Bruno Spire
France

Dr Bruno Spire is a researcher living with HIV and a senior scientist at the French National Institute for Medical Research (INSERM). Since 1988, he has been a member of AIDES, the main non-governmental HIV organization in France. He was President of this organisation between 2007 and 2015 and, in 2016, was elected honorary President. AIDES is a large organization, with 450 staff members, 800 volunteers and a budget of 40 million euros. Bruno Spire is also the treasurer of COALITION PLUS, an international CBO gathering 15 large CBOS throughout the world. Spire trained as a medical doctor in Paris and obtained his MD in 1985.

He graduated with a PhD in Virology in 1990, working in the Françoise Barré-Sinoussi team involved in the discovery of HIV. He participated in the characterisation of HIV reverse transcriptase, described the first methods of inactivation of HIV and focused his research on molecular virology by studying the HIV Vif Protein. In 1998, he turned his interest in research into public health issues associated with HIV/AIDS, in order to reconcile the objectives of scientists and activists. Since 1988 he has been involved in numerous multidisciplinary studies (principally in ANRS cohort studies) studying adherence, quality of life, treatment preferences and at-risk behaviours of PLWHA and key populations.

Presently, he leads a research team at INSERM that focuses on HIV community-based research. The philosophy of this approach is to do research with people and not only for people. He has been a principal investigator/co-investigator in several community-based research projects on key populations investigating HIV lay-testing, safer injection education by peers and PrEP associated behaviors and perceptions. His research is mainly based on multidisciplinary projects which strengthen ties between academic science and activism. His research projects are based in France, but also in West Africa and Cambodia where Bruno Spire serves as the North coordinator of the French ANRS research Cambodian site.