Inserm Transfert and GSK sign a worldwide license agreement on novel immune checkpoint modulators for the treatment of cancer

December 11, 2013, Paris (France) – Inserm Transfert and GlaxoSmithKline (GSK) have signed an exclusive worldwide license agreement to develop therapeutic antibodies targeting an immune checkpoint molecule for the emerging area of immuno-oncology.

The deal is based upon Inserm research developed by Professor Daniel Olive and his team at CRCM-Institut Paoli-Calmettes (IPC) that aims to investigate the function of immune-checkpoint molecules such as ICOS (Inducible T-cell COSTimulator). This protein along with other co-stimulatory proteins plays an important role in immune responses and could be a potential major target for both cancer and other therapeutic strategies. It follows the recent trend in cancer research with significant clinical results in this field as highlighted at ASCO’13 such as antibodies against PD1/PDL1 and CTLA4.

Under the terms of the agreement, Inserm Transfert has granted GSK exclusive worldwide rights to develop and commercialise the monoclonal antibodies, which modulate ICOS on the surface of T cells and enhances anti-tumour immune responses. In addition to an undisclosed upfront fee, Inserm Transfert will receive milestones from GSK linked to the development of the product(s), as well as royalties on sales from any product that is successfully commercialised from the collaboration.

“We are very excited about this agreement with GSK: this is a real opportunity to bring potentially innovative products faster to the patient. This research outcome is resulting from close collaboration with several teams located in Léon Bérard Cancer Center (Lyon), in La Pitié-Salpêtrière Hospital (Paris) and in IPC (Marseille).” commented Professor Daniel Olive, Team Leader at CRCM (U1068 Inserm/Aix Marseille University /Institut Paoli-Calmettes).

It also shows the capability and the depth of Inserm research which remains anchored to the clinic and the discovery in biology creating true translational research.

“Our long-term strategic alliance with GSK is making progress and illustrates a shared vision by GSK and Inserm Transfert that successful development of new drugs requires pro-active action and alignment from both sides. This is even more important in early drug discovery in order to identify tomorrow’s successful products and one of the key success factors is the Alliance Management. “, said Augustin Godard, EVP, Head of Business Unit Open Innovation , Inserm Transfert.
About Inserm Transfert
Founded in 2000, Inserm Transfert 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 manages European and International research projects, supports large scale projects in epidemiology and public health. Since 2009, Inserm Transfert has run a proof of concept fund. The company is also committed to seed financing in the biotech sector, through its dedicated seed fund company Inserm Transfert Initiative.

www.inserm-transfert.fr

Press Contact
Inserm Transfert
Céline Cortot
+ 33 1 55 03 01 68
celine.cortot@inserm-transfert.fr