Press Release

**Talence, September 1st 2016**

# Signature of a license agreement with 4P-Pharma for the development of an anti-cancer drug.

**4P-Pharma has signed an exclusive license agreement with Aquitaine Science Transfert, for the development of a drug targeting pancreatic cancer, triple negative breast cancer or colon cancer. The molecule was first developed and patented by researchers from the laboratory of Angiogenesis and Cancer Microenvironment (LAMC - University of Bordeaux / Inserm).**
**This signature materializes the technology transfer process managed by Inserm Transfert and the SATT Aquitaine. The funding for the project maturation amounts to 375 k€ over a 3-year time frame.**

After several years of research, **the team from the Angiogenesis and Cancer Microenvironment Laboratory (LAMC – University of Bordeaux / Inserm)** generated a peptide with the capacity to slow cancer tumor growth by inhibiting apelin's activity. This discovery is the object of patent protection on behalf of Inserm and University of Bordeaux.

Through apelin, this peptide acts on a new tumor angiogenesis pathway, different from the one targeted by existing anti-angiogenic drugs on the market. Acting on this new tumor angiogenesis pathway should improve current treatments for refractory patients or for patients resistant to current anti-angiogenics.

**4P-Pharma** will thus focus on completing preclinical and early clinical drug development phases before transferring the technology to a big-pharma company, which will ensure the drug market access (completion of late phase clinical trials and marketing authorization) and commercialization.

"We are delighted that our ongoing partnership with SATT Aquitaine Science Transfert materializes with the signature of this exclusive license agreement. The innovative medical technology issued from the apelin project addresses unmet needs for certain types of cancers. Our next step is to conduct preclinical studies to bring, as quickly as possible, this peptide to the clinic." Revital Rattenbach, CEO of 4P- Pharma declares.

This signature occurs after **SATT Aquitaine** has allocated EUR 375 000, over a three-year period, for the maturation of this project, starting May 2015.

"Our project aims to characterize a compound in a new class of anti-angiogenic drugs that could become a 'first in class' drug candidate. To bring such a molecule on the market is not simple, because convincing pharmaceutical industries to invest in the early development stages is not easy. We therefore rely on intermediate Biotechnology companies that will drive these molecules from an early to a late development stage, possibly including manufacturing, before selling them to a Big Pharma. This is what we sought by partnering early on, during our proof of concept phase, with 4P-Pharma. This company has a CRO-like business model, and can also invest in clinical development projects. We welcome this partnership, and hope that our joint efforts will lead this promising molecule to the anti-cancer drug market" says Jean-Luc Chagnaud, Head of Health Business Unit and Intellectual Property Director at Aquitaine Science Transfert.

**> Learn more on the Apeline project (French)**
**> Watch the video and interviews of the event (French)**

## About Aquitaine Science Transfert® (SATT Aquitaine)

Aquitaine Science Transfert is the SATT Aquitaine created in July, 2012 on the initiative of the governmental “investments for the future” program with the goal to develop public research and to improve the technology transfer process. Aquitaine Science Transfert is supported by his founding shareholders that are Caisse des dépôts et consignations for the French State, the University of Bordeaux, the University of Pau and the Countries of Adour (UPPA), the National Center for Scientific Research (CNRS) and the National Institute of the Health and the Medical research (Inserm): 7000 researchers, 135 laboratories, 170 patent families, 30 technological & services platforms.

Aquitaine Science Transfert skills cover all stages of technology transfert: investment in the proof of concept (technical, economic and legal), management and transfer of intellectual property, negotiation of partnership research contracts and support to the creation of innovative companies.

Aquitaine Science Transfert organizes its activities around three Business Unit focused on the regional areas of excellence of public research and industrial base: Aerospace – Defense - Systems, Health & Biomedical, Energy & Green markets. The willingness of Aquitaine Science Transfert is to satisfy all of the maturation needs of the research units regardless of their themes.

**Since its creation in 2012, and during the first 3 years of activity, SATT Aquitaine contributed to the creation of 7 start-ups, signed 21 licenses with companies, submitted 143 patents, negotiated 1500 research partnership contracts on behalf of research institutions, and committed 8.5 million € for the maturation of 64 projects.**

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## About 4P-Pharma

4P-Pharma is a company focusing on preclinical research and specializing 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 program is positive, 4P Pharma exercises a licensing option for the developed technologies and implements regulatory preclinical development until phase I/IIa is reached.

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