify complementarities in research topics, particularly in the fields of biosensors and microfluidics. Discussions between MGH and LETI are expected to continue to more precisely identify possible collaborations.



Museum of the North Hosts Exceptional Science Evening on Environmental Issues and Lessons Learned in the Arctic

📅 October 4th

📍 Fairbanks, Alaska

The San Francisco team had the privilege of traveling to Alaska to organize the conference “Holistic Environmental Research: Where Indigenous Knowledge and Emerging Technologies Meet”, in collaboration with the University of Alaska Fairbanks (UAF). The conference highlighted the urgency of collaboration to address climate challenges in the Arctic. By bringing together researchers and indigenous communities, it highlighted the need for a holistic approach that combines ancestral knowledge, indigenous practices, and modern technologies. This approach allows us to better understand the changes underway and to co-construct sustainable solutions. Participants, local researchers and representatives of indigenous communities, discussed the impacts of global warming on Arctic ecosystems, the importance of preserving biodiversity, and the challenges of adaptation. They also explored the potential of digital technologies to monitor the environment and collect data. The conference highlighted the crucial role of international cooperation in addressing these challenges. By sharing their knowledge and experiences, participants laid the foundation for collective action for a more resilient future in the Arctic.



Presence of France at the International Congress of the Society for Neuroscience

📅 October 7th

📍 Chicago

In October 2024, Chicago hosted the Neuroscience 2024 conference, a key event for researchers and professionals working in the field of cognitive sciences, neurology and psychiatry. On this occasion, the Office for Science and Technology of the Consulate was present at the “Neuroscience in France” stand to present its missions and initiatives, alongside the French Society of Neurobiology, INSERM, CNRS and the GIS Autism and TND. This gathering highlighted the advances in neuroscience research in France and encouraged exchanges between French and American scientists. At the same time, the Consul General of France welcomed the delegations to his residence to present the local ecosystem, in particular the opportunities for collaboration with Chicago institutions and companies, recognized for their dynamism in science and technology. This meeting strengthened ties between the two countries and provided an opportunity to discuss future prospects for cooperation in neuroscience.

Strategic Partnership between Ecole Normale Supérieure (ENS) and Rice University

📅 October 24th

📍 Houston

On October 24, during an official visit to Houston, a delegation from the École Normale Supérieure (ENS) marked a significant step forward in international cooperation by signing a collaboration agreement with Rice University. This partnership, formalized by Frédéric Worms, Director of the ENS, and Amy Dittmar, Provost of Rice University, symbolizes the rapprochement between two prestigious institutions, united by a shared vision of academic excellence. This ambitious agreement aims to intensify student and faculty mobility between Paris and Houston while promoting the emergence of new collaborative projects. It constitutes a strategic lever to stimulate academic, scientific and cultural exchanges, thus strengthening ties between France and the United States in the field of research and higher education.

CNRS Governance Visit to the Universities of California and Arizona

📅 October 21st to 23rd

📍 Berkeley, Stanford & Tucson

From October 21 to October 23, 2024, a high-level CNRS delegation visited the Universities of California at Berkeley and Stanford in California, then in Arizona at the University of Arizona. The CNRS delegation, composed of its President and CEO Antoine Petit, the Director of CNRS Chemistry Jacques Maddaluno, the Director of CNRS Engineering Lionel Buchailot, the Director of the Europe and International Department Alain Mermet and the Director of the CNRS office in Washington D.C. Sylvette Tourmente, met with the French and American directors and coordinators of structured actions of the CNRS (IRL, IRP, IRN). In Arizona, following a high-level meeting with the new president of the university Suresh Garimella, the delegation visited the NSF Center in Topological Acoustics directed by Pierre Deymier, Fellow Ambassador 2024 of the CNRS. At the end of the day, in the presence of the Embassy's Science and Technology Counselor, Antoine Petit presented the National Order of Merit to Dr. Régis



Ferrière (deputy director of the International Research Center between the CNRS and the University of Arizona) in recognition of his commitment to Franco-American scientific cooperation.

Inauguration of the Smart Ferroic Materials Center (SFMC) at the University of Arkansas in Collaboration with Centrale Supélec and Paris-Saclay University (PSL)

📅 November 11th

📍 Houston

On November 11, 2024, the Houston Science Department participated in the inauguration of the Smart Ferroic Materials Center (SFMC) at the University of Arkansas, a center dedicated to fundamental research on ferroic materials, such as ferroelectric, ferromagnetic, ferroelastic, and ferrotoroidal materials. These materials, whose physical properties evolve under external influences, are studied to address major

challenges, including the creation of faster and more energy-efficient computers, as well as the promotion of a greener and safer environment. The SFMC also emphasizes multicultural and bilateral approaches in science and education, notably through exchanges between students and researchers. CentraleSupélec and the Université Paris-Saclay are among the key partners in this project.

Institut Curie Fundraising Event and Conference “How AI Will Change the Future of Cancer”

📅 November 11th & 12th

📍 Washington DC

The Residence de France hosted the Marie Curie Legacy Dinner on November 11, attended by the Ambassador of France, Laurent Bili. This charity event was dedicated to celebrating Marie Curie's legacy and supporting the advanced research of the Institut Curie, particularly within its Chemical Biology of Cancer Research Center. The following day, the Embassy's Office for Science and Technology organized, through the Science Diplomats Club, a roundtable entitled "How AI Will Change the Future of Cancer" at the Maison Française, with speakers Dr. Sarah Watson, medical oncologist and researcher at the Institut Curie, and Dr. Kapil Parakh, practicing cardiologist and senior medical officer at Google. This roundtable also benefited from the testimony of Rear Admiral Susan Blumenthal, who held senior positions in the federal health administration under four American presidents and, as Ambassador of the Institut Curie to the United



States, has contributed to fundraising for the Institute for several years. This discussion highlighted the intersection of clinical oncology, bioinformatics and technology, and celebrated the new partnership signed between Institut Curie and Google to benefit cancer research.

Inauguration of the University of Chicago Campus in Paris

📅 November 14th

📍 Paris

The new UChicago campus in Paris was inaugurated on November 14, 2024. Its two stated objectives are to welcome undergraduate students from the American university for one term, with acculturation to research, and to facilitate research collaborations with UChicago partners, such as the CNRS, whom the university shares a major partnership called International Research Center Discovery.



©Ksenia Luron - University Of Chicago News

AI and the Future of Education

Our department led a particularly active diplomatic and scientific monitoring campaign to shed light on the complex interactions between AI and the future of education. This issue was highlighted at the Summit for Action on AI.

The challenges of AI are no longer limited to the transformation of professions and the world of work. They now challenge the very foundations of education, the profession of education, and child development. Yet the question of the impact on the very young seems to be largely underestimated in global discussions.

This gap was brought to the attention of the San Francisco office after a meeting with members of Everyone.AI. This multidisciplinary team proposes a methodology, based on scientific research, to anticipate the evolving cognitive and educational needs of future generations and thus promote responsible AI that benefits the children who will inevitably be immersed in this technological wave.

The conclusions of the report "The Future of Child Development in the AI Era", published by neuroscientist and co-founder of Everyone.AI Mathilde Cerioli, led to recommendations based on 6 key principles: 1) content safety for children, 2) AI that serves meaningful goals for the child, 3) ethical, fair and inclusive AI, 4) age-appropriate AI in cognitive and socio-emotional terms, 5) fair AI that is transparent and understandable about how it works and how data is used, 6) confidentiality and non-retention of children's data.

This work, highlighted on the occasion of the visit of the Secretary of State for AI and Digital Technology, Clara Chappaz, to San Francisco, led to the creation - orchestrated by Everyone.AI, with the support of the Consulate General of France in San Francisco and the Paris Peace Forum - of an international coalition involving numerous local and international actors, creators and users of AI-based products, researchers, institutions, NGOs and governments. The coalition's "Call to Action" - prepared in consultation with the international organizations Unicef and Unesco - was announced and presented to all potential signatories at the Paris AI Action Summit on February 10, 2025, at the Grand Palais.

Emmanuelle Pauline-Vaujour

Attachée for Science and Technology in San Francisco



Secretary of State Clara Chappaz Meets with Silicon Valley AI Community Ahead of AI Action Summit

📅 November 19th to 22nd

📍 San Francisco Bay Area

Clara Chappaz, Secretary of State for AI and Digital Affairs, visited San Francisco from 19 to 23 November 2024 to prepare for the AI Action Summit held in France in February 2025. Accompanied by all the consulate teams, she met with key players in the Californian academic and industrial ecosystem, as well as state institutions, to discuss the challenges of regulating AI, its energy impact, the opportunities and risks of AI, as well as ethical issues such as data protection and the fight against algorithmic bias.

Participants also discussed the practical applications of AI in different sectors and the need to develop European digital sovereignty. The discussions were an opportunity to compare the French and American approaches to the energy sustainability of AI, but also to ask the difficult question of the availability of talent and labor in relation to these infrastructures. Finally, the issue of international cooperation to establish ethical and safety standards for AI fueled the discussions. This mission to San Francisco made it possible to identify the challenges and opportunities related to AI, as well as the best practices to adopt to develop responsible AI that serves society. The main lessons of this mission were integrated into the preparation of the Paris Summit on AI, which positioned itself as a major event to define the future of artificial intelligence and its deployment on a global scale.



INRAE and Office for Science and Technology Visits to UC Davis and UC Berkeley to Strengthen Environmental Research Collaborations

📅 November 14th, 15th & 18th

📍 California



As part of the strengthening of Franco-American collaborations in environmental research, an INRAE delegation, composed of Gema Herrero Corral (head of international collaborations in the Americas) and Laura Gonçalves De Souza (project manager in North America), toured California in November 2024, accompanied by scientific advisor Mireille Guyader and the scientific attaché in San Francisco, Emmanuelle Pauliac-Vaujour.

On November 14, the team visited the University of California, Davis (UC Davis), a strategic partner of INRAE. A framework agreement signed in 2020 has already enabled the funding of collaborative projects, notably on vine health and the nutritional quality of milk. The discussions highlighted new synergies for 2025 around agroecology, climate adaptation and resilience, pandemic prevention, sustainable mobility, AI ethics, and human and social sciences. A new framework agreement is being prepared to deepen these collaborations.

The delegation then continued its meetings at the University of California, Berkeley (UC Berkeley), where it discussed the MACLIFE International Associated Laboratory (LIA), dedicated to freshwater ecosystems. This partnership has already promoted the mobility and involvement of many researchers, including young scientists, leading to several publications. A new framework agreement will also integrate other common themes.

These visits demonstrate the commitment of INRAE and the scientific service to strengthening synergies between France and the United States in the fields of environmental and agricultural research.



Visit to New Mexico to Strengthen Scientific Partnerships

📅 December 3th to 5th

📍 Los Angeles

The Los Angeles-based scientific service conducted a visit to New Mexico to strengthen scientific cooperation ties with three major institutions: the University of New Mexico, New Mexico State University and the Santa Fe Institute. This mission aimed to explore the research priorities of each institution and identify concrete opportunities for collaboration with French institutions. The discussions focused on the development of joint research projects and the strengthening of student mobility between France and New Mexico. Discussions with representatives of the different institutions highlighted the areas of excellence and the strategic vision of each institution, thus laying the foundations for promising future Franco-American academic partnerships, particularly in the fields of agriculture, water security, health and emerging technologies.

Visit to the IFAB Tech Hub, A Center of Excellence in Fermentation

📅 December 9th

📍 Chicago

On December 9, the Chicago Consulate's Office for Science and Technology, accompanied by the Consul General, visited the iFAB Tech Hub in Champaign, Illinois, to explore its prospects for collaboration with France. During this visit, they discovered the innovative work being carried out at the University of Illinois Research Park. This Tech Hub, specializing in precision fermentation and biofabrication, represents a leading example of the dynamism and innovation in Illinois, highlighting sustainable solutions to meet current industrial challenges.



Workshop between INRAE, USDA-ARS and Cornell University

📅 December 10th

📍 Virtual

INRAE

Following the signing of the framework agreement between INRAE and USDA-ARS, the latter organized a virtual workshop on December 10, 2024 with Cornell University to promote exchanges between scientists around the Breeding Insight initiative. The three key themes of this event, which had more than 50 participants, were the use of genomic data in translational biology and the applications of artificial intelligence in genetic selection for animal and plant health. The identification of species and themes of common interest will allow the implementation of collaborative actions, including short-term mobility between INRAE, ARS and Cornell laboratories.

Support for Inserm and Institut Curie Delegations at the International Cell Biology Convention

📅 December 14th to 17th

📍 Los Angeles

Inserm

The scientific service in Los Angeles provided support to the delegations of Inserm and the Curie Institute at Cell Bio 2024, the most important global congress of cell biology, which was held in San Diego at the end of 2024. This support was demonstrated by active participation in the Inserm stand, a showcase for the excellence of French biomedical research, and by organizing an information session on the sidelines of the congress, bringing together researchers, students, and professionals to discuss career and collaboration opportunities in France. The Consul General of France in Los Angeles, Adrien Frier, also attended to meet the exhibiting French companies, demonstrating support for their international development.



Nuclear Service News 2024



The activities of the Nuclear Department in 2024 were mainly marked by events related to the bilateral relations between France and the United States, as well as multilateral initiatives stemming from climate and geopolitical considerations.

For example, the Nuclear Department continued to coordinate the implementation of the roadmap drawn up following the State visit to Washington in 2022. This confirms the determination of the French and American parties to pursue their long-term collaboration on strategic issues, both technical and geopolitical. The progress made since November 2022 was highlighted, with advances that benefit all the French and American parties involved. They have also had a positive impact on the international community in various fields, including R&D, regulation and industry

This work contributes to meeting the need for sustainability in nuclear energy: work on ageing materials, in line with the need to extend reactor life; work on small modular reactors for uses beyond electricity production, such as hydrogen and process heat production; work on innovative technologies, such as small modular molten salt reactors or accident resistant fuels, which also offer economic benefits in terms of the price of electricity produced; work on thermonuclear fusion, benefiting the ITER project. Last but not least, these advances address energy security issues in the current geopolitical context. In particular, Franco-American industrial cooperation aims to strengthen international nuclear fuel supply chains.

The Nuclear Department has also responded to requests from various American states, including



oil-producing states such as Texas, to use the French model as an inspiration for their nuclear programs. It has also contributed to discussions on the appropriateness of a spent fuel reprocessing/recycling policy as part of the deliberations of various American parties (Congress, states, industry, etc.) concerned with increasing the energy security of the United States.

These are just some of the actions undertaken by the Nuclear Department to promote the excellence of the French nuclear industry and to help meet the expectations of the American public regarding the choices to be made to make the atom a more integral part of the domestic electricity mix in order to meet the challenges of the 21st century.

Science Diplomats Club Events

📅 February 7 & 27 ; March 12 ; September 9, 23 & 27 ; October 10

📍 Washington DC

The Science Diplomats Club (SDC), founded in 1965, is currently chaired by Mireille Guyader, Science Counselor at the French Embassy. It currently has over 180 members and guests (primarily science counselors and attachés) from 103 organizations (representing 53 countries/geographical areas). The SDC, through the work of the Washington Science Service, organizes almost bi-monthly “Science Diplomats Breakfasts”—a gathering of SDC members where a prominent member of the American science and technology community is invited to speak—at the French Embassy or other embassies. Speakers included:

- **Dr Patricia Gruber**, Science and Technology Advisor to U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken;
- **Dr Victor Dzau**, President of the National Academy of Medicine;
- **Signe Ratso**, Deputy Director General and Member of the Management Board of the Directorate-General for Research and Innovation, European Commission ;
- **Dr Asmeret Asefaw Berhe**, former Director of the Department of Energy’s Office of Science ;
- **Dr Mark Clampin**, Director of the Astrophysics Division, Science Mission Directorate, NASA;
- **Dr Richard Spinrad**, Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere and Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration;
- **Dr Rahima Kandahari**, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Science, Technology, and Space Affairs, Bureau of Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs, Department of State;
- **Dr Simon Liu**, Administrator of the Agricultural Research Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture.



Women in Science

Every year in February, we celebrate “*Women and Girls in Science Day*”:

In the United States, several initiatives are launched by the Science and Technology Department to highlight women who are still underrepresented in this field. Various events are organized to highlight the careers and profiles of French women living in the United States, or American women linked to research in France.

The event “*Empowering women in tech through inspiring stories*” was organized by the Scientific Department of the French Embassy in Washington to mark the 2nd edition of “*Women and Girls in Science Week*”, an initiative launched in 2023 as part of the Women in Science Diplomacy Association (WiSDA), around the United Nations' Women in Science Day on February 11th. The aim of the week is to promote equal access for women to science, encourage young girls to pursue scientific careers by raising awareness of the diversity of possible career paths, and to highlight women scientists with the most inspiring career paths. The aim of the panel discussion at the Résidence of France was to promote women in science and technology by highlighting three inspiring women from different backgrounds: Ayumi Moore Aoki, Women in Tech®



Global; Arlande Joerger-Aroukoun, EwoSmart; Dr Bettina Experton, Humetrix. They shared their personal experiences, the challenges they have faced and overcome, and how they have paved the way for success in their respective careers.

The Scientific Department of the French Consulate in San Francisco brought together French and American experts in women's health at the “*Bridging the data gap in women's health*” event on February 13, 2024. This gathering of researchers, entrepreneurs and healthcare stakeholders from both sides of the Atlantic highlighted a critical issue: the lack of data on women's health, and the impact on studies and medical applications related to sleep, pregnancy and the menstrual cycle. The rich and enlightening presentations highlighted the consequences of this gap in medical research and care for women. Beyond the numbers and statistics, there was a call for joint action from two scientific worlds - health and AI. By fostering exchanges and collaborations, this event aims to promote global action on this issue, while recognizing the limitations of highly fragmented regulations. New technologies, combined with a more inclusive approach, offer promising prospects for a better understanding of women's health and for developing solutions tailored to the specific needs of each woman and the constraints of each environment.

The scientific department of the French Consulate in Chicago visited the Lycée Français de Chicago on February 9th, accompanied by Eleonora Gatta, Associate Director of Innovation, Chicago Biomedical Consortium, Laetitia Perronne, radiologist, Northwestern University, and Alice Pelosse, physicist, University of Chicago. They shared their career paths with the students, highlighting their experiences and their passion for science. Through exchanges and testimonials, they encouraged the students, especially the girls, to develop their curiosity and consider studying in scientific fields.

The Scientific Department of the French Consulate in Atlanta organized an event that brought together several women from the French community in the United States, researchers and graduate students, each specialized in different fields such as physics, aeronautics or biomedical. The goal of the event was to create a space for intergenerational discussion on the place of women in research, and to compare the integration of women in STEM in France and the U.S.



02

FACILITATE

Mobility

International research networks play an essential strategic role in enabling researchers to share ideas, accelerate the production of results and tap into complementary resources. In order to increase transatlantic ties and exchanges between students and young researchers, the Office for Science and Technology is deploying a range of mobility programs..

FADEx : French-American Doctoral Exchange - November 11th to 15th - Paris



The FADEx program consists of a one-week immersion in France, on a predefined theme, for a dozen doctoral students from North American universities, who are joined by a dozen French doctoral students studying the same thematic. The program is designed to foster exchanges and encourage young American scientists to pursue their careers in a possible collaboration with their French counterparts.

The CNRS office in Washington D.C. and the Office for Science and Technology at the French Embassy in the United States with the help of Sébastien Tanzilli, Deputy Scientific Director in charge of quantum physics and quantum technologies at CNRS Physics, organized a FADEx (French American Doctoral Exchange) program on quantum sciences in 2024.

The quantum FADEx enabled eleven students from prestigious American universities to spend a week in Paris, visiting French laboratories specializing in quantum information, information science and technology, and take part in the second edition of the annual GdR TeQ symposium (a gathering of the French scientific community working on quantum technologies).



Participants came from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), the University of Chicago, the University of Pittsburgh, Rice University, the University of California, Santa Barbara, and the University of Maryland's joint research center with the National Institute of Standards and Technology.

The Chateaubriand scholarship program



Every year, a number of student mobility programs are set up between France and the United States. Amongst those, the Chateaubriand Fellowship Program, created in 1981, aims to initiate or strengthen collaborations, partnerships or joint projects between French and American research teams. The fellowship program benefits some forty laureates in the United States each year, and comprises two components:

- The Chateaubriand Fellowship in Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics and Health (STEM) is offered to doctoral students enrolled at American institutions who wish to spend several months in a research laboratory in France as part of a collaboration in France. The program is supported by the French research institutions Inserm, INRIA, CNRS, INRAE and Université Paris-Saclay. It is also a partner of the Graduate Research Opportunities Worldwide (GROW) program of the National Science Foundation (NSF).
- The Chateaubriand Fellowship in the Humanities and Social Sciences (HSS) is aimed at doctoral students enrolled at American institutions who wish to engage in research in France in any discipline of the humanities and social sciences, in collaboration with a French host laboratory. The program is supported by Campus France, which accompanies fellows on site.

Transatlantic Research Partnership

Collaboration in research is essential for scientific breakthroughs and cutting-edge discoveries. Identifying solutions to the major challenges of the 21st century, such as finding a cure for cancer, protecting the environment, advancing cybersecurity and preserving cultural heritage, requires global collaboration that transcends national and cultural boundaries.

The Transatlantic Research Partnership (formerly known as the Thomas Jefferson Fund), is a program that brings together talented young researchers in France and the United States. Initially launched in 2017 in partnership with the FACE Foundation, it was designed to foster forward-looking collaborative research that addresses pressing global challenges.

The program supports two-year collaborative projects linked to one or more of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). A call for proposals is launched each year. Project proposals can cover the

following fields:

- Humanities and Social Sciences (HSS)
- Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM)
- Sciences for Society (interdisciplinary projects STEM-HSS)

Funding amounts of up to \$20,000 over a two-year period, divided equally between the French and American teams. Co-funding by the researchers' universities is encouraged to ensure the sustainability of the research partnership. These funds support the transatlantic mobility of researchers, collaborative research activities, the organization of workshops and international conferences, and the publication of joint articles.

The *Transatlantic Research Partnership* call for applications selected 12 projects for funding of \$240,000.



Bilateral funds

Four bilateral funds have been established with American universities spread across the entire territory: the University of California at Berkeley and Davis, Stanford University, the University of Chicago and Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT). The income generated by these endowment funds is used to support scientific collaborations between French research and teaching institutions and these partner universities.

France-Berkeley Fund

The jury for the France-Berkeley scholarships for research projects in STEM and HSS, between French universities and the Universities of California, Berkeley (UCB) and Davis (UCD), awarded a total of 21 grants, worth \$256,000. The scientific projects awarded cover themes aligned with the priorities of the joint committee for Franco-American research, in terms of technological, environmental and health challenges. Student mobility between France and the United States - in either direction - began in September 2024 and will run until autumn 2025.

France-Chicago Fund

The France and Chicago Collaborating in The Sciences (FACCTS) program funds research partnerships between the University of Chicago (UC) and French research institutions. In 2024, for its 17th edition, the executive committee financed 17 Franco-American research projects (out of 29 submitted) in the fields of physical, biological, and medical sciences, and engineering, for a total amount of \$402,750. For the first time since 2008, the \$400,000 mark was surpassed, despite a 26% decline in contributions from private donors (the “*Confrères*”) compared to 2023.

France-Stanford Fund

29 projects were financed for a total of over \$336,000:

- 6 collaborative projects
- 9 visiting student researcher fellowships
- 8 visiting junior scholar fellowships
- 1 conference
- 5 undergraduate internships

France-MIT Fund

The MIT-France Seed Fund supports collaboration between MIT and universities and public research institutions across France. Through an annual call for proposals launched by MISTI (MIT International Science and Technology Initiative), selected projects receive financial support. Funds may be used to support travel and meeting costs for in-person exchange between a team at MIT and colleagues abroad.

This year, the selection committee chose seven projects with a total budget of nearly \$193,000.

Promotion of transatlantic mobility programs in Arizona and New Mexico

📅 Second semester 2024

📍 Los Angeles

During the second half of 2024, the scientific and cultural services of the French Embassy in the United States led a mission highlighting the American Southwest. This tour helped strengthen ties with four major institutions: the University of Arizona, Arizona State University, the University of New Mexico and New Mexico State University. These meetings provided an opportunity to present to the university teams the full range of cooperation programs and facilities offered by the French Embassy. Particular emphasis was placed on mobility programs covering all academic levels, from undergraduate to post-doctorate, in the fields of science, technology, engineering and mathematics, as well as the humanities and social sciences. The Chateaubriand, FADEX and Fulbright programs attracted particular attention, with former graduates testifying as to the decisive impact of this French experience on their professional careers.



Organization of the third *PhD Joint Program* workshop to promote international collaboration and mobility between the CNRS and the University of Chicago

📅 November 12th

📍 Chicago



The International Research Center for Fundamental Scientific Discovery (IRC Discovery) launched in 2022, between the CNRS and the University of Chicago, provides a global framework to guide collaboration between the two institutions. It actively supports an annual PhD Joint Program (PJP), which structures bilateral research projects between two research teams affiliated with each institution on either side of the Atlantic. The program funds the mobility of principal researchers and PhD students involved in a joint thesis project. For the third time, a virtual “PhD Workshop”, organized by the CNRS and the University of Chicago, was held on Tuesday November 12th to showcase the research team's work within two recent PJP promotions. This online workshop invited 8 teams involved in the joint projects from both institutions, and made up of 15 students each, to briefly present in 3 minutes and then debate their thesis topics. For the 2025-2027 cohort, which was announced in February 2024, IRC awarded seven PhD grants in various fields, such as quantum technologies, miniaturized batteries and online epistemic vigilance.

Alumni France evening

A dynamic network of Franco-American Exchanges

📅 November 14th

📍 Los Angeles

The Consulate's scientific department and the Villa Albertine in Los Angeles brought together 40 alumni at the Residence of France, representing various exchange programs such as TAPIF, Chateaubriand, Community Colleges and Fulbright. The evening featured inspiring testimonials from accomplished professionals, including a former Chateaubriand laureate, illustrating the lasting impact of their French experience on their careers in the United States. These alumni form a valuable network of ambassadors for Franco-American academic and scientific cooperation.

A successful re-launch of the Boston-area alumni

📅 December 11th

📍 Boston

In the presence of the Boston's Consul General of France, the Scientific Department and the Villa Albertine in Boston, an alumni evening was organized at the French Library in Boston, bringing together members of the France Alumni network, university faculty from the SHS and STEM departments, Chateaubriand and Fulbright scholarship winners, and alumni from the universities of Paris Saclay, the Sorbonne and French business schools. The evening featured inspiring testimonials from accomplished professionals, including a former Chateaubriand laureate, a university teacher, the director of a program for women in science at Northeastern University and a professor at Harvard University.

03

SUPPORT

French Innovation

Supporting and promoting innovation made in France, and fostering public-private partnerships in strategic R&D fields, by involving all players - entrepreneurs, scientists and students - between France and the USA, is a priority for the Science and Technology department.

la (S)ynapse

The Transatlantic Deeptech Accelerator

Mission

La Synapse's mission is to promote France in the United States as a leading ecosystem and to contribute to the promotion of France's 2030 plan; it aims to build bridges between deeptech communities on both sides of the Atlantic, and foster international cooperation in the fields of disruptive innovation, to help solve major global challenges such as climate change, pandemics and food security.

La Synapse's ambition is to enrich France's deeptech with entrepreneurial know-how, scientific talent and international perspectives, in partnership with transatlantic leaders in innovation ecosystems and institutions such as BPI France, French Tech, Team France Export and Choose France.



Action

In concrete terms, *La Synapse's* action is based on the OST experience of over twenty years in supporting technological innovation at the frontier between research and entrepreneurship. Through the New Technology Venture Accelerator (NETVA), the Young Enterprise Initiative (YEi) and the French American Innovation Days (FAID) programs, the OST has had a significant impact on transatlantic links between academic research, technology development and science-based entrepreneurship.

The NETVA program, launched in 2010, has supported 202 French deeptech startups, stemming from scientific research or backed by research laboratories, in their quest for best practices in technology commercialization and international prospects.

Conversely, between 2005 and 2020, the YEi program attracted nearly 200 foreign talents to France to discover its innovation ecosystem.

Since 2001, the FAID programs have been creating synergies between transatlantic researchers, entrepreneurs and industrialists. Building on the positive track record and results of these programs and its network of more than 1,400 French and Francophile professors, researchers, scientists, entrepreneurs and executives across the United States, the OST aims to bring together its activities of support for deeptech innovation within *La Synapse*, around 4 training, immersion and networking programs, based on 3 major assets: exceptional human capital, key geographical locations and strategic thematic competencies.



la-synapse.com

Programs

There are four programs that fall under the umbrella of *La Synapse*, which include trainings, immersions, and networking, based out of nine different US cities and ten key thematic competencies, supported by the scientific department's French-American scientific network.

- **Start in America (NETVA)**, for 15 to 20 French startups, deeptech, early stage:

- Selection in autumn
- Training seminar in February in Paris
- Immersion in the U.S. in spring at our 7 locations

- **Start in France**, for 10 US-based deeptech talents:

- Selection in autumn
- Virtual training seminar in January
- Immersion in France in spring (Île-de-France and other regions)

- **Innovation Days**, for French companies and researchers:

- Programmed on an as-needed basis
- Date and location to be defined according to mission
- 3 days of meetings, exchanges and discussions to build partnerships

- **Learning Expedition**, for students and training programs:

- Programmed as and when required
- Date and location to be defined according to the mission
- 3 days of visits and meetings to discover an innovation ecosystem

Launch of the Start-in-France program 2024-2025

Start in France

The Office for Science and Technology, through "*La Synapse*", is relaunching the YEI/Start-in-France program for 2024-2025, which aims to promote the French deeptech ecosystem and attract international research and innovation talent.

To this end, through an annual call for applications, the program selects researchers based in the United States, regardless of nationality, with a disruptive innovation project. It offers its winners a two-stage training program:

- An online preparatory seminar, including workshops organized by French innovation experts, to familiarize the winners with the specifics of the French deeptech ecosystem and its academic and administrative particularities;
- An immersion in a French innovation ecosystem, during which the winning entrepreneurs participate in workshops, one-on-one meetings with various experts and local events related to their field.

The goal of this immersion, with the support of local experts, is to draw up a roadmap for a possible move to France, in order to add value to their disruptive innovation project through the creation of a startup or the development of collaborations with scientific experts.

Between 2018 and 2020, the program was directly supervised by the Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs, then suspended from 2021 due to the health crisis. In 2024-2025, *La Synapse* will relaunch the Start in France program. Three French innovation ecosystems will host the winners in 2025: Aix-Marseille-Provence, Grenoble and Toulouse.

NETVA - Start in America

The New Technology Venture Accelerator (NETVA) - Start in America program, organized by the Office for Science and Technology (OST) of the French Embassy in the United States, has been offering young French deep-tech start-ups personalized support in analyzing opportunities and developing technological partnerships in the United States, since 2010. This support takes place in two phases: a training seminar in Paris, followed by a one-week immersion in eight American ecosystems where OST is present. NETVA 2024 2024 was organized in partnership with Bpifrance and the French Ministry of Higher Education and Research.

For the winners of the NETVA 2024 edition, the immersion took place between April and May 2024. A pre-immersion seminar was organized in March 2024 offering the winners a two-day training course in Paris, to raise their awareness of the reality of the American scientific and entrepreneurial ecosystem. The immersion week took place in person in the ecosystems of Atlanta, Boston, Chicago, Houston, Los Angeles, San Francisco and

Washington DC, and for the first time in 2024, in Miami. For the startups, the goals of this immersion were to:

- meet with entrepreneurs, in specialized companies, incubators and start-ups to gain a better understanding of the American ecosystem;
- connect with academic experts and research laboratories for technology co-development;
- become familiar with intellectual property issues in the United States;
- develop internationalization prospects.

For the 2024 edition, 14 start-ups were able to immerse themselves in the 8 scientific and technological ecosystems that make up the France Science network, involving over 500 players, including 18 venture capital funds, more than 50 companies, and 50 support structures (incubators, start-ups, chambers of commerce), a hundred or so researchers, through almost 130 personalized meetings.



San Francisco



Chicago



Boston



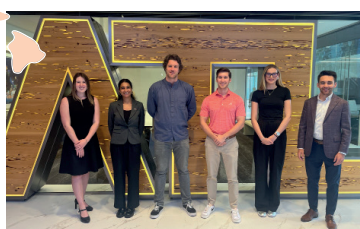
Los Angeles



Washington DC



Houston



Atlanta



Miami

Launch of the Synapse in San Francisco during the reception for NETVA

📅 April 30th

On the occasion of the week-long immersion of the NETVA 2024 prizewinners in San Francisco, the Scientific Department locally inaugurated the new acceleration program “La Synapse” during a reception at the Residence of France. The event revolved around the presentations of the three 2024 prize-winning startups in San Francisco, in the fields of AI-enhanced engineering simulation (Deepmath), micro-robotic in vitro fertilization (MovaLife), and inclusive glasses-embedded hearing aids (Pulse Audition). The Scientific Department is privileged to enjoy strong support from the San Francisco Bay Area's deep-tech ecosystem, which has shown great enthusiasm for La Synapse's programs and is willing to financially support their recent expansion, at the intersection of entrepreneurship and technological research, reflecting the innovative spirit of Silicon Valley.

ATL

Find&Order

combines interactive 2D and 3D modeling with real-time algorithms that calculate optimal scenarios for industrial flows and logistics processes, such as order grouping.

BOS

Pepkon

develops a treatment for chronic lymphocytic leukemia, using peptides to induce a new form of cancer cell death and promote immunogenic memory.

AI-Stroke

develops a “remote neurologist” solution to detect stroke cases before medical intervention, using connected devices such as tablets or smartphones to film the patient and detect warning signs thanks to artificial intelligence.

THERANOVIR

develops an immunotherapeutic antibody capable of penetrating the nucleus of cancer cells to degrade their DNA in a targeted manner, with no significant genotoxic effect on normal cells, and with a high probability of reactivating the antitumor immune response.

CHI

AgroDynaLux

offers innovative herbicide products aimed at maintaining efficacy while having minimal environmental impact, by activating photosensitizers to selectively destroy weeds without harming crops.

HOU

MSInsight

develops bioinformatics diagnostic tools to exploit sequencing data and streamline laboratory procedures, with the main aim of enabling precise identification of the MSI genomic biomarker and accelerating access to personalized medicine.

LA

Minos Biosciences

offers a solution that combines multi-omics analysis with dynamic functional testing at cellular resolution and high throughput, opening up new possibilities in medical research and diagnostics.

Hek4t

offers an innovative solution for the efficient counting and sorting of biological nano-objects such as viruses and exosomes, enabling advances in physiological research by unlocking the potential of these extracellular vesicles.

MIA

CLHYNN

develops membranes that replace expensive platinum in hydrogen fuel cell technology with nickel-based alloys, making the technology more cost-effective and globally accessible, as well as a hydrogen source for fuel cells, facilitating the use of hydrogen on a large scale.

SF

Pulse Audition

develops smart glasses designed to help people with hearing problems by integrating electronic components and an algorithm enabling voice detection and amplification within the frames.

deepmath solutions

offers users integrated and customized mathematical solutions, providing accurate descriptions and real-time predictions of statistical processes and physical phenomena, aimed at optimizing design, construction and operational management.

Optobots

provides an integrated system for in vitro fertilization, housed in a single microfluidic device, enabling remote manipulation of gametes and embryos using optical microrobots; the aim is to optimize procedures, reduce variability and increase success rates.

WAS

MYCELIUM TECHNOLOGIES

develops a bioreactor for the rapid, automated production of mycelium, promoting circular economy practices by valorizing agricultural waste and co-products, while optimizing the nutritional and organoleptic qualities of the mycelium.

somno engineering

develops a monitoring device to effectively track, protect and improve patient sleep quality in intensive care units, aiming to provide a comprehensive and tailored approach to improving the overall treatment experience of hospitalized patients.

FAID - Digital AG and AI

📅 **February 6th**

📍 **Chicago**

On February 6th, the Chicago Consulate's Science Department organized a French-American Innovation Day (FAID) webinar focusing on AgTech and AI, to explore how these technologies can transform agriculture. More than 25 experts from academia and the private sector participated in the webinar to discuss key topics such as precision agriculture, robotics and farm management. Panelists included representatives from the states of Michigan, Purdue and Iowa, as well as US Agtech companies such as Sabanto and Habiterre. French institutions such as INRAE, CNES and Institut Agro-Irisa were also present, along with start-ups such as Genesis and Aspexit.

For the French Space Days, the Los Angeles space ecosystem welcomed a delegation of French companies

📅 **April 11th & 12th**

📍 **Los Angeles**



Seventeen innovative French aerospace companies took part in a mission of discovery in the Los Angeles region, a global hub for the space industry. This agenda, co-organized by Business France, the American office of the CNES and the Consulate General of France in Los Angeles, aimed to promote French excellence in this sector and facilitate access to the American market.

The program enabled companies to discover the key players in the local space ecosystem through targeted visits and meetings: the Port of Long Beach, Rocket Lab, Starburst Aerospace Accelerator, NASA-Caltech's Jet Propulsion Laboratory and Aerospace Corporation.

A networking event organized at the Residence of France in Los Angeles rounded out the program, allowing French companies to strengthen their ties with American, French and international professionals in Southern California.

FAID - A conference on emerging infectious diseases

📅 **April 10th**

📍 **Boston**

The Scientific Department of the Boston Consulate with the support of Ventum Biotech and Blend Concept LLC, co-organized a conference on emerging infectious diseases, with speakers representing French research organizations/institutes (Institut Pasteur, Inserm Transfert, CNRS, INRAE), Tufts University, which hosted the conference on its premises, Boston University, and industrial companies such as Moderna. The meeting brought together around a hundred participants, and provided an opportunity to initiate and strengthen new Franco-American scientific collaborations in this field. After presenting a global overview of emerging viruses, discussions focused on methods of warning and prevention, as well as vaccine development by Moderna, Pasteur and Tufts.



Delegation of 200 representatives at the largest biotechnology trade show: BIO

📅 **June 3rd-6th**

📍 **Los Angeles**

France sent an impressive delegation of 200 participants representing 120 organizations to the BIO 2024 international convention in San Diego. This major biotechnology event attracted 18,000 participants from more than 70 countries. At the heart of the French pavilion, orchestrated by Business France, the excellence of the French healthcare innovation ecosystem was showcased through presentations by competitive clusters and round tables dedicated to artificial intelligence and technology transfer. For French companies, particularly startups from the French Tech Mission, this convention proved to be a strategic springboard for their development on the American market, with the active support of the Consulate General of France in Los Angeles in facilitating scientific exchanges and Franco-American partnerships.

San Francisco welcomed delegations of young AI entrepreneurs from the Parisian suburbs

📅 October 21st

📍 San Francisco

Following the visit of a delegation from Trappes, France and winners of the *KESK'IA* entrepreneurship competition, in December 2023, the Consul General welcomed to the Residence of France a cohort of young entrepreneurs supported by the *Les Déterminés* program. This program, which operates throughout France, helps residents of disadvantaged neighborhoods and rural areas start their own businesses, through free training programs. Immersed in the Californian ecosystems of San Francisco and Los Angeles, these young entrepreneurs from the tech, AI, media and luxury sectors met up with local French networks and brought a breath of French innovation to Silicon Valley.



Meetings with delegations attending the annual meeting of the North American Society of Radiology (RSNA)

📅 December 2nd

📍 Chicago

In December, on the occasion of the annual meeting of the North American Society of Radiology (RSNA), the Consul General of France in Chicago, the Scientific Service and French Tech Chicago met with the French companies present at the show. They also organized a reception to give French start-ups the opportunity to present their innovations to representatives of the local ecosystem, including incubators, American radiologists and industry professionals. The event, which was also attended by members of the *Société française de radiologie* and a delegation from the *Centre National de l'Expertise Hospitalière*, enabled the French delegations to gain a better understanding of the local ecosystem, while paving the way for future collaborations in the field of radiology.

The reception organized by the Scientific Department and French Tech Chicago during the RSNA conference offered French start-ups the opportunity to present their innovations to representatives of the local ecosystem, including incubators, American radiologists and industry professionals. The event allowed the French delegations to gain a better understanding of the local ecosystem, while paving the way for future collaborations in the field of radiology.



04

VALUE

The Scientific Community

The Office for Science and Technology relies on a dense and active community of French scientists spread throughout the United States in universities, companies and federal agencies, with whom it maintains close and regular ties, and which it helps to promote through various means.

Cafés des sciences

The Cafés des sciences are a regular opportunity to bring the general public together with one or more French-speaking speakers, scientists who share their work and their American experience. Each consular post has organized one or more Cafés des Sciences in 2024, and here is a selection.

📍 Houston

As part of its efforts to promote excellence in French research, the Scientific Department at the Consulate General of France in Houston organized a series of “Cafés des Sciences” throughout 2024. These events, made possible in collaboration with local partners and sponsors, were free and open to the general public. They focused on three strategic areas of activity for the city of Houston: energy, space and health.

📅 February 6th

The first café focused on the role of carbonaceous materials in the energy transition. This event was organized in partnership with Rice University's Wiess School of Natural Sciences and the Italian Consulate. It attracted about 200 in-person participants and about 30 online participants. Presentations by French Scientist Marie-Nathalie Contou-Carrere, executive director of Rice's Institute for Sustainability, and her Italian counterpart Matteo Pasquali, were well received.



📅 April 15th

The second café focused on the theme of habitability in space. Co-hosted by the Rice Space Institute and the Wiess School of Natural Sciences, the event drew an audience of about 150 people.

📅 April 29th

The final café focused on the impact of phages and gut bacteria on health. Hosted by the Alliance Française in Houston, this event drew nearly 60 participants.

These events presented the work of French scientists on important topics in Houston to a wide audience. They also helped to expand the network of contacts within the Scientific Department and strengthen ties with local institutions and other government partners.

📅 **May 21st & October 10th**
📍 **Los Angeles**

Oceans at the center of the Cafés des Sciences

As a prelude to the United Nations Ocean Summit scheduled to be held in Nice in June 2025, and as part of the Fête de la Science, two “Cafés des Sciences” in Los Angeles and San Diego in partnership with the Alliances Françaises. These events showcased the expertise of the iconic Scripps Institution of Oceanography, through the contributions of two renowned researchers. Dr Dimitri Deheyn who presented his innovative research on the use of marine bioluminescence to detect and monitor microplastics in the oceans. Dr Lea Siegelman captivated the audience by drawing fascinating links between terrestrial oceanography and cyclonic phenomena observed on Jupiter, illustrating the interdisciplinary scope of oceanographic research. The event highlighted Franco-American collaborations, in particular those involving IFREMER, CNES and their American partners.



📅 **June 28th**
📍 **Boston**

The Scientific Department of the French Consulate in Boston organized a scientific café on sports medicine for female athletes. An exceptional panel consisting of two physicians, French scientists from Harvard Medical School and female athletes, discussed the importance of medical follow-up of training and performance of female athletes to avoid serious injuries. This event was made possible thanks to a strong collaboration with the Boston Museum of Science and local sponsors including Bancel Philanthropie, and brought together over a hundred participants.



📅 **October 9th**
📍 **Chicago**

The Scientific Department of the French Consulate in Chicago organized a scientific café on the link between lipids and mental health. Dr. Ariel Frajerman, a French psychiatrist and neuro-biologist, took the floor to present his research on the link between omega-3 and mental pathologies. His presentation provided a better understanding of the impact of diet on mental health, and prompted many questions and exchanges among participants.

Apéros des Sciences

The Apéros des Sciences are convivial get-togethers for the French scientific community based in the United States. Several scientists are invited to present their research work before a more informal exchange of ideas. The Apéros des sciences are organized at the French Embassy in Washington and the French Consulate General in Los Angeles.



📅 March 21st



📅 December 12th

📅 March 21st
📍 Los Angeles

The Science Department in Los Angeles welcomed Didier Pourquery, a leading figure in French journalism and an expert in science mediation, for an Apéro des Sciences. President and co-founder of The Conversation France since 2015 and president of Cap Sciences in Bordeaux since 2018, he shared his vision of the essential dialogue between science and society.

Drawing on his 40 years of experience in journalism, Didier Pourquery highlighted the fundamental role of scientists in major societal debates, whether on the ecological and energy transition, the digital revolution, artificial intelligence or robotics. In particular, he presented The Conversation, where journalists and researchers work together to bring scientific knowledge and analysis of contemporary issues accessible to the general public.

📅 December 12th
📍 Los Angeles

Dr. Thierry Galli, Director of Inserm's Thematic Institute of Cell Biology, Reproduction, Development and Evolution, presented the excellence and dynamism of French research at an "Apéro des Sciences", gathering experts and students in the field, at the French Residence in Los Angeles. Particular emphasis was placed on the Atip-Avenir program, a joint initiative of Inserm and the CNRS that offers young international researchers the opportunity to create and lead their own team in France, accompanied by substantial funding. The convivial meeting had a threefold objective: to promote international scientific mobility, to strengthen collaboration between researchers, and to highlight the career opportunities offered by France.

"Galette Scientifique": A gathering to showcase the excellence of French research

📅 January 17th

📍 Houston

The Scientific Department of the French Consulate in Houston organized a scientific "Galette des rois" at the Residence of France. The event brought together some 40 French scientists and engineers from the Houston area, representing a variety of disciplines including medicine, energy, natural sciences and the oil industry. The goal of the evening was twofold: first, to unite and strengthen the French scientific and technical community in the Houston area, and second, to promote the excellence of French research by highlighting the talent of its scientists and engineers, while encouraging the emergence of innovative scientific collaborations with France.



"Multimessenger Astronomy": A conversation with Kumiko Kotera and Sylvain Guiriec

📅 January 31st

📍 Washington DC

Kumiko Kotera, Deputy Director of the Institut d'Astrophysique de Paris (CNRS), was awarded a Fulbright Scholarship to spend 2023-2024 at Penn State University. During an evening devoted to "Astronomie multimessenger" (multi-messenger astronomy) organized by the Office for Science and Technology at the French Embassy in Washington, she explained what very high-energy neutrinos can tell us about the most violent events in the distant universe. Sylvain Guiriec, a teacher and researcher at George Washington University and NASA, presented another "messenger", the most energetic photons emitted by gamma-ray bursts. This conversation, in the presence of scientific diplomats from other embassies, also highlighted the scientific diplomacy at stake in major international collaborations aimed at detecting these messengers.



American premiere of the documentary "Ocean One K - Archaeologist of the Abyss" at the French Embassy & Inauguration of the Stanford University Robotics Center

📅 February 28th & November 1st

📍 Washington DC & Stanford



The Scientific Department of the French Embassy, in partnership with the CNRS office in Washington DC, organized the presentation by Dr. Oussama Khatib, French, Director of the Stanford Robotics Center and American coordinator of the CNRS LIRMM-Stanford international research project dedicated to underwater robotics, of his film "Ocean One K - Archaeologist of the Abyss" at the Maison Française on February 28th, 2024. The film recounts the conception of Ocean One K, a remotely operated humanoid underwater robot capable of diving to depths between 100 and 850 meters and, in particular, of carrying out shipwreck excavations, seabed sampling and various other scientific experiments.

The San Francisco Science Department was also invited to join the Consul General at the official opening and inauguration of the Stanford University Robotics Center on November 1st, 2024. This project has long been championed by its director, Dr. Oussama Khatib. The opening of this center marks not only the culmination of an extraordinary collaborative effort, but also the beginning of a new era of accelerated research in robotics applied to a wide range of societal, environmental and medical issues. Stanford's engineering department continues to establish itself as a driver of deep-tech innovation in the US and globally, carrying on the legacy of Bill Hewlett and David Packard.



Hugo Duminil-Copin - French Fields Medal-winning mathematician - welcomed in Atlanta

📅 March 7th

📍 Atlanta

In March 2024, the brilliant mathematician Hugo Duminil-Copin was welcomed to Atlanta for a masterclass and public lecture organized at the Georgia Institute of Technology, School of Mathematics. A French specialist in probability theory, Hugo Duminil-Copin studies the frontier between mathematics and physics. In 2022, he was awarded the Fields Medal for his research into the Ising model, which explains ferromagnetism. At this event, he explained his discoveries and work on the concept of percolation in clear, accessible English. By guiding the audience through his field of research, he captivated the attention of the American students, professors and researchers in attendance, while giving an insight into the daily life of a Fields Medal winner. A reception was also held at the Residence of France in Atlanta, giving the French-speaking scientific community in the Southeast the opportunity to meet this researcher and promote French knowledge.

Screening of the film "*Ocean Seen from the Heart*" in cooperation with the DC Environment Film Festival

📅 March 28th

📍 Washington DC

The Scientific Department of the French Embassy in Washington, D.C., in partnership with the DC Environment Film Festival, organized the screening of the film "*Ocean seen from the heart*" on March 28, 2024, at the Maison Française, an occasion to pay tribute to the French-Canadian astrophysicist Hubert Reeves (1932-2023), for his commitment to defending the environment and for lending his voice to the documentary. The documentary highlights the crucial role the ocean plays in regulating global ecosystems, and the importance of protecting it. The event, which was open to the general public, was followed by a debate with Marie-Dominique Michaud, the film's Canadian director, who shared her views on the film and its significance.

Mission on the subject of decarbonization of air transport

📅 March 11th & 12th

📍 Boston

The Scientific Department of the Boston Consulate accompanied the OPECST delegation, consisting of Deputy Jean-François Portarrieu, member of the Bureau of the National Assembly's Foreign Affairs Committee, and Senator Pierre Médevielle, Senator for Haute-Garonne (Occitanie), along with their advisor, and two members of the Washington Economic Department, on their visit to New England on March 11th and 12th, 2024. Their mission focused on the technical and scientific issues related to the decarbonization of air transport. Visits to academic (notably MIT) and industrial (notably engine manufacturer Pratt & Whitney) research centers allowed them to assess industry progress and the initiatives of the Zero-Impact Aviation Alliance (ZIAA), an MIT-led alliance of public and private institutes, to conduct cutting-edge research to reduce the carbon footprint of civil aviation, and compare it to European targets.



Delegations

Parliamentary Office for the Evaluation of Scientific and Technological Choices (OPECST)

Mission on the challenges and implications of generative AI

📅 April 11th to 19th

📍 New York, Washington DC & San Francisco

The trip to the United States in April 2024 by the OPECST delegation comprised of deputies Hugnette Tiegna and Alexandre Sabatou and Senators Patrick Chaize and Corinne Narassiguin was an opportunity for intensive immersion in the AI ecosystem, with a particular focus on the ethical, regulatory and societal challenges of the generative AI wave. The Science and Technology Department of the French Embassy in the United States facilitated and accompanied exchanges with key players in industry, research and public policy, allowing for an accurate assessment of technological advances, while highlighting the challenges ahead.

In **New York**, the delegation met with representatives from Amazon, Open AI and Meta, as well as professors from Rockefeller University. For the **Washington D.C.** segment, the focus was on the federal level. Participants were able to meet with several members of Congress who are working on Artificial Intelligence legislation: Representative Anna ESHOO (D-California), Senator Todd YOUNG (R-Indiana), Senator Marsha BLACKBURN (R-Tennessee) and Senator Mike ROUNDS (R-South Dakota). On the federal side, two representatives from the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP) met with the delegation, underlining the Biden administration's strong commitment to AI. OPECST representatives also visited two federal agencies, the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) and the National Science Foundation (NSF), where the importance of partnerships with France was highlighted. The delegation also benefited from exchanges with embassy experts in various fields (science, economy, defense).



Finally, in **San Francisco**, visits to Stanford, Berkeley, NVIDIA, OpenAI, GitHub and Asana offered the opportunity to discuss, with world-renowned experts, topics as diverse as language model development, the impact of AI on the job market, international AI regulation, and algorithmic bias issues. Participants were able to grasp the diversity of AI applications, and the challenges they face. Beyond this technical aspect, the delegation also addressed the social and ethical dimensions of AI. Discussions with organizations such as Everyone.AI highlighted the importance of developing responsible AI tools and ensuring their fair use. Participation in the event “AI: Curiosity & Consequence” provided an opportunity to collectively reflect on the implications of AI on society and culture. This trip allowed OPECST to gain a better understanding of the issues involved in the development of generative AI, and to strengthen the ties between France and Silicon Valley in this field. The information gathered during this mission will be used to inform the Office's future work and contribute to the definition of an ambitious French AI policy.



SciChat: Presentation by aerospace engineer and aspiring astronaut Allan Petre

📅 May 2nd

📍 Los Angeles

Allan Petre, a 24-year-old French aerospace engineer and aspiring astronaut, spoke at the Los Angeles Lycée Français, where he shared his passion for space science and engineering. In this inspiring exchange, he traced his journey from his early days in France, through his experience at Ariane, to his current position at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory. His story illustrates the quality of French aerospace education, and highlights the importance of international collaboration between NASA, CNES and ESA in advancing space exploration. Allan Petre's message of encouraging people to pursue their dreams with determination, extends beyond the classroom. Through his commitment in the field, in the media and on social networks, he motivates young people to pursue careers in science and technology.



"A Lafayette Tribute: From a Revolutionary Alliance to a Modern Partnership"

📅 December 4th

📍 Washington DC



The CNRS office in Washington D.C. and America 2026 hosted an event at the French Embassy to celebrate the lasting impact of Franco-American military, scientific and intellectual exchanges that began during the American Revolution. This historically rich symposium marked the midpoint of the bicentennial of Lafayette's Farewell Tour and looked ahead to the 250th anniversary of the American Revolution. Iris de Rode, a postdoctoral fellow at the University of Virginia's Karsh Institute of Democracy, a member of America 2026 and co-organizer of the event, invited a number of distinguished speakers to the symposium, which brought together some 50 people over the course of the morning. America 2026 is a collaborative European program of events, publications and scholarly resources dedicated to the history and memory of the American Revolution, from both a European and transatlantic comparative perspective.

"Be a champion": What science tells us about sports performance

📅 May 11th & July 26th

📍 Washington DC



The "EU Open House" (May 11th) and the broadcast of the opening ceremony of the Paris Olympic Games (July 26th) at the Maison Française provided an opportunity to draw the public's attention to the fascinating scientific questions related to sports performance, through the "Be a champion" exhibition created by Amandine Aftalion (CNRS).



Debate Evening at the Maison Française in conjunction with the American Geophysical Union's annual meeting

📅 December 10th

📍 Washington DC

The 2024 annual meeting of the American Geophysical Union (AGU), entitled “What's next for Science?”, was held in Washington from December 9th to the 13th, and attracted a record 31,000 attendees. To mark the occasion, some twenty climate and environmental scientists from or collaborating with French institutions were invited to the Maison Française on December 10th to meet with representatives of embassies, international organizations and non-governmental organizations based in Washington. The evening

kicked off with a round-table discussion featuring Yann Drillet (Mercator Ocean International), Philippe Ciais (LSCE: Laboratoire des Sciences du Climat et de l'Environnement de l'Université Paris Saclay), Claire Granier (NOAA and University of Colorado Boulder) and Rose Abramoff (climate scientist and activist who completed a post-doctorate at LSCE as part of the Marie Curie and Make our Planet Great Again programs).

Research in France : Opportunities and collaborations presented at the convention Cell Bio 2024

📅 December 15th

📍 Los Angeles

In conjunction with Cell Bio 2024, the largest international cell biology meeting organized by the American Society for Cell Biology and the European Molecular Biology Organization, the Scientific Department of the French Consulate in Los Angeles organized an information session for researchers, engineers, students and industry professionals in San Diego. A panel of experts from the French delegation participated: Dr. Thierry Galli, Director of Research at Inserm, Dr. Fabien Agenès, Inserm's representative in North America, and Drs. Ana Rita Furtado and Cristina Lemos from the Institut Curie's Advanced Training Office. Their presentations highlighted the excellence of French research and the career and collaboration opportunities available at Inserm, a European leader in biomedical research, and the Institut Curie, a reference center for cancer research with a special focus on the Atip-Avenir program, a joint Inserm-CNRS initiative offering young international researchers the opportunity to establish and lead their own team in

Inserm



France. Inspiring testimonials from American graduate students at the Institut Curie enriched the exchange by sharing their experiences within the French scientific ecosystem, illustrating the promising prospects France offers for research careers.

Distinctions

Dr. Claire Berger,
Chevalier de l'Ordre des Palmes Académiques



Pr. Vicki Birchfield,
Officier de l'Ordre National du Mérite

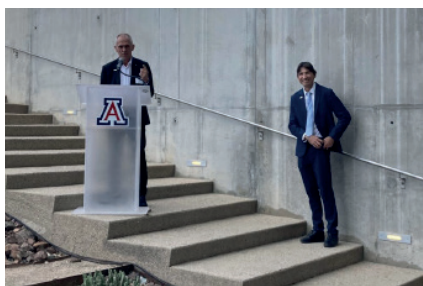


Dr. Anthony Fauci,
Chevalier dans l'Ordre National de la Légion d'Honneur



Pr. Juan de Pablo,
Chevalier de l'Ordre National du Mérite

Dr. Régis Ferrière,
Chevalier de l'Ordre National du Mérite



Dr. Fabienne Münch,
Chevalier dans l'Ordre des Palmes Académiques Françaises

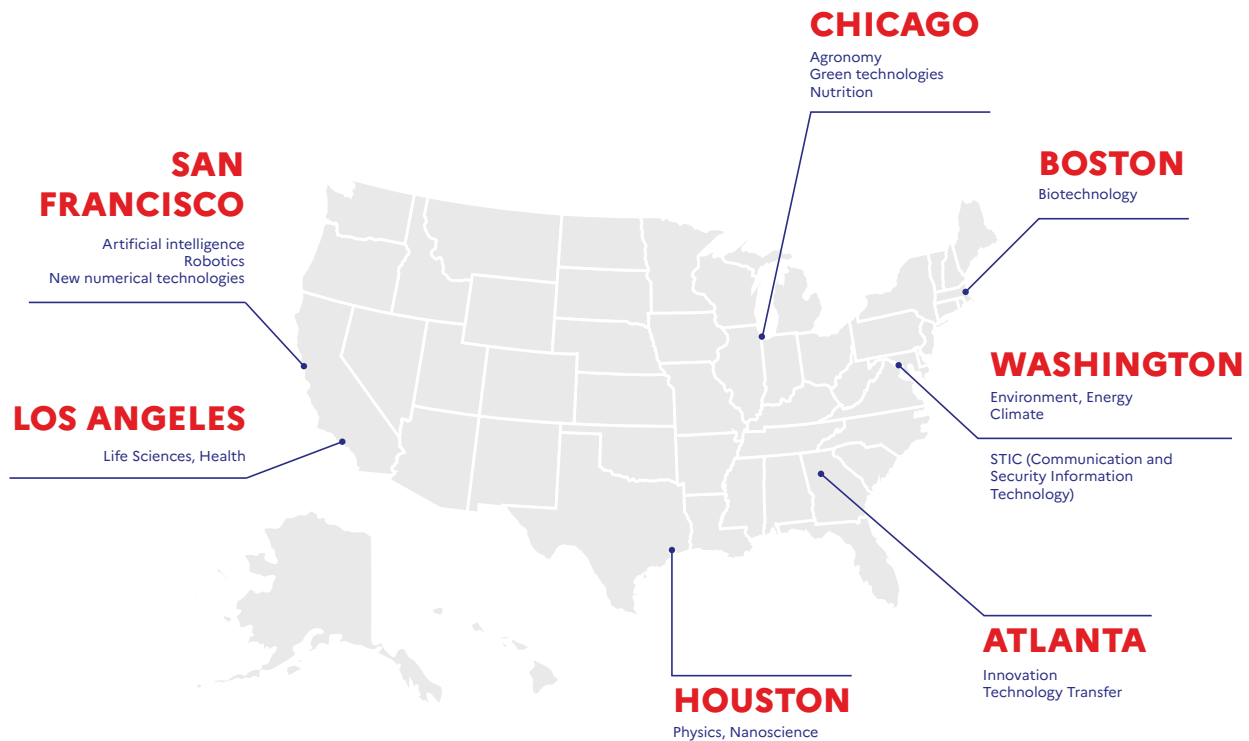


Pr. Catherine Dulac,
Officier de la Légion d'Honneur

Science and Technology monitoring

The Office for Science and Technology continuously monitors research in American laboratories, universities and research institutes, and acts as an observer of American strategy in certain key areas, notably innovation and investment in research and development. This watch is enhanced by the production of diplomatic notes and public articles distributed via our newsletter and accessible on the website “france-science.com”. The department for science and technology and the research organizations CNRS and CNES each publish a monthly newsletter accessible on the website.

*Articles (in French) can be found at
france-science.com*



The Science and Technology Team

WASHINGTON DC

Mireille GUYADER

Counselor for Science and Technology

Leah NAMOUNE

Administrative and Financial Manager

Juliette FALEWÉE

Deputy attachée to the Counselor

Richard BURKE

Program Manager

Héloïse THERRAT (- août)

Maureen RAVANEL (sept -)

Communications officer
and webmaster

Joaquim NASSAR

Attaché for Science and Technology

Théophile ALTUZARRA

Deputy attaché for Science and Technology

Pascal REVEL (- août)

Philippe RIBIÈRE (oct -)

Attaché for Science and Technology

ATLANTA

Rami ABI-AKL (- août)

Pascale COHEN (sept -)

Attaché(e) for Science and Technology

Pauline BOULAY

Deputy attachée for Science and Technology

BOSTON

Jean-Philippe NICOLAÏ

Attaché for Science and Technology

Fabienne LE RASLE (juin -)

Deputy attachée for Science and Technology

CHICAGO

Jean-Paul LALLES (- août)

Valérie LIVRELLI (sept -)

Attaché(e) for Science and Technology

Marie POIROT (- mars)

Laura GOUTAUDIER (juin -)

Deputy attachée for Science and Technology

HOUSTON

Alessio GUARINO

Attaché for Science and Technology

Noelly ROUSSEL

Deputy attachée for Science and Technology

LOS ANGELES

Karim BELARBI

Attaché for Science and Technology

Célestine BELLOEIL (avril -)

Deputy attachée for Science and Technology

SAN FRANCISCO

Emmanuelle PAULIAC-VAUJOUR

Attachée for Science and Technology

Valentine ASSEMAN

Deputy attachée for Science and Technology

Raegen SALAIS-FABRE

Assistant for Science and Technology

ÉQUIPE CNRS

Sylvette TOURMENTE

Director of the CNRS office in
Washington

Jeanne RÉVIL

Deputy Representative CNRS

Erell GLOAGUEN

Deputy Representative CNRS

ÉQUIPE CEA

Sunil FELIX

Nuclear Counselor

Nathalie STEPHERSON

Assistant

Thomas GUYARD

Deputy Nuclear Representative

Julien DI MASCOLO (- juin)

Deputy Alternative Energies Representative

ÉQUIPE CNES

Nicolas MAUBERT

Space Counselor, CNES Representative

Chloé SAVINIEN (- avril)

Zacharie JOUNDY (juillet -)

Deputy Representative CNES

Thomas LESAGE (- sept)

Lou VALADE (oct -)

Deputy Representative CNES

INRAE

Laura GONÇALVES DE SOUZA

INRAE Representative

ÉQUIPE INSERM

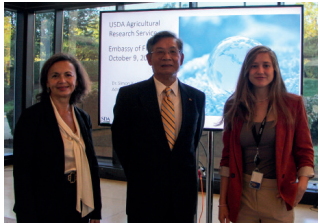
Fabien AGENES

Director Inserm Office in North America

Sarah MINERY

Deputy Representative





Editorial Manager
Mireille Guyader
Conception and realization
Maureen Ravanel
Editor-in-Chief
Juliette Falewée
Translation
Raegen Salais-Fabre
Richard Burke

Contributors:
Joaquim Nassar, Théophile Altuzarra, Philippe Ribière, Richard Burke, Rami Abi-Akl, Pascale Cohen, Pauline Boulay, Jean-Philippe Nicolaï, Fabienne Le Rasle, Jean-Paul Lallès, Valérie Livrelli, Marie Poirot, Laura Goutaudier, Alessio Guarino, Noelly Roussel, Karim Belarbi, Célestine Belloeil, Emmanuelle Pauliac-Vaujour, Valentine Asseman, Raegen Salais, Sylvette Tourmente, Jeanne Révil, Erell Gloaguen, Sunil Felix, Thomas Guyard, Julien Di Mascolo, Nicolas Maubert, Thomas Lesage, Chloé Savinien, Zacharie Joundy, Lou Valade, Laura Gonçalves de Souza, Fabien Agenès, Sarah Minery.

Photo credit:
Emilie Nguyen/Press Office, Embassy of France in the US,
Christophe Ortega/Consulate general of France in Los Angeles,
Loïc Ruffaud/LR visuals,
Héloïse Therrat & Maureen Ravanel/Office for Science and Technology,
Embassy of France in the US

france-science.com

