

PRESS RELEASE

PeptiMimesis, a breakthrough approach to the development of oncology therapies, from Conectus Alsace's maturation investments

Strasbourg, 30 November 2015 - Conectus Alsace announced today the creation of PeptiMimesis – a startup created from a project financed by its investment fund in 2013.

Breakthrough innovation from an Alsace public research laboratory

The use of targeted therapies designed to block specific mechanisms involved in cancer development has been found to be a particularly effective strategy in oncology. However, this approach is limited by the multiplicity of tumorigenic processes associated with any one type of cancer.

The MN3T Laboratory (The Microenvironmental Niche in Tumorigenesis and Targeted Therapy - Inserm) has discovered a **breakthrough innovation which has led to the development of a new class of therapeutic compounds completely novel in both their structure and their mode of action**. By targeting the transmembrane domain of therapeutic targets, the MN3T team discovered it was possible to inhibit several tumorigenic processes using a single compound. This is in contrast to most other targeted cancer therapies, which block a single pathway. These new transmembrane peptides impair the formation of receptor complexes and their subsequent signaling pathways implicated in tumor development.

The history of this innovation

In 2005, Dr. Dominique Bagnard of the MN3T laboratory started his research on the design and characterization of transmembrane peptides designed to inhibit multiple pathological processes induced by a primary therapeutic target.

In 2013, he turned to Conectus Alsace for financial support to establish a first proof of concept, by demonstrating the therapeutic potential of a first anti-tumor peptide having a triple inhibitory effect on the growth, progression and migration of tumor cells, and on tumor angiogenesis. The initial GMP compliant production process was also developed during this 18 months' project. The project benefitted from an investment of over 300,000€ from the Conectus fund, as well as from advice on intellectual property protection (the patent having been initially filed by Inserm Transfert) and on industrial prospection.

From technology to the creation of the startup, with the support of Domain Therapeutics, an Alsace Biotech company, also implanted in North America, which brings its expertise in the discovery and development of innovative medicines, its competence in project and company management and its international address book.

Following the initial investment by Conectus Alsace, MN3T validated the proof-of-concept and identified the first transmembrane peptide product from the platform. In order to continue the development of this first product and to design new "first-in-class" therapeutic peptides for novel indications, the MN3T team decided to create a startup to commercialize the technology.

Conectus Alsace introduced Dominique Bagnard to Domain Therapeutics a French biotech company from Alsace. Domain made available its 'platform to candidate' expertise and its industry knowledge, to help in the development of the new startup.

Domain Therapeutics has been thoroughly committed to the project and has taken charge of the creation of PeptiMimesis, appointing a senior level manager from one of its own team to initiate discussions with several investment funds, which are now well advanced. In October 2015, Domain Therapeutics became a co-founder of **PeptiMimesis**, together with three research scientists, Dominique Bagnard, Gerard Crémel and Pierre Hubert.

Verbatim

“The creation of the startup and the plan to market transmembrane peptides, which is the realization of an adventure lasting over 10 years for me, would not have been possible without the financial help and support of the Conectus Alsace team. The transfer today provides an exceptional view into the research of our laboratory”, explains Dominique Bagnard, Senior Lecturer at Strasbourg University, MN3T Laboratory.

“Thanks to Conectus Alsace and to the breakthrough innovation of MN3T laboratory, Domain Therapeutics was able to use its expertise to facilitate the creation and soon the financing of PeptiMimesis. PeptiMimesis will be a source of breakthrough developments in the field of oncology and immuno-oncology, two sectors of major interest to the pharmaceutical industry”, commented Pascal Neuville, Chief Executive Officer of Domain Therapeutics

“Through the creation of PeptiMimesis, Conectus Alsace again illustrates the excellent potential of public research in Alsace and the capacity of Conectus to bring together laboratories and companies. To provide startups with the possibility of reckoning on an existing biotech company reinforces their credibility and increases their chance of success. This success-story again shows how it is advantageous for industry to work with academic research to create economic wealth and to remain competitive”, says Nicolas Carboni, President of SATT Conectus Alsace.

About Conectus Alsace

Conectus Alsace was the first SATT (Technology Transfer Acceleration Company) to be set up in France in the context of the Call for Projects in the Investments in the Future Program. Totally financed by the State from the National Technology Transfer Fund operated by the National Research Agency, it is a private corporation, with the following shareholders : Strasbourg University, CNRS, Haute-Alsace University, Inserm, Strasbourg INSA, ENGEES and the “*Caisse des Dépôts et Consignations*” holder of the participation of the State. Its activities revolve around investment in intellectual property, Proof of Concept (POC) investment and licensing, as well as the provision of services in the field of partnerships and technology transfer.

About Domain Therapeutics

Domain Therapeutics is a biopharmaceutical company based in Strasbourg, France, and Montreal, Canada, specializing in the research and development of small molecules targeting the transmembrane receptors, including G-protein coupled receptors, one of the most important classes of therapeutic targets. Domain Therapeutics identifies and develops new drug candidates, allosteric modulators and biased ligands, through its innovative approach and its differentiated technologies. The company provides access to its technologies via research and collaboration agreements and develops its own pipeline of compounds for major indications in central nervous system diseases and oncology. Three molecules from Domain Therapeutics’ research will start clinical development in the next twelve months.

About PeptiMimesis

The mission of the startup PeptiMimesis, created in October 2015, is the conception, development and commercialization of a new therapeutic class (transmembrane peptides), *for use in the field of oncology and immuno-oncology.*

It is a spin-off from the MN3T team (The Microenvironmental Niche in Tumorigenesis and Targeted Therapy – Inserm/Unistra), piloted by Dr. Dominique BAGNARD.

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