

## Pierre Fabre and Cordeliers Research Centre Enter into strategic partnership to identify new therapeutic targets in immuno-oncology

- ✓ ***Inserm's Cordeliers Research Centre is internationally recognized for its expertise in immuno-oncology. Pierre Fabre has extensive experience in oncology, priority for its pharmaceutical R&D.***
- ✓ ***Both partners will work closely together for the next 3 years to identify new biological targets and develop innovative therapies in immuno-oncology.***
- ✓ ***The partnership is facilitated by Inserm Transfert, Inserm's structure dedicated to knowledge transfer.***

**Castres, France, December 14, 2015** – Pierre Fabre Médicament (PFM) announces a strategic partnership with Inserm and its academic partners (Université Paris Descartes-Paris V, Université Pierre et Marie Curie-Paris VI and Université Paris Diderot-Paris VII) and Inserm Transfert to identify new therapeutic targets in immuno-oncology. Under the terms of this 3-year agreement, Cordeliers Research Center (CRC) and the Center of Immunology Pierre Fabre (CIPF) will work closely to develop tomorrow's oncological biotherapies. Through periodic collaborative workshops, the CRC teams of Pr. Wolf-Hervé Fridman and CIPF teams will discuss their research and share their expertise in immuno-oncology. This knowledge transfer will combine CRC's academic scientific excellence and Pierre Fabre's know-how in the development of biomolecules and in translational medicine, as a way to select patients who might benefit the most from these new targeted treatments.

At first, the CIPF scientists and CRC teams will validate the therapeutic value of the biological targets discovered by the academic researchers. Pierre Fabre teams will bring their expertise in the development of monoclonal antibodies corresponding to these targets. Meanwhile, both entities will work together to identify new therapeutic targets. Academic research will therefore immediately be translated into therapeutic advances adapted to the needs of patients. Meant to bridge the gap between academic and applied research, this partnership aims to provide patients with future immunotherapies against cancer.

Pierre Fabre has extensive experience in oncology and immunology. The CIPF, which focuses on the fight against cancer, specializes in researching targeted biotherapies. Located in Saint-Julien-en-Genevois, it aims at finding monoclonal antibodies used in oncology treatments and the production of biotechnological active substances. Since the creation in 2011 of its Antibodies Biotechnology Unit (ABU), the CIPF is the only French institution to combine applied research, developments and the production of clinical batches, all at the same site. With its translational medicine and clinical oncological expertise, Pierre Fabre is an ideal partner for the development of new therapies in immuno-oncology.

A pioneer of cancer immunology and immunotherapy, the CRC, currently headed by Pr. Pascal Ferré, is internationally recognized for its expertise in these fields. The Center was created in 2007 by Pr. Hervé Fridman, a specialist in clinical immunology, under the joint supervision of Inserm, Université Pierre et Marie Curie, Université Paris Descartes, and Université Paris Diderot-Paris. The research teams of the CRC Department "Cancer, Immunology and Immunopathology" focus on the study of the dialogue between the immune system and cancer, especially within the tumor microenvironment. They are looking into the stress signals induced by different treatments (chemotherapy, antibody therapies) and their impact on the anti-tumor response.

*"Most of my research has been dedicated to fighting cancer and discovering the best approach to win this fight. By combining our respective expertises, this partnership with Pierre Fabre offers us a unique opportunity to promote the development of our latest discoveries, so that they can become innovative anti-cancer immunotherapies,"* welcomed Dr. Wolf-Hervé Fridman.

*"We are delighted to have concluded this agreement which is key in its duration and ambition. This partnership, at the heart of Inserm's strategic priorities of innovation, has been signed with a French partner who repeatedly showed in the past its ability to work closely with academic research teams,"* said Pascale Augé, CEO, Inserm Transfert.

*"We are looking forward to implement this strategic partnership in immuno-oncology with such a renowned research center of Inserm. This collaboration will strengthen and increase our ability to develop new targeted biomolecules. This partnership is fully aligned with the Open Innovation strategy that Pierre Fabre Médicament wants to develop"* added Nathalie Corvaia, Managing Director of the CIPF.

*"Pierre Fabre Médicament is deeply committed to the development of new molecules and targeted therapies in oncology, a therapeutic priority for its R&D. This partnership with Inserm will strengthen our internal capabilities to meet not yet covered therapeutic needs in oncology,"* commented Dr. Laurent Audoly, Head of Research and Development at Pierre Fabre Médicament.

## About Pierre Fabre

Pierre Fabre is a French privately owned health and beauty care company created in 1961 by Mr. Pierre Fabre. In 2014, global sales reached €2.1 billion across 130 countries. The company is structured around two divisions: Pharmaceuticals (prescription drugs, consumer health care) and Dermo-cosmetics (including the European and Asian market-leader Eau Thermale Avène brand). Pierre Fabre employs 10,000 people worldwide and owns subsidiary in 43 countries. In 2014, the company allocated 17 percent of its pharmaceuticals sales to R&D with a focus on 4 therapeutic areas: oncology, dermatology, CNS and consumer health care.

Pierre Fabre's oncology know-how is based on 3 decades of experience in the discovery, development and global commercialization of innovative cancer drugs including monoclonal antibodies and natural cytotoxic agents. The company performs its oncology R&D in two major research centers: the Center of Immunology Pierre Fabre (CIPF) based in Saint-Julien-en-Genevois (France) and the Pierre Fabre Research Institute (IRPF) located on the Toulouse-Oncopole campus. The latter is officially recognized as a National Center of Excellence for Cancer Research.



For more information on Pierre Fabre, please go to [www.pierre-fabre.com](http://www.pierre-fabre.com)

## About the Center of Immunology Pierre Fabre (CIPF)

The CIPF is a center of excellence in the field of biotechnology and one of the rare sites in France to combine the research, development and production of biological entities. Thanks to its research activities, Pierre Fabre has become a leader in the identification and evaluation of biomolecules' therapeutic potential. Widely recognized for its work, the CIPF focuses on research in cancer immunotherapy, including the identification of monoclonal antibodies for therapeutic purposes. With over 20 years of experience, its Industrial Development teams are dedicated to designing biomolecule manufacturing processes. The Antibodies Biotechnology Unit (ABU), created in 2011, uses those designs to manage the production of biomolecules in situ. Always looking to improve and share its expertise, the CIPF has created many partnerships over the years with key players in the fields of research and biotechnology. For more information, please go to [www.cipf.com](http://www.cipf.com)

## About the Institut national de la santé et de la recherche médicale (Inserm)

Founded in 1964, the French National Institute of Health and Medical Research (Inserm) is a public science and technology institute, jointly supervised by the French ministry of education, higher Education and Research and the ministry of social affairs, health and women's rights. The mission of its scientists is to study all diseases, from the most common to the most rare, through their work in biological, medical and public health research. Inserm supports more than 300 laboratories across France. In total, the teams include nearly 15,000 researchers, engineers, technicians and administrative staff, etc. Inserm is a member of the National Alliance for Life and Health Sciences, founded in April 2009 with CNRS, Inserm, the CEA, INRA, INRIA, the IRD, the Pasteur Institute, the Conference of University Presidents (CPU) and the Conference of Chairmen of The Regional and University Hospital Centres. For more information, please go to [www.inserm.fr](http://www.inserm.fr)

## About Inserm Transfert

Founded in 2000, InsermTransfert SA is the private subsidiary of the French National Institute of the Health and Medical Research (Inserm), dedicated to technology transfer (from invention disclosure to industrial partnership). Inserm Transfert also manages European and International research projects, supports large scale projects in epidemiology and public health. Inserm Transfert runs a 2M€/year proof of concept fund. The company also supports entrepreneurs in the biotech sector, in partnership with Inserm Transfert Initiative, a €39.7m life sciences seed investment company. For more information, please go to: [www.inserm-transfert.fr](http://www.inserm-transfert.fr)

Sources: <http://www.crc.jussieu.fr>; <http://www.cipf.com>

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