



Imaxio and Centre Léon Bérard announce the execution of a collaboration agreement and the award of a grant for the preclinical development of an anticancer immunotherapy based on the Imaxio's IMX313 technology

The grant has been awarded as part of the funding program "Proof of Concept CLARA" from the Cancéropôle Lyon Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes

Lyon, France - 3rd October 2016 – Imaxio, a biotech company specialized in immunology, announces today the execution of a collaboration agreement with Centre Léon Bérard, and the award of a grant, as part of the program "Proof of Concept CLARA" from the Cancéropôle Lyon Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes (CLARA), to finance the ORPhEE project.

The ORPhEE project, "non-antigen specific intratumoral immunostimulation", is an initiative of both Imaxio and its partner Centre Léon Bérard (Comprehensive Cancer Center), also based in Lyon. Its objective is to achieve the preclinical development, within the next 30 months, of an immunotherapy used to improve current anticancer therapies by leveraging on the pro-immunogenic effect of Imaxio's IMX313 technology. ORPhEE's budget will benefit, through the program Proof of Concept CLARA, from the support of Lyon Metropole up to 354 k€.

The PI3 platform (Christophe Caux) and its laboratories "Immunomonitoring" (Christine Ménétrier-Caux) and "Immunotherapy" (Stéphane Depil) from the Department of Translational Research of Centre Léon Bérard (CLB), in close interaction with the Cancer Research Center of Lyon (CRCL), will be in charge of the evaluation of the immunotherapy efficacy, whereas Imaxio will be responsible for manufacturing the product and completing toxicology evaluation.

"To be awarded with a Proof of Concept CLARA grant is a real acknowledgement of the work we have completed to date with the teams of Centre Léon Bérard", declares Alexandre Le Vert, Imaxio's Chief Executive Officer. "This also strengthens the way we trust in our IMX313 technology, which will now be used in immuno-oncology. Its field of application is not limited to infectious diseases anymore."

"Both of our early-stage and clinical-stage research teams will be able, thanks to this grant, to provide the ORPhEE project with their skills in immunology and immunotherapy", adds Marina Rousseau-Tsangaris, Deputy Director of Translational Research at Centre Léon Bérard. "There is a significant synergy between Centre Léon Bérard and Imaxio teams, which will allow to rapidly push forward the product candidate up to clinics."

With more than 8 million of deaths reported worldwide by the World Health Organization (WHO) in 2012, there is still a strong medical need for the improvement of current anticancer therapies. In France, the National Institute of Cancer (INCa) estimates that 350.000 new cases of cancer generate more than 150.000 deaths every year.^{1, 2}



However, a link has been recently established between immunology and oncology, and immunotherapies are now one of the most strategic sources of innovation in anticancer therapy. This is why the American Cancer Society declares that this new type of anticancer treatment will significantly impact the way we fight cancer in the future.³

About Imaxio SA

Imaxio is a small biotechnology company focused on immunology, with products ranging from commercial stage to clinical and preclinical R&D stages.

Imaxio commercializes in France a human vaccine indicated for the prevention of an infectious occupational disease, called Spirolept®.

Its clinical-stage R&D pipeline is focused on vaccines for infectious diseases (malaria, influenza, etc.) and an immunotherapy in oncology.

It is based on the IMX313 technology, an antigen re-engineering platform developed by Imaxio to improve the efficacy of vaccines, which is protected by a strong portfolio of 4 patent families.

Imaxio partners with national and international renowned research structures, including the Jenner Institute at Oxford University (UK), the German Cancer Research Centre (DKFZ), Inserm (France), CNRS (France) and the Léon Bérard Cancer Centre (Lyon, France).

Based in Lyon (France), more than half of the twenty Imaxio employees is dedicated to R&D activities. In 2015, its turnover reached EUR 2 million.

For further information: www.imaxio.com

About Centre Léon Bérard

Centre Léon Bérard (CLB) is one of the 20 Comprehensive Cancer Centers. It is located in a unique site and offers to cancer patients all diagnostics, treatments and follow-up services before, during and after the disease. Centre Léon Bérard is a reference pole of cancerology renown at a regional, national and international level. It has 3 missions: care, research and education, with a permanent objective of quality and accessibility improvement for cancer patients. It hosts more than 30.000 patients every year for exams, consultations or hospitalizations.

Together with specialized physicians, there are also 500 researchers working on the CLB site. This is the result of a 30-year strategy promoting a care-research continuum. Finally, CLB also hosts numerous teams of the Cancer Research Center of Lyon (CRCL), and "immunity and cancer" is one area of expertise of both CLB and CRCL.

At a global level, 1.600 persons (comprising 200 physicians, 450 researchers and 450 caregivers) are working at CLB in care, research, education and general & administrative departments.

For further information: www.centreleonberard.fr/?language=en-US

About the Cancer Research Center of Lyon

The CRCL is a research structure. The CRCL was officially created in January 2011 and its missions have been renewed for the 2016-2020 period. The Cancer Research Center of Lyon (CRCL, UMR Inserm 1052 CNRS 5286 - Centre Léon Bérard) is a research structure affiliated with the University Claude Bernard Lyon 1, the national health and research bodies (Inserm and CNRS), the Comprehensive Cancer Center Léon Bérard (CLB) and with the Lyon Civic Hospital (HCL) as clinical partner.

The CRCL is headed by Alain Puisieux (deputies: Patrick Mehlen and Charles Dumontet). It comprises 21 teams, hosting over 420 persons, including 130 researchers and teaching-researchers. The aim of the CRCL is to increase the international recognition and the attractiveness, to facilitate the transfer of knowledge gained from cancer research to clinical application in oncology and to develop education and training.

For further information: www.crcl.fr



About the Cancéropôle Lyon Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes

The Cancéropôle Lyon Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes (CLARA) is an initiative supported and financed by public authorities (French NCI, local authorities and the European Fund for Regional Development). It is part of National Cancer Plans, and its objective is to develop research in oncology in Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes.

Since 2003, CLARA federates regional academic, clinic and industrial actors, as part of a regional, national and international anticancer strategy, which is based on two objectives: the rapid transfer of innovation from research to patients and the commercial applications of research.

CLARA also develops actions to generate interactions between oncology research and human and social sciences, but also with public health matters, in order to place patients at the heart of research.

Besides its commitment to decompartmentalize researchers and promote research collaborations, CLARA supports projects through structured services aligned with the needs of researchers.

For further information: www.canceropole-clara.com

About the « Proof of Concept CLARA » grant program

The "Proof of Concept CLARA" grant program offers personalized support and funding for R&D projects for the transfer of anticancer innovations made by Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes researchers to local companies.

Projects supported by this unique program in France aim to validate proofs of concept for tools, services or products at a preclinical or early-clinical stage. These projects are dedicated to diagnostic, therapy and prevention of cancer, or to the improvement of patients' quality of life.

It is funded by Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes Region, Puy-de-Dôme Département, Rhône Département, the European Union in Auvergne Initiative, Lyon Metropole, Grenoble-Alpes Metropole, Clermont-Ferrand Communauté and the city of Grenoble.

For further information: www.canceropole-clara.com/appels-a-projets/preuve-du-concept-clara

For further information, please contact:

Imaxio S.A.
Raphaël METROP
rmetrop@imaxio.com

1 – World Health Organization, Cancer, www.who.int/cancer/en

2 – Institut National du Cancer, Chiffres clés, www.e-cancer.fr/Comprendre-prevenir-depister/Qu-est-ce-qu-un-cancer/Chiffres-cles

3 – American Cancer Society, What is cancer immunotherapy?, www.cancer.org/treatment/treatmentsandsideeffects/treatmenttypes/immunotherapy/immunotherapy-what-is-immunotherapy