



INSTITUT MERIEUX



SERVING PUBLIC HEALTH FOR 125 YEARS

1897 • 2022

*SINCE* 1897

## **A family and entrepreneurial adventure serving public health**

The Mérieux family's commitment to biology started in 1897, when Marcel Mérieux, a student of Louis Pasteur, created Institut Mérieux.

This marked the beginning of an incredible family and global adventure that continues to draw on its roots to serve public health, go even further, and open up new areas.

Driven by an entrepreneurial vision handed down from generation to generation, Institut Mérieux has mobilized and reinvented itself over the years to advance global public health and fight against infectious diseases.

This adventure had two major stages: the first began in 1897, with the development of serum therapy and human and veterinary vaccines. This part of the adventure ended in 1994. The family then embarked on a second entrepreneurial challenge, creating a new bio-industrial cluster focused on clinical and then industrial diagnostics. It next expanded into immunotherapy and food safety. Institut Mérieux has re-created itself in new fields to pursue its global public health mission.



1897\*1994

# VACCINES IN THE PASTEURIAN TRADITION



Louis Pasteur and his team,  
including Marcel Mérieux, in  
the back row third from the left



Marcel Mérieux in his lab

1897 - 1937

## PASTEURIAN ROOTS

The Mérieux family's commitment to biology is rooted in the Pasteurian tradition. Louis Pasteur's teachings inspired Marcel Mérieux when he created Institut Mérieux, and continued to inspire the next three generations. The Mérieux family promotes biology without borders that combines prevention through vaccines and hygiene through diagnosis, with no barriers between human and veterinary medicine and no geographical boundaries.

The adventure began in Lyon in 1897, opened a new chapter in Marcy l'Étoile in 1917, and then spread around the world.



1893

■ Marcel Mérieux is born into a family of silk manufacturers in Lyon, France. After studying at the École de Chimie de Lyon, he completes his thesis in Wiesbaden, Germany under Professor Fresenius.

1894

■ Marcel Mérieux joins Institut Pasteur as an assistant to Émile Roux in Louis Pasteur's team. His skills as a chemist, particularly with dyes, are very useful in bacterial identification.

He will maintain strong relationships with Institut Pasteur, Émile Roux and Albert Calmette, who later help him develop vaccines and serums.



1897

■ Marcel Mérieux creates the Institut Biologique Mérieux in the Pasteurian tradition, setting up his simple laboratory in the attic of the Hôtel-Dieu in Lyon, France. There he produces an antistreptococcal serum to combat the puerperal fever raging in maternity wards, and then tuberculin to diagnose tuberculosis.

1911

■ Construction of the building at 17 rue Bourgelat (Lyon, 2<sup>nd</sup> arrondissement). It houses Marcel Mérieux and his family, a diagnostic testing laboratory, and a production laboratory. This building is now the headquarters of Institut Mérieux and Fondation Mérieux.

1917

■ Marcel Mérieux buys property in the countryside, in Marcy l'Étoile (near Lyon) to house the horses and cattle used to produce therapeutic serums for humans and animals. The first production laboratories will be built there.

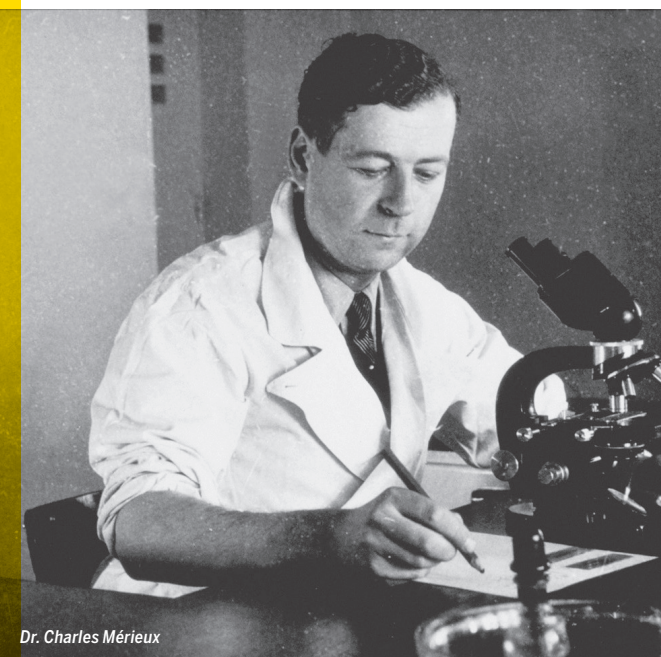




1937 - 1967

## INDUSTRIAL MICROBIOLOGY TO IMPROVE PREVENTION IN HUMAN AND VETERINARY MEDICINE

After taking over from Marcel Mérieux in 1937, Dr. Charles Mérieux sought to provide Institut Mérieux with the industrial capability required for large-scale infectious disease prevention policies. He developed technological partnerships with internationally-known scientists. These advances supported both human and veterinary medicine, and mass bio-industrial production made it possible to conduct vaccination campaigns throughout the world. In this regard, Institut Mérieux was a forerunner of the “One Health” approach combining human and animal health.



Dr. Charles Mérieux



1937

■ Dr. Charles Mérieux takes over from his father Marcel at the head of Institut Mérieux. Following a trip to the United States after the war, he brings relatively small-scale virology into the industrial era. He does this through multiple innovations developed through international collaborations, including Professor Hermann Frenkel's technology to produce the foot-and-mouth disease vaccine using *in vitro* cultures of the virus rather than live animals.

In the field of veterinary medicine, he launches large-scale production of the foot-and-mouth disease vaccine. This experience later proves to be very useful in human medicine to produce vaccines against polio (with the help of its inventor, Dr. Jonas Salk), vaccines against measles and rabies, and to implement global vaccination campaigns.

1947

■ In the veterinary field, Dr. Charles Mérieux creates the IFFA (Institut Français de Fièvre Aphteuse) in Gerland (Lyon 7<sup>th</sup> arrondissement) in the slaughterhouse district. This is where they collect the cattle tongues whose epithelium was used to produce the foot-and-mouth disease vaccine. This sets the foundations for a life sciences cluster in the Gerland district, which later becomes today's BioDistrict.



## 1968 - 1994

# VACCINES FOR THE WORLD



Marcel Mérieux (background),  
Dr. Charles Mérieux  
and Alain Mérieux

In 1968, Alain Mérieux took over from his father as Chairman of Institut Mérieux.

Since he strongly believed that the fight against infectious diseases could only take place at the global level against pathogens that cross borders, he expanded Institut Mérieux internationally, setting up in many countries. He conducted strategic acquisitions, particularly in North America, and initiated international research collaborations.

Alain Mérieux turned the family-owned group into the global leader in human and veterinary vaccines. Under his leadership, Institut Mérieux provided solutions to major public health challenges: the fight against meningitis in Brazil in 1974, the prevention of many childhood diseases with new vaccines (such as *Haemophilus influenzae*), the development of combined vaccines (such as DTCoqPolio – diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis, polio) to immunize children against several diseases with one single injection.



## Brazil's vaccine saga

The meningitis vaccination campaign during the country's 1974-1975 epidemic is still the world's largest campaign carried out in such a short time period.

At the request of the Brazilian government, Institut Mérieux swung into action at the beginning of the epidemic, creating a production unit at Marcy l'Étoile in just three months to produce the 100 million doses needed. An airlift was set up and by the end of December, Sao Paulo's 10 million inhabitants were vaccinated in 5 days. The rest of the population (90 million people) was vaccinated in the next 3 months, halting the epidemic.

### 1968

■ The Rhône-Poulenc Group takes a 51% stake in Institut Mérieux.

Listed on the stock exchange and chaired by Alain Mérieux, Institut Mérieux is organized around two pillars: human vaccines and animal health. The group is a pioneer of the One Health approach, with no borders between human and animal medicine.

### 1983

■ Institut Mérieux creates Rhône Mérieux to encompass all of its animal health activities and those of Rhône-Poulenc.

### 1985

■ Institut Mérieux takes over Pasteur Production (a subsidiary of Institut Pasteur focused on vaccines), giving rise to Pasteur Mérieux and renewing their historical relationship.

### 1989

■ Institut Mérieux accelerates its international development: Pasteur Mérieux acquires Connaught Laboratories, based in the United States and Canada, becoming Pasteur Mérieux Connaught.

**With Pasteur Mérieux Connaught and Rhône Mérieux, Institut Mérieux is then the world leader in human and veterinary vaccines.**

### 1994

■ The Mérieux family ends its vaccine business by selling its 20% stake in Institut Mérieux to Rhône-Poulenc. The name Institut Mérieux disappears.

After Rhône-Poulenc conducted several sales and mergers with Merck and then Aventis, Pasteur Mérieux Connaught and Rhône Mérieux were sold to Sanofi in 2004, respectively becoming **Sanofi Pasteur** (human vaccines) and **Merial** (animal health). Sanofi then sold Merial to Boehringer Ingelheim in 2017. Though these companies are no longer part of the Mérieux family, they have remained key global public health players.





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*The fight against infectious diseases requires us to remain vigilant and mobilized at all times. In response to pathogens that cross borders, we must fight and take risks in a necessarily global and long term vision.*

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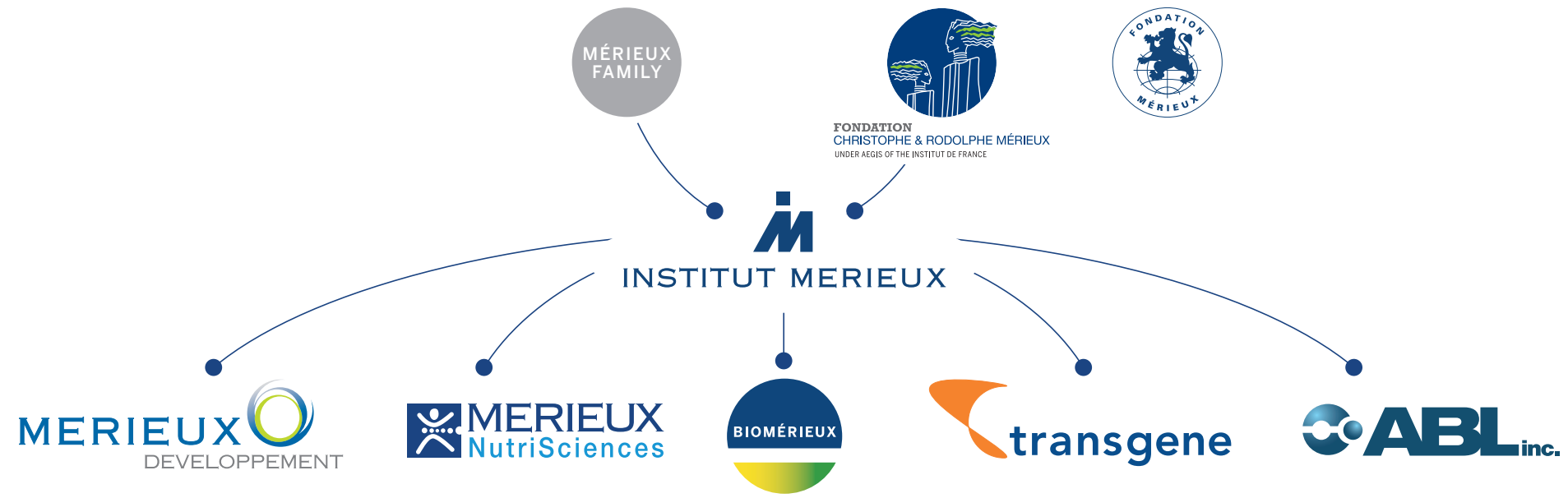
ALAIN MÉRIEUX • Chairman of Institut Mérieux





SINCE 1964

# ENTREPRENEURIAL RENEWAL



Rodolphe Mérieux



Dr. Christophe Mérieux



Alexandre and Alain Mérieux

In 1994, after selling the vaccines business to Rhône-Poulenc, Alain Mérieux embarked on a new entrepreneurial adventure.

Around the bioMérieux diagnostics company he founded in 1963, Alain Mérieux and his sons, Christophe, Rodolphe and Alexandre, gradually built up an independent family-owned bio-industrial cluster that foreshadowed today's Institut Mérieux.

As it expanded into new territories in the field of biology, the family group was called ACCRA, then Mérieux Alliance.

In 2009, Alain Mérieux revived the historic name Institut Mérieux, which had not been used since 1994.

**Institut Mérieux fights against cancer and infectious diseases through five complementary areas of expertise.**

- *In vitro* diagnostics with **bioMérieux**
- Food safety and nutrition with **Mérieux NutriSciences**
- Immunotherapy with **Transgene**
- Contract research and biomanufacturing with **ABL Inc.**
- An ambitious investment policy to develop future medical players through the investment company **Mérieux Développement** and its subsidiary **Mérieux Equity Partners**.





## THE EMERGENCE OF A NEW BIO-INDUSTRIAL GROUP

With bioMérieux as its flagship, the family holding company expanded gradually through targeted acquisitions and an ambitious innovation strategy, bolstered by scientific partnerships around the world.

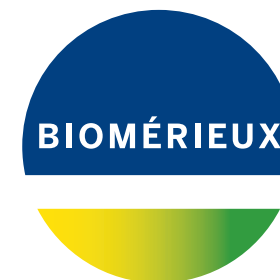
To pursue its public health mission, Institut Mérieux maintains its independence and commitment to a global, long-term vision.



## bioMérieux and the growth of *in vitro* diagnostics

Very early on, the Mérieux family understood the importance of biological diagnosis to improve patient care and the control of epidemics.

Since medicine is “blind” without diagnostics, Alain Mérieux created BD Mérieux in 1963, which became bioMérieux several years later. Alain Mérieux made strategic acquisitions in France and abroad that turned the company into a world leader in the field of microbiology.



### 1963

■ In parallel to but independent of the vaccines business, Alain Mérieux creates **BD Mérieux**, an *in vitro* diagnostics company based in Marcy l'Étoile, co-owned by the American company Becton Dickinson.

### 1974

■ Alain Mérieux takes control of BD Mérieux, which becomes **bioMérieux**. The company develops diagnostic reagents and automated platforms for hospital or private medical testing laboratories. Later, bioMérieux extends its clinical expertise to the industrial field with a new range of products to control microbiological quality in industrial production.



### 1986

■ bioMérieux acquires **API Systems**, a manual bacterial identification company based in La Balme, France.

### 1988

■ With the help of the CGIP (Wendel), bioMérieux acquires **Vitek Systems** from McDonnell Douglas. This North American company specializing in automated bacterial identification and antibiotic susceptibility testing allows bioMérieux to become a world leader in microbiological diagnostics.

### 2001

■ bioMérieux acquires the North American diagnostics company **Organon Teknika**.

### 2004

■ bioMérieux is listed on the stock market (Euronext Paris) to boost its international development and allow Wendel to withdraw from the company's capital.

### 2011

■ **Argene**, a company specialized in molecular biology based in Verniolle, France, joins the bioMérieux company.



### 2014

■ bioMérieux acquires **BioFire**, a cutting-edge syndromic molecular diagnostics company based in Salt Lake City, the United States. This major strategic operation strengthens bioMérieux's position in the field of infectious disease diagnostics and serves as a tremendous growth driver for the company.





## 2015

■ Alexandre Mérieux, the son of Alain and Chantal Mérieux, takes over the family business. He becomes CEO of bioMérieux after holding various operational responsibilities in France and the United States. He is named Chairman of bioMérieux in 2017.

## 2017

■ Alexandre Mérieux creates the Campus de l'Étoile, bioMérieux's new global headquarters in Marcy l'Étoile, 100 years after his great-grandfather Marcel Mérieux acquired property there.



## 2018

■ bioMérieux bolsters its presence in China by taking control of **Hybiome**, a Suzhou-based company specialized in automated immunoassay tests. This new location is part of a privileged long-standing relationship with China, exemplified by **President Xi Jinping's** visit to the Marcy l'Étoile labs in 2014.



## 2020

■ In the midst of the pandemic, bioMérieux mobilizes to fight COVID-19. The company's labs in Marcy l'Étoile, Verniolle, and Grenoble (France); Firenze (Italy); and Salt Lake City (the USA) develop molecular, syndromic and serological diagnostic tests in just a few weeks, contributing their diagnostic expertise to the fight against the coronavirus.

# Mérieux NutriSciences and new food safety challenges

As a result of growing industrialization and business globalization, particularly in the agri-food industry, new infectious risks are emerging through microbiological contamination of food, water, and the environment.

To prevent these new health risks, the Mérieux family is taking action in this area that presents major public health challenges.



## 1997

■ Following Rodolphe Mérieux's vision, the Mérieux family holding company takes over the Chicago-based **Silliker Laboratories**, an American service provider in the field of food safety. This company provides food industry players with microbiological quality analyses and audits quality processes in the industrial sector.

## 2010

■ A new nutrition-health cluster is built around Silliker under the name **Mérieux NutriSciences**. An acquisitions strategy is developed for the food safety and nutrition field, notably with the acquisition of **Biofortis** in 2009. More than 40 acquisitions are made around the world between 2010 and 2020.





With  
Transgene and  
ABL Inc.

Immunotherapy  
to address unmet  
medical needs



2001



■ The family holding company takes over **ABL Inc.**, a North American company based in Washington DC. It specializes in research in virology and particularly AIDS.

ABL Inc. is now a contract research and biomanufacturing company that helps biopharmaceutical and biotechnology companies with clinical trials and productions.

ABL Inc. has expanded to Europe with the creation of ABL Europe, based in Lyon and Strasbourg, France.



■ The Mérieux family takes control of **Transgene**, a biotechnology company specialized in gene therapy based in Strasbourg, France. It is listed on the stock exchange in 1998.

Dr. Christophe Mérieux, whose thesis focused on gene therapy, has lead this company for several years.

Transgene gradually shifts its R&D activities toward immunotherapy with therapeutic vaccines and oncolytic viruses to treat cancer patients.

CONTRIBUTING  
TO THE MEDICINE  
OF TOMORROW

2009



■ Institut Mérieux creates **Mérieux Développement**, an investment company in the health field to support the emergence of innovative companies that will shape the medicine of tomorrow.

2009



■ The international innovation program **Mérieux Research Grants** is launched to create an international network of high-level researchers working on issues that are strategic for Institut Mérieux.

2018



■ Mérieux Développement creates the management company **Mérieux Equity Partners**.

## SUPPORTING FRENCH RESEARCH AND HEALTH AT THE LOCAL LEVEL: LYONBIOPÔLE, BIOASTER, AND THE WHO ACADEMY



2005

As a major player in the regional health ecosystem, Institut Mérieux, at the initiative of Dr. Christophe Mérieux, founds the **Lyonbiopôle** infectious diseases competitiveness cluster with other public and private partners.

It supports projects and companies in the sector to boost the development of technological innovations, products, and services to overcome the health challenges of tomorrow.

2011

Institut Mérieux is a founding member of the **Bioaster** Technological Research Institute (TRI), one of the eight TRIs in France created through the French government's Investments for the Future Program. At the crossroads between the public and private sectors, its purpose is to turn academic innovation into solutions that reach patients quickly by developing robust and collaborative technological research.

2021

■ Institut Mérieux is working with French institutional, political, and industrial players to support the establishment of the **WHO Academy** in Lyon. This innovative training center for health professionals around the world aims to share new lifelong learning methods.



# SERVING PUBLIC HEALTH WITHOUT BORDERS BETWEEN NORTH AND SOUTH

## FIGHTING AGAINST INFECTIOUS DISEASES IN VULNERABLE COUNTRIES



### 1967

■ Dr. Charles Mérieux creates Fondation Mérieux in memory of his father. This independent family foundation fights against infectious diseases in developing countries.

**It obtains public interest status in 1976.**

Fondation Mérieux helps disseminate medical and scientific innovations and train health professionals around the world.

The **Pensières Conference Center** on the shores of Lake Annecy in France plays an important role in sharing knowledge in the field of public health.



Fondation Mérieux participates in many public health initiatives and in 1983, drives the creation of **Bioforce**, a training institute for humanitarian professions. Bioforce now has branches in France, Senegal, and soon in Jordan.

In the field of research, Fondation Mérieux creates the **Jean Mérieux P4 Laboratory** in Lyon in 1999 to study unknown and dangerous pathogens.

This research unit is now managed by Inserm.

Since 2005 and under the impetus of Dr. Christophe Mérieux, Fondation Mérieux has been reorienting its activities in the field, at the heart of infectious outbreaks, close to vulnerable populations.

Fondation Mérieux has created a network of sentinel diagnostic laboratories, the **Rodolphe Mérieux Laboratories**, to improve epidemiological monitoring of infectious diseases and patient treatment.

Through these reference laboratories, it offers applied research programs and trains health professionals in these countries. As a result, it is currently helping to strengthen healthcare systems in more than 25 countries in Africa, Asia, the Middle East, Latin America, Madagascar, Haiti...



## A FOUNDATION, AS THE REFERENCE SHAREHOLDER OF INSTITUT MÉRIEUX



**FONDATION  
CHRISTOPHE & RODOLPHE MÉRIEUX**  
UNDER AEGIS OF THE INSTITUT DE FRANCE

### 2001

■ Chantal and Alain Mérieux create Fondation Rodolphe Mérieux in memory of their son Rodolphe. It becomes **Fondation Christophe et Rodolphe Mérieux** in 2006 following the death of their son Christophe.

Hosted by the Institut de France, the Foundation was created with the support of its Chancellor, Pierre Messmer. It is now Institut Mérieux's reference shareholder, with one-third of its capital.

It receives the only dividend paid by Institut Mérieux, providing meaning to the performance of the Group's companies.

Fondation Christophe et Rodolphe Mérieux works closely with Fondation Mérieux, which implements projects in developing countries.

**It acts to help the most fragile people among us, mothers and children.**

As part of a comprehensive health approach, it aims to provide better health care, housing, education, and economic reintegration.

To do so, it has supported the creation of orphanages and schools in Haiti, mother-child care centers in refugee camps in the Middle East and Bangladesh, maternity wards in Mali, micro-credit programs in Haiti and Mali, nutrition programs in Madagascar, and so on.



Chantal Mérieux in Haiti

Fondation Christophe et Rodolphe Mérieux also supports research through the **Dr. Christophe Mérieux Prize**, awarded every year to researchers working in the field.

Since the creation of the Prize in 2007, 14 scientists have been recognized for their work on major diseases in developing countries.

Through this Prize, Fondation Christophe et Rodolphe Mérieux is promoting high-level local research and helping researchers pursue their work in their country of origin.





PHOTOS

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*The history of our family gives the meaning that drives our desire to keep innovating and our entrepreneurial spirit.*

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ALAIN MÉRIEUX