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He was originally qualified as a veterinarian and was trained in virology at Institut Pasteur in order to get his PhD. He spent two years as a post doctoral fellow at the National Institute for Medical Research (London, United Kingdom). He was then co-director of the National Influenza Centre for Northern France and of the WHO Collaborative Centre for Research and Reference on Influenza Viruses and Other Respiratory Viruses, one of the 13 laboratories included in the WHO Collaborative Multi-Centre Laboratory Network on SARS (1994-2003). He belonged to the French team sent to Hanoi for the control of the SARS outbreak at the Hanoi French Hospital in March 2003. Since then, he participated to a number of missions during outbreaks. In 2014 and 2015, he went to the Ebola diagnostic laboratory in Donka Hospital in Conakry and in the Ebola Treatment Center in Macenta in Guinea respectively.

Since 2014 he is the workpackage leader of the human virology network of the MediLabSecure project. From 2000 to 2018, he was a member of the steering committee of the Global Alert and Response Network coordinated by the WHO and chaired it from 2011 to 2013.