



## PRESS RELEASE

Montpellier, 1 December 2015

# IBMM, SATT AxLR and 4P Pharma conclude a partnership agreement

In the context of an innovative medical drug development project for the treatment of cancers, especially colon cancer, melanoma and pancreatic cancer, the oncology-pharmaco-chemical and pharmaco-toxicological team of IBMM, SATT AxLR and 4P Pharma have concluded a co-development maturation agreement for an amount of EUR 436,400, with a licensing option. The financing for this programme, called “Imiqualines” is shared between SATT AxLR and 4P Pharma.

IBMM's research activities are located at the interface between chemistry and biology while trying to understand the actions of biomolecules and pathologies, with the goal of proposing tomorrow's medical drugs. Research undertaken by IBMM has made it possible to identify a new molecule - EAPB02303 - capable of destroying tumour cells very effectively, notably in melanoma and pancreatic cancer models.

The work to be carried out within the framework of the co-development programme between SATT AxLR and 4P Pharma falls within the scope of oncological and-pharmaco-chemical development that requires bringing the reduction of metastatic occurrences to the forefront. Many targeted treatments have been developed in recent years for primary- and secondary-intention therapeutic applications. Molecules, currently in development, however, do not meet all the challenges of cancer progression and resistance mechanisms emerge. From now on, therapeutic treatments must address cancer molecular characteristics, beyond the organ of origin. In this context, a given targeted therapy may be used to address very different types of cancer by targeting a common molecular characteristic. The “Imiqualines” development project is being developed in this context and under this reasoning.

“Imiqualines” project's maturation phases will be implemented by 4P Pharma and will enable to characterise the original mechanism of action of EAPB02303, to prove its efficacy for several cancer indications and to assess its toxicity. Should this maturation programme yield positive results, it is envisaged that 4P Pharma will exercise the licensing option in the last quarter of 2016 and continue regulatory preclinical development until the first clinical phase in patients.

“This collaborative partnership agreement with SATT AxLR is the unique opportunity to enhance an innovative academic project, which is currently in an early development stage but has great potential to meet unfulfilled medical needs”, Revital Rattenbach, CEO of 4P Pharma, declares. “Our aim is to develop this molecule with its innovative features as quickly as possible and our partnership with SATT AxLR is the beginning of fruitful collaboration in that regard”.



## **IBMM**

All the health chemistry research laboratories in Montpellier took up the challenge to merge the teams conducting research in the field of biomolecules so as to form one single laboratory named “*Institut des Biomolécules Max Mousseron*” (IBMM). IBMM, UMR 5247 was founded on the 1st January 2007 and is a joint laboratory with the CNRS, ENSCM and Montpellier University. IBMM’s strategy is steadfastly international in its outlook and is based on research and innovation programmes on unifying synthesis, chemical reactivity and the study of the physicochemical, biological, pharmacological and toxicological properties of biomolecules. Today, the Institute has two main assignments: teaching and research at the junction of Chemistry, Biology and Clinical practice and two complementary assignments: technology enhancement and transfer particularly through the young start-ups that it helps emerge and grow within its laboratories.

Website: [www.ibmm.univ-montp1.fr](http://www.ibmm.univ-montp1.fr)

## **4P PHARMA**

4P Pharma is a company focusing on preclinical research and specialising in the development of new, innovative and first-in-class medical drugs and therapeutic agents that meet unfulfilled medical needs in the fields of oncology and inflammatory diseases and notably for therapeutic indications of rare diseases.

The activity of 4P Pharma is based on acquiring licensing options for innovative technologies at an early stage of development in the biomedical field, following the detection and the assessment of innovative projects derived from academic laboratories and Universities, from French SATTs (Technology Transfer Acceleration Companies), from technology transfer offices as well as from start-ups and firms in the pharmaceutical and biotechnology sector.

4P Pharma defines and implements a co-development maturation project with the partner that is the owner of the rights so as to speed up technology development time and reduce the risks connected with the initial validation phases. If the outcome of the maturation programme is positive, 4P Pharma exercises a licensing option for the developed technologies and implements regulatory preclinical development until phase I/IIa is reached.

Website: [www.4p-pharma.com](http://www.4p-pharma.com)

## **SATT AxLR**

AxLR is a technology transfer acceleration company (SATT). It specialises in helping innovative projects derived from academic research to reach maturity and in commercialising them. It works with most of the public-sector research laboratories in France’s Languedoc-Roussillon region, one of the most dynamic French and European locations, especially as far as agronomy is concerned, with over 200 laboratories and almost 7,000 researchers. AxLR works in partnership with its shareholders (including Montpellier University, the CNRS and ENSCM) to help researchers and their laboratories to convert their work into a product or a service to be marketed. As a technology transfer acceleration company, AxLR therefore assists and finances the technical and economic maturation of technologies such as Imiqualines.

Website: [www.axlr.com](http://www.axlr.com)



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