



Institut national
de la santé et de la recherche médicale



PRESS RELEASE

TargEDys and Inserm Transfert on behalf of Rouen Normandy University and Rouen University Hospital (CHU) sign an exclusive international licensing agreement on a patent portfolio in microbiome-based research.

TargEDys acquires exclusive international rights of a four-patent portfolio, including one patent in co-ownership. These patents, together with its own patent, will allow the start-up to enhance research studies carried out by Inserm, Rouen Normandy University and Rouen University Hospital (CHU). These studies aim to develop new approaches of Nutrition and Therapeutics based on the microbiome.

Rouen, June 9, 2016: TargEDys, a biotech start-up which recently completed a €5.8M fundraising round, signs an exclusive international licensing agreement on a patent portfolio belonging to Inserm, Rouen Normandy University and Rouen University Hospital (CHU). These patents result from the research undertaken in the ADEN Laboratory (UMR 1073 - «Nutrition, inflammation and dysfunction of the gut-brain axis») by its two founders and scientists, Serguei Fetissof and Pierre Déchelotte, Head of the Nutrition Department at Rouen University Hospital (CHU). This technology transfer will allow TargEDys to develop innovative research approaches of Nutrition and Therapeutics in order to regulate appetite and thus maintain body weight. This agreement has been achieved thanks to the contribution of academic partners and Inserm Transfert.

Grégory Lambert, CEO of TargEDys, explains: *“Research conducted in Rouen provides a new vision on the mechanisms that lead to appetite regulation, and opens radically new products development paths. These patents are essential to the success of our project. Inserm Transfert facilitated the agreement among the parties in the best possible way.”*

“It is a real satisfaction for us, Inserm Transfert, to be involved and to succeed in such a significant technology transfer. The microbiome field is a biomedical research axis identified as strategic and promising by Inserm. This license agreement is a founding act for TargEDys’ research strategy and its future commercial development”, indicates Pascale Augé, Chairman of the Management Board of Inserm Transfert.

“For many years, Rouen University Hospital (CHU) has been involved in Nutrition care, research and innovation, relying on the resourcefulness team of Pr Déchelotte”, comments Isabelle Lesage, Chief Executive.

“We are delighted to collaborate with TargEDys toward new innovation steps in the field of eating behaviour and its dysfunctions leading to malnutrition and overweight. On a short term basis, this collaboration will allow us to boost the specific study of the patients included in the cohort with EDILS biobank (Eating Disorders Inventory and Longitudinal Survey), performed by the Nutrition Department

and the Clinical Investigation Centre CHU/Inserm 1404. After experimental work conducted by UMR 1073, we will launch, together with TargEDys, the first proof-of-concept clinical studies. Being at the cutting edge of innovation in this significant field of public health really holds exciting perspectives.”

Laurent Yon, Vice-president Research and Valorisation of Rouen Normandy University notes: *“this licence agreement between the supervisory bodies of the ADEN laboratory (University and Inserm-Inserm Transfert) and TargEDys is a new example of the valorisation potential of Rouen Normandy University research laboratories, particularly in the field of Health. It also reflects the University’s strong support for research projects, from fundamental aspects to applications. As done for other start-ups, the hosting of TargEDys within the University will allow the start-up to step up its research efforts in the field of eating behaviour dysfunctions.”*

Targedys’ approaches will allow to correct eating behaviour dysfunctions and limit their consequences. Benefits will be health improvement and a better quality of life for a growing number of elderly, cachexic and anorexic patients, as well as overweight people.

For the record:

In 2014, 1.4 billion people were suffering from overweight or obesity (OMS).

A contrario, malnutrition affects 4 to 10% of elderly people living at home and 30 to 70% of those who are hospitalized. Malnutrition, frequently coming from lack of appetite, has serious consequences: weakening of the immune system, loss of weight and an overall decline in general health that can lead to early death.

TargEDys

TargEDys is an innovative start-up whose activity is based on world-leading research from company founders Serguei Fetissov and Pierre Déchelotte (professors at Rouen Normandy University) who have identified and described the first molecular link of the gut-brain axis: proteins from gut bacteria were found to be mimetic of peptide hormones involved in the regulation of eating behaviour in the brain.

TargEDys is dedicated to the modulation of weight and develops functional food, medical food and pharmaceutical products to harness the microbiome’s ability to regulate appetite and thus maintain or restore metabolic health.

The company, which is registered in Rouen, France, started its operations in 2015, but was founded in 2011 by an international group of medical science professionals from France, USA, Sweden, Japan, Brazil and Germany.

Today, the operational team consists of a synergic team combining scientific, medical, pharmaceutical development and business expertise: Grégory Lambert (CEO), Serguei Fetissov (scientific referent) and Pierre Déchelotte (chairman of the Board and medical referent).

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Inserm & Inserm Transfert

Inserm Transfert SA, founded in 2000, is the private-law subsidiary of Inserm; this entity is in charge of Inserm’s valorisation mission. Inserm Transfert conducts all technology and knowledge transfers coming from Inserm research laboratories toward the health industry: from the declaration of intent, project maturation, to industrial partnership agreements.

Inserm, the National Institute of Health and Medical Research is, since 1964, the only French public organization entirely dedicated to biological, medical and public health research with nearly 15 000 researchers, engineers and technicians and some 300 research laboratories. The Institute addresses the full pathway from research laboratory to the patient’s bed and conducts a multi-thematic research on all diseases, from common to rare diseases. Inserm is a founding member of Aviesan*, National Alliance for life and health sciences, created in 2009.

* Other Aviesan founding members: CEA, CNRS, CHRU, CPU, INRA, INRIA, Inserm, Pasteur Institute, IRD

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Rouen University Hospital (CHU)

Rouen University Hospital (CHU), a major actor of the Normandy region, has three main missions as a public hospital service: care, education and research. In 2015, the management of the Research and Innovation Department of Rouen University Hospital (CHU) registered 193 new biomedical research studies. Rouen University Hospital (CHU) is the promoter of 107 upon 933 current studies. 13 other research projects are also managed by the DRCI as well as 2 FHU (Hospital and Academic Federation) and 1 European project.

Rouen Normandy University

Established in the heart of Normandy, with 7 different locations, Rouen Normandy University is a pluridisciplinary establishment. It welcomes 28 000 students (18 500 in Licence/IUT, 7 000 in Master, 2 500 in Doctorate) in its 12 instructional components. Its missions are targeted to Research and Innovation: around 1 000 researchers and teacher-researchers work in the 40 University's laboratories. Research activities, which are divided into five thematic units, contribute to boost the local economic activity, as well as international influence through many partnerships.