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# Six Years of Collaboration with the Peter Wall Institute for Advanced Studies (PWIAS) 2008-2013

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# Six Years of Collaboration with the Peter Wall Institute for Advanced Studies (PWIAS) 2008-2013

Philippe Sansonetti

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Symposium "Zoonoses and Emergence of new Infectious Diseases: Biology Meets Anthropology",  
Loretta Cormier (University of Alabama, Birmingham)  
10 and 11 June 2013

- 1 **The interaction between the Collège de France and the Peter Wall Institute for Advanced Studies (PWIAS) of the University of British Columbia (Canada) exemplifies the synergy that can develop between two institutions that share the same values regarding the impact of multidisciplinary knowledge on academia and society.**

- 2 The remarkable proactivity of both parties, especially of the Head of the PWIAS, Professor Janis Sarra, and of Professor Brett Finlay on the Canadian side, has enabled us to continue fostering the close ties first established by Professor Alain Berthoz, which led to the creation of the Collège de France's Visiting Chair in Vancouver in 2008. Five Collège de France professors have thus delivered some of their annual teaching in Vancouver, as Distinguished Professors. As a result of these exchanges, four symposia have been organized in Paris and Vancouver in turn, with the valuable support of the Collège de France's Fondation Hugot. Our Faculty has decided to renew the partnership agreement for a further four years.
- 3 In September 2013, Professors Anne Cheng and Philippe Descola spent three weeks in Vancouver, where they delivered high-level lectures<sup>1</sup>. These two Collège de France professors, along with Professor Philippe Sansonetti, spoke at the bi-annual symposium of the Association of University-Based Institutes for Advanced Studies, held this year at the PWIAS. Their participation reinforced the Collège de France's presence within this network, and helped to promote its strengths. The discussions addressed several major themes: the relationships between art and science, between science and technology, and between science and society/ies, as well as the plurality of audiences, the relations between science and traditional knowledge, multi-disciplinarity, research freedom, and visual representations in science.
- 4 On 10 and 11 June 2013, the Collège de France in turn hosted a symposium co-organized by the PWIAS (Prof. Brett Finlay), the Chair of Microbiology and Infectious Diseases (Prof. Philippe Sansonetti) and the Chair of Anthropology of Nature (Prof. Philippe Descola and Mr Frédéric Keck). This international symposium on "Zoonoses and Emergence of New Infectious Diseases: Biology Meets Anthropology", provided a forum for highly fruitful and original discussions about the human factors in the emergence of infectious disease. The speakers included PWIAS members and scientists from British Columbia.
- 5 In 2014, the Collège de France will welcome several scholars from the PWIAS, and will host an international symposium on the theme "Microbiota, Nutrition and Metabolism", under the aegis of both institutions. Prof. Philippe Sansonetti and Mr Frédéric Keck are also taking part in reflection meetings initiated by the PWIAS, on the role of microbiota in human evolution. The Consulate General of France in Vancouver supports the dynamic interaction between the Collège de France and the PWIAS.
- 6 Prof. Philippe SANSONETTI

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## NOTES

1. During their visit, Professors Cheng and Descola delivered two lectures, on "The French Invention of Sinology as an Academic Discipline" and "What is Anthropological Knowledge?", respectively.

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## AUTHOR

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Microbiology and Infectious Diseases