

Académie
Nationale
de
Médecine

**International cooperation
In health research**

**National academy
of medicine (France)**



« L'Académie nationale de médecine »

The Academy of medicine was created by Louis XVIII in 1820 « to provide advice to the government on all matters related to public health...It will examine and investigate any subject that may contribute to the advancement of the art of healing ».

The Academy brings together physicians, surgeons, pharmacists, veterinary doctors and independent members who are elected by their peers. It studies and examines health issues that often now extend beyond medicine to environment, ethics, economy and technology. The Academy is the only french institution with an extended expertise due to its independence and its multidisciplinary.

Role and composition of the Academy of medicine

The government often requests advice from the Academy on specific issues. However, the Academy does provide unsolicited advice when it judges that public health is at stake.

The Academy includes 130 regular members, 160 corresponding members who are located for at least one third outside of the great Paris area.

Twenty specialized commissions prepare the reports and communiqués. One of them is the Commission for international relations which prepares and proposes to the board of officers all events involving foreign countries.

International cooperation in health research

1- Multilateral cooperation through international associations :

- Federation of the european academies of medicine (FEAM)
- International academic medical pannel (IAMP)
- Inter-academic group for development (GID)

2- Bilateral cooperation with foreign academies or universities that signed a formal convention with the Academy :

- China (Chinese academy of engineering)
- Québec (Universities of Montreal, Laval, Sherbrooke and MacGill)
- Roumania (Academy of medicine and Academia of roumanian scientists) and Balkan medical union (7 Balkan countries)

3- Bilateral cooperation without signed convention

Algeria, Tunisia, Morocco, french speaking western Africa countries and Brazil

4- Chair of the national academy of medicine promoting international cooperation

5- Election of foreign members

Federation of european academies of medicine (FEAM)

In 1982, the french, belgian and spanish academies of medicine built stronger ties between them and in 1993 they founded FEAM that presently brings together the academies of 13 countries: Belgium, Spain, France, United Kingdom, Germany, Ireland, Italy, The Netherlands, Greece, Portugal, Austria, Czech republic and Roumania. Its registered office is in Brussels.

Its objective is to promote cooperation between the national Academies of medicine and to extend to the political and administrative authorities of the European Union the advisory role that each Academy exercises in its own country on matters concerning medical science and public health. It reflects the European diversity by seeking the involvement of experts in its scientific activities and by collaborating with other pan-European networks on scientific matters of common interest. Like its Academies, FEAM is independent of all vested interests and provides evidence-based advice.

Main activities of the FEAM in 2012 with the participation of the French academy of medicine

1- Redaction of reports for the European union commissions

- *Direct-to-consumer genetic testing for health-related purposes in the European Union*
- *Data protection regulation*
- *Mental health policy issues*
- *FEAM Statement on revising the EU Physical Agents Directive (2004/40/EC)*

2- Presentation at the meeting in May in Madrid

- *Application of the Bologna directives in the medical schools of different FEAM countries: pros and cons*

3- Response to a consultation of the Council of Europe (Strasbourg)

- *Consultation on predictivity, genetic testing and insurance*

Inter academic medical panel (IAMP)

This association founded in 2000 brings together 65 countries of the 5 continents.

Its last project of which the Academy of medicine is the manager is the creation of a network of scientific communication centres in french speaking countries of West and Central African countries.

There was a meeting in Paris in June 2011 and a meeting in Geneva in January 2012. Workshops for training in scientific writing will be organized in 2013 in Morocco, Senegal and Gabon. A first centre will be established in Rabat.

Inter academic group for development (GID)

This group was founded in 2007 and brings together 4 french academies (Medicine, Sciences, Technology and Moral and political sciences). Its aim is to define strategies of development, mainly for the mediterranean countries. Its last meeting in Paris in october 2012 was to study the passage from scientific recommendations to political decisions.

Cooperation with China

- 1- A convention of cooperation was signed with the Chinese academy of engineering in 2009.**
- 2- Grants for french speaking chinese students of Shanghai and Wuhan allowing them to study one year in France (Master diploma) are attributed every year.**
- 3- Scientific meetings on emerging infectious diseases were organized in Annecy (2011) and Wuhan (2012).**
- 4- A prize for a Chinese scientist working in China on a collaborative program with a French group will be attributed each year from 2013 to 2015.**
- 5- Chinese delegations of the Chinese academy of engineering were welcome in Paris in 2009, 2011 and 2012 to discuss common interest matters.**

An example of implication of the Academy in scientific diplomacy

- **2004 : an agreement on the prevention and the treatment of emergent infectious diseases was signed by JF Mattei (French Minister of Health) and LIU Yanhua (Chinese Minister of Science and Technology).**
- **2009 : a convention of cooperation was signed by the Academy of medicine and the Chinese academy of engineering.**
- **2011 (Paris) 13th session of the joint scientific and technological commission which included infectious diseases among the 6 preferential axes of cooperation**
- **2011 and 2012: 2 meetings in Annecy and Wuhan were organized on this topic by the CAE and the Academy of medicine, the latter followed by workshops including industrials and scientists for establishing joint research programs.**
- **2012-2013: joint call for grants by the French National research agency and the Chinese National natural science foundation on emergent infectious diseases**

Cooperation with Québec universities

- 1- Conventions organizing cooperation between Academy of medicine and 4 Québec universities were signed (Montréal, McGill, Sherbrooke, Laval)**
- 2- Scientific meetings in Paris about Alzheimer's disease, the aim of which was to compare social and medical treatments in France and Québec (october 2011 and another foreseen in october 2013)**
- 3- Annual meetings in Montréal (Ste Justine Hospital) on obesity (2010) and vitamin D (2011)**
- 4- « Regards croisés » (compared views): bilateral conferences in Paris (General delegation of Québec in Paris) on medical issues: « Nutrition of the brain » in 2012**

Cooperation with Balkan Countries

- 1- Conventions organizing cooperation between Academy of medicine and Medical Balkan union, Medical Academy of Roumania and Roumanian scientist association were signed.**
- 2- Every year there is a meeting of the Medical Balkan association with the participation of the Academy of medicine.**
- 3- A meeting with the Medical Academy of Roumania will occur in Bucarest in april 2013.**

Other recent cooperations

- 1-The Academy welcomed twice in Paris the Brazil Academy of Medicine and was welcomed in Rio de Janeiro.**
- 2- Special meetings of the Academy of medicine were organized in association with the local universities and their respective foreign members in Lebanon, Algeria, Morocco and Tunisia.**

Chair « Christophe and Rodolphe Mérieux » for promoting international cooperation

A chair supported by the « Christophe and Rodolphe Mérieux Foundation » is attributed each year to a foreign personality working in the field of infectious diseases who spends one year in a french medical department or research laboratory. The winner is nominated by a jury including members of the Academy of medicine, the Institute of France and the « Christophe and Rodolphe Mérieux Foundation ». O Doumbo (Bamako) was nominated in 2012 and will work in the laboratory of D Raoult in Marseille.

Foreign members

Foreign members have been elected since the foundation of the Academy.

There are now 40 foreign associate members and 100 foreign corresponding members distributed among the 4 divisions. They are from all around the world and represent 36 different countries.

They are welcome each time they come to Paris and are invited to give lectures.