



Acobiom, partner of a new research program in personalized medicine dedicated to cancer

The OncoSNIPE® program gathers industrials, clinical and academic institutions to develop new diagnostic tools and research new therapeutic targets. The program has a total budget of €12 million, with €7.7 million coming from French government funds under the “Investment for the Future Programme”, operated by Bpifrance.

Montpellier, France, February 22, 2017 - Acobiom, a company specialized in the discovery of biomarkers and in the development of diagnostics in personalized medicine, announces today it has obtained €1.1 million of grants from Bpifrance (French public financing structure) as part of the OncoSNIPE® project. The program has a total budget of €12 million, with €7.7 million coming from French government funds under the “Investment for the Future Programme” (PIA, Bpifrance). The program is planned to last for four years, with the first results expected in 2018.

OncoSNIPE® is a programme designed to develop and implement “bio-IT” approaches, drawing on methodologies including artificial intelligence, statistical learning and semantic enrichment to help identify and characterise patients who are resistant to anti-cancer treatments and thus target research and development on specific therapies through the identification of new targets..

OncoSNIPE® gathers industrials: Oncodesign (coordination), Acobiom, Expert System and Sword, and three French academic institutions: Hôpitaux Universitaires de Strasbourg, the anti-cancer centers of Dijon (Centre George François Leclerc) and of Marseille (Institut Paoli Calmettes).

As part of this project, Acobiom will identify circulating (blood) biomarkers predictive of treatment resistance and will develop diagnostics allowing the prediction of patient resistance to anti-cancer drugs currently available for pancreatic, lung and breast cancers. These three cancers concern 3.8 million people per year and drive the 2.4 million deaths per year (Globocan 2012, IARC), in particular due to the emergence of resistance to the given treatments.

“This new partnership to work in the cancer domain will strengthen Acobiom’s position in the field of personalized medicine and in the development of diagnostics allowing the selection of the best-in-class treatment that matches the patient’s own biological profile », said Didier Ritter, CEO, Acobiom.

Actually, the company is already a partner in two phase III clinical trials in oncology and Alzheimer’s disease.

This program also bears out the relevance of the scientific and technical approach Acobiom has been developing for several years to identify circulating (blood) biomarkers to improve treatments, in solid cancers for instance.

About OncoSNIPE & Oncodesign: www.oncodesign.com

Founded over 20 years ago by Dr Philippe Genne, the Company's CEO and Chairman, Oncodesign is a biotechnology company that maximises the pharmaceutical industry's chances of success in discovering new therapeutic molecules to fight cancer and other serious illnesses with no known effective treatment. With its unique experience acquired by working with more than 600 clients, including the world's largest pharmaceutical companies, along with its comprehensive technological platform combining state-of-the-art medicinal chemistry, advanced animal modelling and medical imaging, Oncodesign is able to predict and identify, at a very early stage, each molecule's therapeutic usefulness and potential to become an effective drug. Applied to kinase inhibitors, which represent a market estimated at over \$46 billion in 2016 and accounting for almost 25% of the pharmaceutical industry's R&D expenditure, Oncodesign's technology has already enabled the targeting of several promising molecules with substantial therapeutic potential, in oncology and elsewhere, along with partnerships with pharmaceutical groups such as Bristol-Myers Squibb, Ipsen and UCB. Oncodesign is based in Dijon, France, in the heart of the town's university and hospital hub, and within the Paris-Saclay cluster, Oncodesign has 165 employees and subsidiaries in Canada and the USA.

About Acobiom: www.acobiom.com

Acobiom is a biotechnology company specializing in the discovery of new biological markers and the development of innovative diagnostics focused on personalized medicine. This market is in rapid expansion and expected to be valued at 2.5tn US \$ by 2022 by Genetic Insider. Personalized medicine is meeting patients' needs: better stratifying patients, reducing drug side effects, better managing health expenditures and offering better therapeutic efficacy, as it enables "Giving the right treatment to the right patient!" Biomarkers are identified and selected by Acobiom using its proprietary technological platform, which combines genomics, transcriptomics, bioinformatics, and data science. With its unique scientific expertise in analyzing gene expression in blood cells and whole blood, Acobiom has established its position in the field of personalized medicine and in the development of (companion) diagnostics in order to select the best-in-class treatment. This approach enables targeted drug selection that matches the patient's own phenotypic profile for the treatment of diseases such as cancer and Alzheimer's disease among others. Founded in 1999, Acobiom is located in the Biopole Euromedicine life sciences business center in Montpellier, France, and is a member of local health care clusters.

About the PIA (Investments for the Future programme)

French government's €47 billion "Investments for the Future Programme" is operated by the General Commission for Investment. Since 2010, €36 billion have been invested on 6 priorities for France's Future:

- higher education and vocational training
- research and technology transfer
- modernisation of enterprise
- sustainable development
- digital technology
- health and biotechnology.



Find out about the program "Investments for the Future Programme":
<http://www.gouvernement.fr/investissements-d-avenir-cgi>

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