



PRESS RELEASE

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4P-PHARMA AND PULSALYS ESTABLISH A CO-MATURATION AGREEMENT FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF AN INNOVATIVE DRUG FOR CANCER TREATMENT



4P-Pharma, the preclinical R&D company specializing in the development of new medicines and PULSALYS, the Technology Transfer Office of the Université de Lyon Saint-Etienne, concluded on February 2017 a co-maturation agreement with a sub-licensing option, aimed at the development of an innovative drug to answer an unmet need in the treatment of cancers, and especially for resistance to chemotherapies.

This drug candidate, developed by Professor Gillet's team at the Lyon Cancer Research Center¹, opens a new route of treatment for acute myeloblastic leukemia, breast and small cell lung cancers. The financing of the «Onco-Bcl» program is shared between SATT and 4P-Pharma, and amounts to 390.000 euros over a period of 24 months.

A co-development program to overcome cancers resistance to chemotherapy

One of the main barrier in the treatment of cancer is resistance to chemotherapy. The resistance can be attributed in part to the overexpression of B cell lymphoma 2 (Bcl-2) anti-apoptotic protein. Professor Gillet's research focuses on the role of a Bcl-2 family member, the Bcl-B anti-apoptotic protein in tumor processes. Overexpression of Bcl-B has been associated with a poor prognosis for breast and lung cancer and resistance to chemotherapy.

Experimental studies allowed the identification of an active fragment of the Bcl-B protein. This peptide triggers the death of Bcl-B-dependent cancer cells and sensitizes chemotherapy-resistant tumor cell lines.

This research is protected by a patent held by the Université Claude Bernard Lyon 1, CNRS, Inserm and Centre Leon Berard.

Developing an Innovative Medicine

The «Onco-Bcl» co-maturation program aims to optimize the efficacy of the peptide and to evaluate its toxicity through preclinical tests in animal models and patient-derived cells. At the end of this co-maturation program, 4P-Pharma will be able to pursue, under an exclusive sub-license agreement, the development of the drug candidate until it enters the first phases of clinical trial in Man.

¹ Lyon Cancer Research Center: UMR INSERM U1052, CNRS 5286, UCBL, CLB.

“ This maturation program, carried out in co-development with PULSALYS, is a fine example of public-private collaboration, and academic research valorization. This peptide has a high potential to fulfill unmet needs in the treatment of several cancers. Our goal is to bring our expertise in preclinical studies to validate this new technology, and to bring it to the clinical phase as quickly as possible», says Revital Rattenbach, CEO of 4P-Pharma.

“ This co-maturation with the company 4P-Pharma clearly expresses the role of SATT in the valorization and transfer of technology integrating the expertise of an industrial actor. Committed since the upstream phase of this project, 4P-Pharma believes in early innovation and is working hard to develop this innovative technology. We are pleased to see that a strong synergy has been established between the PULSALYS teams, the academic laboratory and the company, to optimally develop the drug candidate», adds PULSALYS Deputy General Manager.

About PULSALYS SATT Lyon Saint-Etienne

PULSALYS is the Technology Transfer office (SATT) of the Université de Lyon St-Etienne. Created in December 2013 as part of the state-initiated PIA program, PULSALYS aims to enhance public research by transferring technologies to the socio-economic world.

With a state fund of 57 million euros over 10 years, SATT relies on the excellence of laboratories at the University of Lyon, where it detects and protects research results with high potential. PULSALYS selects the most promising projects and invests in their technic and economic development by integrating the needs of companies in order to facilitate their transfer.

PULSALYS is also one of the first SATTs to integrate a service dedicated to the creation of startups, linked to its technological innovations.

Key figures since inception:

- 365 detected inventions including 78 funded projects
- 50 supported start-up projects, of which 42 were created
- 22 signed licenses
- 95 patents filed
- € 9m invested

www.pulsalys.fr
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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, 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.

www.4p-pharma.com

www.linkedin.com/company/4p-pharma

@4P_Pharma



About Centre Léon Bérard

The Center Léon Bérard (CLB) is one of the twenty Centers dedicated to the fight against cancer in France. It is affiliated to the National Federation of Centers for Combating Cancer (FNCLCC, UNICANCER). It offers on one site all diagnostic tests, treatments and follow-up for patients during and after the illness. The Center is recognized as a regional reference in oncology. It carries out a triple mission of care, research and teaching, with the constant desire to increase the quality and accessibility of care for cancer patients. Each year, 29,000 patients are received in the hospital, for a consultation, or an examination, and 6,000 new tumors are diagnosed. The CLB has technical platforms for examinations and treatments (operating room, radiotherapy center, departments of medical imaging, pathological anatomy and cytology, and nuclear medicine ...). It has 304 beds as well as more than 100 places of home hospitalization. 1,600 people (200 doctors, 450 researchers, 600 healthcare workers) work at the Léon Bérard Center in the areas of care, research, teaching and support functions. In September 2013, CLB's clinical research received the ISO 9001 certification. This internationally recognized standard ensures that all patients, doctors, academic and industrial partners are guaranteed a high level of quality and safety in the organization of clinical trial.

www.centreonberard.fr



About Centre de Recherche en Cancérologie de Lyon

Le Centre de Recherche en Cancérologie de Lyon (CRCL - UMR Inserm 1052 CNRS 5286 - Center Léon Bérard) is a research organisation labeled by Université Lyon 1, Inserm, CNRS, Léon Bérard Center and with its hospital partners the Hospices Civils de Lyon (HCL).

Le Centre de Recherche en Cancérologie de Lyon opened its doors in January 2011 and its missions were renewed by the national bodies Inserm, CNRS and UCBL for the period 2016-2020.

The CRCL is led by Alain Puisieux, and is assisted by two assistant directors: Patrick Mehlen and Charles Dumontet. It is made up of 22 research teams, with 450 staff, including 140 researchers and lecturers. Its ambition is to increase the international recognition and attractiveness of the site, facilitate the transfer of knowledge to the clinic and industry, and develop education and training.

The structure of the CRCL rests on three scientific departments, with priority research axes:

- Signaling of the tumor escape (Direction: Patrick Mehlen, Deputy Director: Laurent Bartholin)
- Plasticity of cancer cells (Director: Alain Puisieux, Deputy Director: Mathieu Gabut)
- Immunity, Virus, Inflammation (Co-Director: Christophe Caux & Fabien Zoulim)

The CRCL teams can rely on advanced technical equipment (cell sorting and cytometry platform, imaging, L3 laboratory, tumor model laboratory, associated technological platforms on the Lyon Est site) and common services (management cell Administrative, laundry ...) to accompany them in their projects.

www.crcl.fr



PRESS CONTACTS

Sophie RENAUD, SATT PULSALYS
04 26 23 56 93 - sophie.renaud@pulsalys.fr

Keren BISMUTH, 4P-Pharma
09 72 84 72 64 - keren@4p-pharma.com