

Dear friends,

At its meeting of June 21, the Institut Pasteur General Meeting voted by an absolute majority of its members – 60 votes against out of a total of 101 – not to approve the Annual Report and the accounts for the 2015 financial year as submitted by the Board of Directors. In accordance with article 11 of the Institut Pasteur's articles of association, this decision to reject the accounts shall entail "the replacement of all the elected members of the Board of Directors". While this procedure takes place, the President and his management team will continue to carry out their duties.

To clarify the details of this procedure, the 16 elected members of the Board, out of a total of 21 members, are to be replaced. The 5 ex officio members shall remain on the Board. The ex officio members of the Board are a representative of the French Minister for Research, a representative of the French Minister for the Budget, a representative of the French Minister for Health, the President of the CNRS and the CEO of Inserm.

This vote to reject the Annual Report demonstrates a loss of confidence in the Board of Directors by a majority of the General Meeting and a clear call for its re-election. It follows a dispute between the elected Institut Pasteur members of the General Meeting and the Board of Directors over the possibility of initiating a procedure to revise the Institut Pasteur's articles of association, with the aim of amending article 12, which lays down an upper age limit for the President upon his or her appointment or reappointment. During this meeting, the review of activities carried out during 2015, as well as the financial management outlined in the Annual Report and the accounts for the 2015 financial year presented by the Board of Directors, were unanimously praised for their quality and relevance.

Discussions will now be held between all stakeholders to re-elect the Board of Directors as quickly as possible in accordance with the existing provisions laid down in the Institut Pasteur's articles of association. The General Meeting will be convened again shortly to elect the 16 members of the Board of Directors who are to be reappointed.

We are therefore in a transitional period, and we will endeavor to clarify the practical arrangements as soon as possible so that the Institut Pasteur can continue to fulfill its tasks during this time. We will contact you again soon to provide you with as much information on this matter as possible.

Against this backdrop, which can be seen as a crisis of governance at the Institut Pasteur, it is important to emphasize that widespread support was expressed for the 2014-2018 strategic plan and for the measures currently under way to reach the goals set out in this plan. This therefore endorses the ambitions of the strategic plan and its ongoing implementation. So it is our duty to remain focused on our current activities and to continue to contribute, according to our various responsibilities, to the achievement of our objectives for 2016.

Sincerely,

Christian Bréchet
President