



supports



Press Release

December 2008

## **Relais & Châteaux engages in the fight against neurodegenerative diseases**

### **Association gives its support to the Institute for Brain and Spinal Cord Disorders**

For 2009, the Relais & Châteaux Association has chosen to give active and financial support to the Institute for Brain and Spinal Cord Disorders (ICM).

This project aims to combat neurodegenerative diseases (Alzheimer's, Parkinson's, multiple sclerosis...) which affect one in eight people today. It will draw together a team of 800 research scientists across the globe at the Pitié Salpêtrière location.

ICM could see the light of day thanks to the personal involvement of prestigious founding members (Professor Saillant, Professor Agid, Professor Lyon-Caen, Jean Todt, Luc Besson, Michael Schumacher...)

Beyond its financial support amounting to € 100,000, Relais & Châteaux will draw on its network of 480 properties in 56 countries to promote and help finance ICM around the world.

In particular, dinners to support ICM will be organised by the Grands Chefs Relais & Châteaux over the next few months.

For Jaume Tàpies, International President of Relais & Châteaux, "We chose ICM because of its particularly innovative character combining clinical research and basic research, its disciplined approach and professionalism in the creation of this project and the international dimension to this project. Our signature *All around the world, Unique in the world* is perfectly in tune with the ambitions of ICM.

For Professor Gérard Saillant, President of ICM, "The involvement of Relais & Châteaux in ICM is particularly useful as ICM can then count on the support of this family of hoteliers and Grands Chefs across the world to raise awareness amongst and motivate all those who wish to join this great combat to ensure that everyone is free in his thoughts and movements".

### About Relais & Châteaux:

*Relais & Châteaux is an exclusive collection of 480 of the finest charming hotels and gourmet restaurants in 56 countries.*

*Established in France in 1954, the Association's mission is to spread its unique art de vivre across the globe by selecting outstanding properties with a truly unique character.*

*Furthermore, Relais & Châteaux is also a family of hoteliers and Grands Chefs from all over the world who share a passion for and a personal commitment to ensuring their guests are privy to moments of exceptional harmony, an unforgettable celebration of the senses.*

*From the vineyards in Napa valley to the beaches in Bali, from the olive trees in Provence to the lodges in South Africa, Relais & Châteaux offers all the stops on the finest route for discovering each special place and country.*

*The Relais & Châteaux signature reflects this ambition:*

*"ALL AROUND THE WORLD, UNIQUE IN THE WORLD".*

### *About the Institute for Brain and Spinal Cord Disorders*

Alzheimer's, Parkinson's, multiple sclerosis, depression, strokes paraplegia... neurological and psychiatric disease affect one in eight people. The Institute for Brain and Spinal Cord Disorders – ICM – will bring together 600 research scientists from 2010 in the heart of the Pitié-Salpêtrière Hospital in Paris, where 100,000 neurology patients are examined every year. The best researchers from across the globe will come to work there on 22,000 m<sup>2</sup> of laboratory space. The proximity between patient/doctors/researchers testifies to an inestimable hopes and richness. It will foster the speedy development of effective treatments for the greatest benefit of the sufferers. It is very fortunate that Paris has been chosen as the location for this Institute.

ICM will be an international research centre with cutting edge technology. The unique nature of its philosophy and its way of working will introduce a fresh wind into research: the close links between basic research and clinical applications, between the public and private sectors, between promising projects and international teams chosen for their excellence, the importance accorded to carrying research forward and developing business incubators.

#### **Support ICM:**

ICM is a recognised public utility foundation.

ICM – Institute for Brain and Spinal Cord Disorders

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