

Prof. Christian Bréchet, MD, Ph.D.

Senior Associate Dean for Research in Global Affairs,
Associate Vice President for International Partnerships and
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Christian Bréchet, MD, PhD joined the USF Health Morsani College of Medicine part time as Senior Associate Dean for Research in Global Affairs, Associate Vice President for International Partnerships and Innovation, and Professor in the Division of Infectious Disease, Department of Internal Medicine in 2018. Since 2017, Dr. Brechet has served as President of the Global Virus Network, a network of 48 research centers worldwide, headquartered in Baltimore.

Before serving as president of the Pasteur Institute from 2013 to 2017, Dr. Bréchet was vice president of medical and scientific affairs at Institut-Merieux, a company that develops new approaches to fight infectious diseases and cancers. He also served as the general director of Inserm, the French national agency for biomedical research from 2002 to 2007. As professor of hepatology and cell biology at Necker School of Medicine, Paris Descartes University, he led the clinical department of liver diseases at Necker-Enfants Malades Hospital from 1997 to 2001.

Authoring more than 400 articles in medical and scientific journals, Dr. Bréchet was ranked by the Institute for Scientific Information as the 4th most cited author on the topic of hepatitis C. He has been recognized as an inventor on 18 patents, and helped create three biotechnology companies: Rarecells, ALFACT Innovation, and The Healthy Aging Company.

Dr. Bréchet's research activities have focused on viral hepatitis: hepatitis B (HBV) and C (HCV), particularly with regard to their role in liver cancer (Hepatocellular carcinoma: HCC) and to the molecular mechanisms that drive liver regeneration and cancer (in particular, cell cycle deregulation and the impact of oxidative stress).

Additionally, Dr. Bréchet's research interests include microbiomes, particularly in microbiomes and viral infections. In this respect, he is a co-founder of the Microbiome, Immunology and Infection Control (MIIM) Hub in the USF Pandemic Response Research Network (PRRN). This research hub focuses on enabling and connecting an interdisciplinary network of scientists at USF and globally. The hub's goals are to develop precision therapies and interventions that target the human microbiome to maintain and restore human health against COVID-19 and future such pandemics. Dr. Brechet is also the head of the USF Institute on Microbiomes. He has also been the member of numerous scientific committees and societies and has received prestigious awards.