



## Meeting Report

### The Mériex Chinese Research Network in Wuhan: the 4th Chapter of a Success Story

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On April 17-18<sup>th</sup> 2013, the 4<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Mériex Chinese Research Network was held in Wuhan, an event organized by Institut Mériex, together with the Wuhan Institute of Virology, Chinese Academy of Sciences, Huangzhong University of Science and Technology, and the Chinese Society for Microbiology.

The Mériex Chinese Research Network connects a community of high level scientists with a portfolio of innovative projects, and the meetings are held every alternative year in different cities across China. More than 100 participants attended the 2013 Wuhan meeting,

including the vice president of Institut Mériex Dr. Christian Bréchet, and experts from academic, industrial, and administrative fields. The organizing committee assembled a panel of excellent speakers: Drs. Pascal Vincelot, Zhengli Shi, Laurent Poirel, Cuihua Liu, Xiaojun Ma, Chundong Yu, Rong Zhou, Yunfeng Zhou, Veronique Trillet-Lenoir, Xiang Du, Hongrui Wang, Jianfeng Liu, Yanyi Wang, Marc Bonneville, Guangwen Lu, Qiangzheng Sun, Ming Li, Chengfeng Qin, Hua Cui, Xiao Xu, Yuanda Song, Zhiwei Wu, and Jiachang Yu. During the meeting, they focused on five topics: microbes



Group photo of participants at the 4<sup>th</sup> Mériex Chinese Research Network meeting, 2013 April, Wuhan. Courtesy of the organizing committee.

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and infectious diseases, cancer, technology transfer and economic valorization, immunology, and new technological developments. Special round table sections on potential Mériex Research programs and Wuhan BioLake company clusters were held to foster idea exchange and develop new collaborations between the academic and industrial sectors. On the last day of the meeting, the Chinese Society for Microbiology and Institut Mériex granted joint awards to outstanding young Chinese researchers.

The Mériex Chinese Research Network is an organization that belongs to the Mériex Grants program. The purpose of the program is to establish networking activities between Chinese researchers and Institut Mériex companies, between Chinese research centers, universities and hospitals, between scientists and medical doctors, and to contribute to translational medicine reinforcement. The

Mériex research network also includes the Mériex research fellowships, devoted to training of students and PhDs in China (30 000 RMB), and awards for young investigators (100 000 RMB).

The Mériex research networks have three functions: they combine expertise from two or more research groups; they connect basic research scientists and medical doctors; the financial support, 300 000 RMB over two years, can be used freely for coordination, meetings, and such activities. As an example, for 2013-2014 topics for network, two topics were selected and debated in Wuhan: (i) In microbiology field: hospital-associated infections and resistance to antibiotics. (2) In HBV – HCV – HCC field: biomarkers for diagnosis of HCC, biomarkers for predicting liver fibrosis development and risks of cirrhosis.