

# PASTEUR PERSPECTIVES

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE PASTEUR FOUNDATION DEVOTED TO THE WORLD OF THE INSTITUT PASTEUR

## YEAR-END APPEAL

### A Nobel Prize for Pasteur AIDS Researchers

Dear Readers:

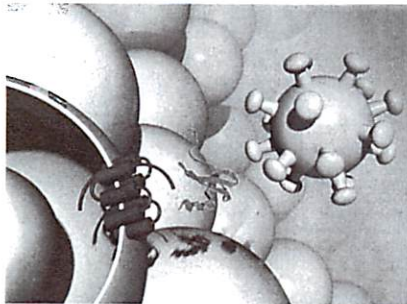
October began with wonderful news for the Institut Pasteur and its researchers. The Nobel Assembly in Stockholm announced that two Pasteur scientists, Dr. Françoise Barré-Sinoussi and Dr. Luc Montagnier, will share the 2008 Nobel Prize in Medicine "for their discovery of human immunodeficiency virus," or HIV, the virus that causes AIDS. Ten Nobel Prize laureates have been associated with the Institut Pasteur since it was founded exactly 120 years ago on November 14, 1888.

This news comes 25 years after the Pasteur team's groundbreaking discovery was published in *Science* on May 20, 1983. The Nobel Assembly noted in its announcement that "HIV has generated a novel pandemic. Never before



Two Pasteur scientists are awarded the Nobel Prize in Medicine for the discovery of the AIDS virus: Dr. Françoise Barré-Sinoussi and Dr. Luc Montagnier at the Institut Pasteur.

have science and medicine been so quick to discover, identify the origin and provide treatment for a new disease entity. Successful antiretroviral therapy results in life expectancies for persons with HIV infection now reaching levels similar to those of uninfected people."



A diagram of HIV entering a cell

Indeed, while great progress in treatment has been achieved over the past two decades, the infection rate of HIV remains intolerable. Some 33 million people are living with HIV/AIDS, 2.7 million new infections occurred last year alone, and 1.9 million of these new infections were in Sub-Saharan Africa.

At its Spring Gala, the Pasteur Foundation honored President Nelson Mandela and Ambassador Richard Holbrooke for their efforts to redouble the international fight against AIDS. By recognizing the discovery made by Dr. Barré-Sinoussi and Dr. Montagnier at the Institut Pasteur, the Nobel Assembly reminds us that these

disturbing numbers still require our urgent attention and that we must continue to fight this disease with all our scientific and educational force.

We thank our supporters for understanding how crucial a role biomedical research plays in our world. And we reach out to all our readers to support the excellent work of the Institut Pasteur in their year-end giving by making a donation to the Pasteur Foundation. The foundation is a 501(c)(3) organization whose sole purpose is to further Pasteurian research. Thank you for your help!

Yours sincerely,

Caitlin M. Hawke  
Executive Director  
Pasteur Foundation

