



Press Release

PEP-Therapy raises €1.3 million in seed capital

The company is undertaking development of its first drug candidate and its companion diagnostic in oncology

Paris, April 27, 2015 – PEP-Therapy, a biotechnology company developing targeted therapies for cancer treatments, has raised €1.3 million in initial funding. This sum, invested by the Quadrivium 1 seed fund and a business angel, Dr Bernard Majoie, will enable PEP-Therapy to undertake regulatory development of its first therapeutic product, associated with a predictive biomarker for foreseeing the effectiveness of the treatment. The product relies on the innovative technology of bi-functional peptides, which penetrate cells and then specifically block pathological mechanisms, without affecting normal physiological mechanisms.

These funds were provided by the Quadrivium 1 seed fund, managed by Seventure Partners, for €1 million, supplemented by a personal investment of €300,000 from Dr Bernard Majoie, former Chairman and CEO of Laboratoires Fournier and Founding Chairman of Fondation Fournier-Majoie pour l'Innovation (FFMI).

Antoine Prestat, CEO of PEP-Therapy, welcomed this important new phase in the company's development. *"Our first targeted therapy has convincing proofs of concept in pre-clinical models that are highly representative of the tumours seen in humans. The targeted cancers have significant clinical needs. This funding will allow us to carry out regulatory toxicity studies, the final phase before clinical trials."*

"PEP-Therapy's product has an additional competitive advantage: it is combined with predictive biomarkers which will help identify patients likely to respond to treatment. This fits well with the experience in companion diagnostics gained by FFMI, and meets a currently increasing demand for personalised medicine", added Dr Bernard Majoie.

Philippe Tramoy, Investment Director at the Quadrivium 1 seed fund at Seventure Partners, said: *"Trials of the first product associated with its biomarkers, developed by PEP-Therapy and its leading research and clinical partners*, will rapidly enable the company to demonstrate the clinical effectiveness of this new bi-functional peptide approach, in indications where the clinical need is substantial."*

PEP-Therapy has a portfolio of targeted therapies based on the same innovative approach. *"It is a cell-penetrating and interfering peptide (CP&IP) technology developed at Université Pierre et Marie Curie, Inserm and Institut Curie, Paris. With this financial support, PEP-Therapy is taking a new step forward, giving itself the resources required to scale up the promising development of its targeted treatments,"* welcomed Antoine Prestat.

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- Didier Decaudin, MD, PhD, Institut Curie, Department of Medical Oncology; Head of the Laboratory of Preclinical Investigation, Translational Research Department
- Fariba Némati, PhD, Institut Curie, Laboratory of Preclinical Investigation
- Angelita Rebollo, PhD, CIMI-Paris, Université Pierre et Marie Curie, CHU Pitié Salpêtrière



About PEP-Therapy

PEP-Therapy is a medical biotechnology company, which develops targeted therapies for severe diseases, with an initial focus on cancers having high levels of clinical need.

PEP-Therapy operates a Cell Penetrating & Interfering Peptides (CP&IP) technological platform for the development of its therapeutics products. These innovative molecules penetrate cells and block relevant protein-protein interactions, thus inhibiting key pathological mechanisms.

Founded in January 2014, PEP-Therapy is building on research results from Inserm, Université Pierre et Marie Curie (UPMC) and Institut Curie. The company is a member of the Genopole biocluster.

www.pep-therapy.com

About Seventure Partners

An active partner for innovative companies with strong growth potential, since 1997 Seventure Partners has invested in two main areas: the digital economy in France and Germany and life sciences across Europe. With more than €500 million worth of funds under management on 31 December 2014, Seventure Partners has established itself as a leader in the European venture capital market. Seventure Partners supports the development of companies from the initial funding or seed capital stage through to technological development capital rounds, with tickets of €500,000 to €10 million per funding round, up to a total of €20 million per company. Seventure Partners is a subsidiary of Natixis Global Asset Management. Natixis is the international corporate, investment management and financial services arm of the Groupe BPCE.

About Quadrivium 1 Seed Fund

Quadrivium 1 Seed Fund is one of the venture capital funds managed by Seventure Partners. This fund provides seed capital to French companies (FNA – Programme d'Investissement d'Avenir) in the fields of life science and digital technologies, generated by or with links to an academic grouping built around UPMC, Université Paris II, Université Paris IV, Museum National d'Histoire Naturelle, Université Technologique de Compiègne, CNRS, Institut Curie, Fondation Pierre Gilles de Gennes, Fondation Voir et Entendre and Paris Sciences et Lettres (PSL).

About Bernard Majoie

Dr Bernard Majoie had an illustrious career in the pharmaceutical industry, notably as Scientific Director and then Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Laboratoires Fournier. He now invests in high-potential projects led by committed researcher-entrepreneurs. PEP-Therapy is the second company in which Dr Majoie has invested which builds on research from Institut Curie and Inserm.

Dr Majoie is also Founding Chairman of la Fondation Fournier-Majoie pour l'Innovation (FFMI), which actively supports the development of new biomarkers in oncology.

Press Contacts:

NewCapMedia

Annie-Florence Loyer – afloyer@newcap.fr – +33(0)1 44 71 00 12 / 06 88 20 35 59

Nadège Le Lezec – nlelezec@newcap.fr – +33(0)1 44 71 94 93

Contact:

PEP-Therapy: Antoine Prestat, CEO – contact@pep-therapy.com – +33(0)1 44 27 81 90

Legal counsel:

Maître Nicolas Valluet, Maître Thierry Fortesa – Valluet Achache