

## IPSOGEN Obtains Option to Acquire License on TET2 abnormalities to improve the Diagnosis of Blood-based Disorders

**Marseille, January 25<sup>th</sup> 2010** - IPSOGEN (Alternext - FR0010626028 - ALIPS), a cancer 'profiler' that develops, manufactures and markets molecular diagnostic tests for leukemia and breast cancer, today announces the signature of an option agreement for the worldwide and exclusive license on genomic abnormalities in the TET2 gene. The scientific corpus supporting these TET2 patent rights has been developed by a consortium of 7 public institutions<sup>1</sup> led by IGR&D, the technology transfer affiliate of Institut Gustave Roussy (IGR). The identification of genomic abnormalities in TET2, which serves as a tumor-suppressor gene, represents a breakthrough in the understanding of the origin of myeloid disorders. These abnormalities could potentially serve as a biomarker to provide clinically useful information regarding classification and prognosis of these disorders, and predisposition to develop leukemia. This pioneering work has been recently published in the *New England Journal of Medicine*<sup>2</sup> by INSERM teams U 210 (Dr. Olivier Bernard, Université René Descartes, Paris, Fr) and U790 (Pr. William Vainchenker, Institut Gustave Roussy, Villejuif, Fr).

Dr. Bernard and Prof Vainchenker have established that a substantial proportion of patients with myeloid disorders carry TET2 abnormalities. *"We have shown that TET2 mutations or deletions occur in about 15% of patients with various myeloid cancers. Detection of these abnormalities in blood cells could provide invaluable information to clinicians managing these patients"* stated Dr. Bernard.

Based on these findings, IPSOGEN aims at developing diagnostic tools that could be used by diagnostic laboratories around the world. IPSOGEN's CEO, Vincent Fert stated: *"TET2 abnormalities have the potential to become a breakthrough biomarker for the management of myeloid disorders because it provides essential and early information to physicians and patients about the nature of these diseases. This agreement, established with renowned institutions, all involved in world-class cancer research and care, exemplifies IPSOGEN strategy of building value on key biological science to improve cancer patients' management"*.

1 : Assistance Publique - Hopitaux de Paris, Centre de Lutte contre le Cancer Henri Becquerel, Institut Gustave Roussy, INSERM, Université Paris Descartes, Université Paris-Sud 11, Université Pierre et Marie Curie – UPMC.

2 : Delhommeau F et al « Mutation in TET2 in myeloid cancers" N Engl J Med. 2009, 360 (22):2289-301).

### About IPSOGEN

Ipsogen, Cancer Profiler, develops and markets molecular diagnostic tests designed to map diseases in order to guide patients and oncologists' decisions along their complex therapeutic path. With more than 70 references already used routinely worldwide for the diagnosis, prognosis and follow-up of thousands of patients with leukemia, Ipsogen is now also targeting breast cancer. As for leukemia, Ipsogen's goal is to provide diagnostic information that was not available until now. Ipsogen is also a partner of choice for pharmaceutical companies committed to the development of "companion diagnostic tests". Strengthened by its first-rate scientific, clinical and technological partnerships, in addition to its highly skilled multidisciplinary team in France and the USA, Ipsogen is striving to become the leader in molecular profiling of cancers. It continues its efforts to identify, develop and commercialize diagnostic tests that will become standard references and will have a significant impact on patients, medical professionals and society. Ipsogen employed 60 people as of June 30, 2009. Its headquarters are located in Marseille, France. The company also has a subsidiary, Ipsogen Inc., in New Haven, CT, USA.

#### **About Assistance Publique - Hôpitaux de Paris**

Paris Public Hospital Authority (AP-HP) is a public health federation for the Paris metropolitan area that gathers 38 hospitals and employs more than 90 000 persons. AP-HP holds a pipeline of almost 400 active patents (as full or co-owner with other private or public research institutes) in various fields: health care delivery, medical device, gene and cell therapies, drug discovery, genetics and diagnostics. Through its Office of Technology transfer and Industrial Partnerships (OTT&PI), AP-HP has successfully developed an active policy of technology transfer and valuation of the innovations stemming from its medical and research teams. For more information, visit <http://ottpi.aphp.fr/>

#### **About Centre Henri Becquerel**

The Centre Henri Becquerel is a regional comprehensive cancer center located in Rouen, Normandy. Member of the French federation of cancer centers and of the Rouen Institute for medical research ([www.ihunormandyrouen.fr](http://www.ihunormandyrouen.fr)) its research activities are focused on lymphoproliferative diseases, breast cancer and treatment targeting. [www.becquerel.fr](http://www.becquerel.fr)

#### **About INSERM (French National Institute for Health and Medical Research)**

Inserm is the only French public institution entirely devoted to biological, medical and public health research. Inserm conducts research relevant to many health issues since it is committed to studying all diseases, whether common or rare. Inserm positions itself on the path from bench to bedside. Since July 2009, Inserm coordinates the National Alliance for Life and Health Sciences (Alliance nationale pour les sciences de la vie et de la santé). [www.inserm.fr](http://www.inserm.fr)

#### **About Inserm Transfert**

Founded in 2001, 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 also manages European and International research projects, supports preclinical, clinical and post-marketing studies. Inserm Transfert is committed to seed financing in the biotech sector, through its dedicated fund Inserm Transfert Initiative. [www.inserm-transfert.fr](http://www.inserm-transfert.fr)

#### **About Institut Gustave Roussy**

The Institut Gustave Roussy (IGR, Villejuif, France), European leading Comprehensive Cancer Center, is a non profit academic entity belonging to the French public hospital service and that is authorized to receive donations and legacies. IGR is a center wholly patient-oriented with a global expertise and the mission to fight cancer. Located South of Paris on a single site, IGR employs 2,300 professionals working in care, research and teaching. Some IGR figures: 385 beds and places for day-cases, 207 certified physicians, 887 professional caregivers, 151,000 consultations and 43,000 patients cared per year, 14 basic research units, 300 research scientists, and 2800 students, researchers and physicians trained per year. [www.igr.fr](http://www.igr.fr)

#### **About IGR&D**

Institut Gustave Roussy (IGR) has set up an industrial development company, called IGR&D, a fully owned technology transfer subsidiary of Institut Gustave Roussy, who takes care of IGR Intellectual Property and its transfer to industrial partners, through licenses, research cooperation and start-up companies.

#### **About University Paris Descartes**

Paris Descartes University is a University of Human Sciences and Health in Paris. With 9 Units Training and Research (UFR) and IUT, University Paris Descartes covers all the knowledge in human sciences and health. Only university in Paris involving medicine, pharmacy and dentistry, its healthcare division is recognized in Europe and worldwide for the quality of its training and research excellence.

Paris Descartes is: 33 500 students, 1909 teachers, 1298 researchers, 1274 Personal BIATOS and 586 ITA 5 training areas (3 in master), 65 Masters and 36 professional masters, 210 - IUD, more than 11 000 certificates issued per year, over 200 theses per year (excluding thesis exercise medicine, pharmacy and dentistry), a hundred including 66 laboratories associated with large research institutions (CNRS and INSERM), 6 doctoral programs, 29 master's research a budget of 320 million euros in 2009 (includes payroll) and a property portfolio of 253 190 m2.

#### **About University of Paris-Sud 11**

The University of Paris-Sud 11 is the largest university campus in France and is composed of 5 faculties, 3 institutes of technology and 1 school of engineering. It is located in the south of Paris and spreads over 5 sites: Orsay, Cachan, Châtenay-Malabry, Kremlin-Bicêtre and Sceaux. The University of Paris-Sud 11 is a multidisciplinary university: it covers knowledge areas such as sciences, medicine, computing, physics, chemistry, biology, pharmacy, mathematics, laws and economy. University of Paris-Sud 11's key figures: 127 laboratories including laboratories in partnership with universities and/or research organizations such as CNRS, INSERM, INRA, INRIA and CEA, 3,100 teacher-researchers and 1,300 technicians and engineers, 30,000 students, 3,100 PhD students. <http://www.u-psud.fr/en/index.html>. The industrial and commercial activities service (SAIC) provides services in the area of partnership relations (industrial and academic) and research promotion. The SAIC manages the technology portfolio of the University of Paris-Sud 11 and its transfer to industrial partners through licenses, and supports development of innovative start-up companies. It also acts as an interface with national and local authorities and the technology transfer offices of other major research institutions.

#### About Pierre and Marie Curie University

Pierre and Marie Curie University (Université Pierre et Marie Curie or UPMC - Paris Universitas or Paris 6) is a French university, principal heir to the Faculty of Sciences of the University of Paris. UPMC is now the largest scientific and medical complex in France, active in all fields of research with scope and achievements at the highest level, as demonstrated by the many awards regularly won by UPMC researchers, and the many international partnerships it maintains across all five continents [1]. It has over 180 laboratories, most of them associated with the Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique. It is located on the Jussieu Campus in the Latin Quarter of the 5th arrondissement in Paris. Some of its most notable institutes and laboratories include the Institut Henri Poincaré, Institut d'Astrophysique de Paris, Laboratoire d'informatique de Paris 6, Institut de mathématiques de Jussieu/Chevaleret (shared with University Paris Diderot) and the Laboratoire Kastler-Brossel (shared with Ecole Normale Supérieure). The University's Faculty of Medicine includes the Pitié-Salpêtrière and Saint-Antoine hospitals. The University is ranked 39th in the World and 1st in France by the prestigious Academic Ranking of World Universities.<sup>[2]</sup> The UPMC is a member of Paris Universitas.

Some statistics about UPMC:

- 30,000 students (22,000 science students – 8000 medical students)
- 8000 post-graduate students
- 2200 post-graduate diplomas (DEA and DESS i.e. master's equivalent) and 150 engineering degrees (master's equivalent) awarded each year
- 4000 teaching academics/researchers
- 3000 engineers & technicians, administrative & logistic staff, 4 broad interdisciplinary sectors of research
- 180 research laboratories
- 300 doctorates in medicine
- 700 doctorates in science based upon thesis work
- 550 contractual cooperation agreements for research on innovative programs
- 330 partner institutes in science and medicine
- 100 contractual agreements under the terms of research projects subsidized by the European Commission
- 6 *Centers of Excellence* selected by the European Commission to host doctoral students who are granted Marie Curie scholarships
- 4250 students of 121 different nationalities

### **Forward-looking statements**

This press release contains “forward-looking statements” as defined in the US Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995. No forward-looking statement can be guaranteed, and actual results may differ materially from those projected. IPSOGEN SAS does not undertake any obligation to publicly update any forward-looking statement, whether as a result of new information, future events, or otherwise. Forward-looking statements in this document should be evaluated together with the many uncertainties that affect the business of IPSOGEN SAS, among others, the extent to which IPSOGEN’s technology platform can be used in biomarker analysis, uncertainty of market acceptance of IPSOGEN’s technologies or ability to compete against existing technologies.

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