

Press Release

Paris, 28th January 2021

Institut de la Vision & 4P-Pharma establish a partnership agreement for the development of an innovative therapy for retinal diseases with the support of the SATT Lutech

Paris, France, 28th January 2021 – 4P-Pharma, a clinical-stage biotechnology company specialized in the sourcing and acceleration of early-stage therapeutic molecules development to the clinic, and the research center, Institut de la Vision (Sorbonne Université, Inserm, CNRS), initiate a partnership for the development of an innovative treatment of dry age-related macular degeneration (dAMD) and Stargardt disease with the support of the SATT Lutech.

The drug candidate, initially studied by Dr. Valérie Fontaine's team at the Institut de la Vision, opens a new therapeutic strategy for these diseases.

A promising therapeutic approach for dAMD and Stargardt disease

Age-related macular degeneration (AMD) is the leading cause of visual impairment in people over 50. This disease damages the macula, a small spot in the approximate center of the retina allowing us to see details sharply. In the early stages of AMD, small yellow acellular deposits called "drusen" accumulate within and around the macula of the retina. In about 50% of cases, it progresses to degenerative forms with a loss of central vision. Dry AMD accounts for nearly 85% of all degenerative forms of AMD. Early onset macular degeneration can occur during the first 20 years of a patient's life, as in Stargardt disease, a rare genetic disorder, considered as the juvenile form of dAMD.

To date, there is no specific treatment for either dAMD or Stargardt disease. One main pathological marker associated with both diseases is the accumulation of lipofuscin (cellular pigment derived from molecular debris) in the retinal pigment epithelium (RPE) cells. Dr Valérie Fontaine's team from the Institut de la Vision (Sorbonne Université, Inserm, CNRS) and supported by the Institut Carnot Voir et Entendre, investigated and established a strategy to lower the accumulation of lipofuscin in RPE cells using a drug already approved by European (EMA) and American (FDA) regulatory agencies, opening up a new and promising therapeutic approach against these two diseases.

A partnership to develop an innovative medicine

Together, 4P-Pharma's and Dr. Valérie Fontaine's teams, with the support of the SATT Lutech, will implement a maturation program to further characterize the drug candidate and demonstrate its potential as new first-in-class therapeutic drug to treat dAMD and Stargardt disease. Should this co-maturation phase yield positive results, 4P-Pharma will complete and accelerate its development to reach human proof of concept.

4P-Pharma has a proven expertise in drugs development and accelerates its most promising therapies in its own Research and Development laboratory located at the Institut Pasteur de Lille. This year, two of its lead projects will enter into clinical trials.

The biotech company has recently established its Parisian offices at the Institut de la Vision - Fondation Voir et Entendre, the proximity with Dr Valérie Fontaine's team will undoubtedly favour fruitful regular scientific interactions and benefit this collaborative project.

"This public-private partnership demonstrates our shared commitment to develop breakthrough and novel therapies that can have a meaningful impact for the millions of patients suffering from dAMD and Stargardt disease worldwide", says Revital Rattenbach, chairwoman of 4P-Pharma. "Our goal is to accelerate the development of this innovative drug and bring it to the clinic as quickly as possible".

"Understanding the physiology of a biological process under normal conditions is crucial to identify the causes of a pathology and then to define an appropriate therapeutic strategy. The Institut de la Vision with Valérie Fontaine and her team provides this knowledge, but the final process of producing a therapy for the patient is only possible with the support of a private partner like 4P-Pharma", explains Romain Goument, director of programs & public-private partnerships at Institut de la Vision and operational director at Institut Carnot Voir et Entendre. "Therefore, this type of public-private collaboration represents the final and decisive step in the development of a therapy based on years of excellent basic research".

"Since the discovery of the efficacy of this drug in our models, we were looking for a solid partnership to complete this project. This partnership thus represents a great opportunity to successfully develop this drug candidate", adds Valérie Fontaine, team leader at Institut de la Vision. "Our hope is to be able to offer this treatment to patients as soon as possible".

About Institut de la Vision

The Vision Institute (Sorbonne Université, Inserm, CNRS) is one of the largest integrated research center in Europe dedicated to vision and its diseases. Conceived as a place of gathering and exchanges, the Institut de la Vision enables the sharing of ideas and skills, the emergence of new questions and facilitates the delicate process of translating fundamental discoveries into new treatments. In 2018 it was evaluated by an international commission of experts as a world leading research centre. Since 2019 the Institut de la Vision, together with the Hospital of Ophthalmology of the 15-20, is at the hub of the new Institut Hospitalo-Universitaire (IHU) "ForeSight", which aims to develop tomorrow's treatment in ophthalmology by accelerating research and access to therapeutic innovations.

<https://www.institut-vision.org/en/>

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About Institut Carnot Voir et Entendre

The Carnot label was created in 2006 by the Ministry of l'Enseignement Supérieur, de la Recherche and l'Innovation to develop public research partnerships with economic players by ensuring scientific excellence and professionalism. Today, the Carnots form a network of 39 French public research structures recognized and labeled for their ability to carry out partnership research projects for the benefit of companies' innovation. The mission of the Carnot is to prepare the industrial and economic future by assisting companies in their transformation, by facilitating access to R&D for their innovation projects.

The Institut de la Vision with the Institut Pasteur (for the Institut de l'Audition), the Clinical Investigation Centres of the CHNO 15-20 and the Rothschild Foundation Hospital and StreetLab are part of the Institut Carnot Voir et Entendre, which was labelled by the Ministry of l'Enseignement Supérieur, de la Recherche and l'Innovation in 2006 and coordinated from the launch by the Fondation Voir et Entendre.

www.carnot-voir-entendre.eu

www.instituts-carnot.eu

About 4P-Pharma

4P-Pharma is a French clinical-stage biotechnology company, located at the Institut Pasteur de Lille, specialized in the sourcing and acceleration of early-stage therapeutic molecules addressing unmet medical needs. 4P-Pharma aims to detect the most promising innovations from partners (i.e. academic institutions, biotech companies and TTOs) and performs in-house technological due-diligence applying stringent industry criteria. 4P-Pharma gathers all the relevant

actors from the clinic, drug development, finance and business fields to move technologies through developmental decision to bring innovations to clinical phases. Since the foundation of 4P-Pharma, in 2014, more than 300 molecules have been pre-evaluated, a technological due diligence has been carried out on 18 of them, and 3 have been selected to be developed in clinic.

www.4p-pharma.com

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About SATT Lutech

SATT LUTECH is a private technology transfer company with exclusive rights to source, protect, develop and commercialize scientific findings stemming from the research laboratories of its partners and shareholders (Sorbonne Université, CNRS, Université de Technologie de Compiègne, Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle, Université Panthéon-Assas, Ecole Nationale Supérieure de Création Industrielle and BPI France). SATT Lutech aims at facilitating the transfer of early-stage innovations with a real potential to improve life quality, transform industries, and create tremendous social & economic value, from the lab to successful products and services, by investing in the development of convincing proof of concept and prototypes. SATT Lutech is partnering with operating companies and investors, at any development stage, through co-development programs, licensing or startup creation, in the field of healthcare, chemistry, ICT, engineering and human & social sciences.

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