

# President's Letter to foreign alumni and friends

by Michel Petit

Dear friends and former members of CNRS abroad, it is my pleasure and privilege, as President of the A3 CNRS (Association des Amis et Anciens du CNRS, i.e. Association of Alumni & Friends of CNRS) to introduce our Association to you and to invite you to join us. First of all, let me update you on the CNRS.

The CNRS is France's (and Europe's) largest research institution. It currently employs 11,450 scientists (15% of them non French) and 14,180 engineers and support staff, and about 8,900 temporary agents (doc, post-doc, associates, fellows ...). It is both a research operator and a research-funding agency, organized in 10 National Institutes :

- Life Sciences
- Chemistry
- Ecology & Environment
- Humanities & Social Sciences
- Informatics
- Engineering & systems
- Mathematics
- Physics
- Nuclear & Particles Physics
- Universe Sciences.

It prides itself on counting 16 Nobel Laureates in all fields of science and 9 Fields Medals in Mathematics among its past and present members. Its overall budget amounts to close to 3.2 billion €. The CNRS is very active internationally, with:

- 5,000 foreign scientists (PhD students, post-docs and visiting researchers)
- 85 Exchange agreements with 60 countries
- 343 International programs for scientific cooperation (PICS)
- 88 Joint research projects (PRC)
- 114 European and international associated laboratories (LEA/LIA)
- 93 European and international research groups (GDRE/GDRI)
- 22 International joint units (UMI)
- 11 CNRS Offices abroad (Bruxelles, Hanoi, Malta, Moscow, New Delhi, Beijing, Pretoria, Rio, Santiago, Tokyo, Washington).

Our Association A3 CNRS, created in 1990, is a private, not-for-profit organization open to everyone who has worked, or been associated with, the CNRS (France's National Centre for Scientific Research).

Dear foreign colleagues who have worked during a part of your career with the CNRS in France and are pursuing a distinguished career in your country, I cordially invite you to become a member of the A3 CNRS Association. You will have no subscription fee to pay in France, but should simply register with the Association either by completing the on line form at :

<http://www.rayonnementducnrs.com/US/adherer.php>  
or through the post.

When your application has been received and formally registered you will be entitled to receive three free publications :

- « Rayonnement du CNRS », the Association's quarterly Bulletin (in French);
- « Le Journal du CNRS », the CNRS's monthly publication (in French);
- « CNRS International Magazine », the CNRS's quarterly publication in English.

Members of A3 CNRS living in the same country are invited to link up and form a local « CNRS Club ». They are cordially requested regularly to send us information on scientific developments in their country which we will be happy to publish in our Bulletin. One of your most important tasks, in partnership with our Head Office in Paris, will be to help organize return visits of National scientists to France and of French scientists to your country.

I am looking forward to welcoming you soon as members of A3 CNRS. Sincerely yours,

## Contact

Association des Anciens et Amis du CNRS (A3)  
Campus Gérard Mégie,  
3 rue Michel-Ange - 75794 Paris cedex 16, France  
Tél : +33- 1 44 96 44 57 ;  
Fax : +33- 1 44 96 49 87  
Courriel : Amis-cnrs@cnrs-dir.fr  
[www.rayonnementducnrs.com](http://www.rayonnementducnrs.com)

Michel PETIT, President, A3 CNRS.