

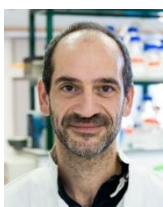
Institut Curie announces creation of Honing Biosciences

Paris, September 17th 2018 - Institut Curie, a key player in the fight against cancer, announces the launch of the biotechnology company Honing Biosciences. The company owns an exclusive technology platform to develop solutions to optimize the efficacy and safety of cell therapy in cancer and chronic diseases. Initially, Honing Biosciences will focus on the strategic area of cancer immunotherapy, particularly CAR-T cells (Chimeric Antigen Receptor). By entering the capital of the start-up, Institut Curie marks its confidence in the development of Honing Biosciences and materializes its novel technology transfer policy implemented in 2017.

Inventing the next generation of cell therapies

Cell-based therapy modify and use the cells in order to restore the function of a tissue or an organ or to cure a disease. The goal is to permanently treat a patient through a single injection of "cell-medicaments". A condition for the success of these therapies is to obtain an optimal level of efficiency while limiting their toxicity.

Honing Biosciences relies on **proprietary technologies** that allow precise control of cellular functions, providing a unique answer to current limitations



"CellTune™ molecular technology allows the development of a new class of cell therapies by controlling the dynamic distribution of proteins in "cell-medicaments". We can regulate the expression of proteins on the cell surface or the secretion of enzymes, cytokines and antibodies, to adapt the delivery of therapeutic proteins to patient clinical evolutions " says **Franck Perez, co-founder of Honing Biosciences and CNRS Research Director at Institut Curie.**

At first, Honing will focus on CAR-T cells. This cellular immunotherapy consists in using the immune cells of the patient, which have been previously genetically programmed, to recognize cancer cells and destroy them.

"CAR-T cells show therapeutic efficacy in blood cancers, but can also be toxic. In solid tumors, there is still no conclusive result. Honing Biosciences' technology allows considering the development of effective approaches, safe and affordable" says **Sebastian Amigorena, scientific advisor of Honing Biosciences and Director of the Cancer Immunotherapy Center of Institut Curie.**

A new entrepreneurial story starting at Institut Curie

Honing Biosciences is the first company in which Institut Curie invests since the launch of its new technology transfer policy in 2017 and the creation of a dedicated division to accelerate the identification and support to start-ups' creation. "The investment of Institut Curie in the capital of the company testifies the trust we have in its management team and in the potential of the technology" comments **Laure Vidalain, Head of the Start-up division.**

Honing Biosciences will exploit patents registered by Institut Curie in joint ownership with CNRS, INSERM and Sorbonne University and set-up a R&D collaboration program with the Institut Curie.

"Promoted by two iconic researchers from Institut Curie, Honing Biosciences is the second spin-off of Institut Curie - after Stimunity created in 2016 - offering innovative solutions for immuno-oncology. Its proprietary protein transport control technology shall attract partners in the cell therapy sector, a highly dynamic market that has been growing continuously for several years. This is an emblematic example of fundamental research that will ultimately benefit to patients treated at the Institute through the development of a start-up and reveals the institute entrepreneurial dynamics" says **Amaury Martin, head of the Institut Curie Technology Transfer and Industrial Partnerships Department and Director of the Carnot Institute Curie Cancer.**

"Cell therapy is one of the major advances of recent years in research and especially in the fight against cancer. This is a rapidly changing market and we are seeing great interest in our proprietary technology from industry and investors. We will quickly identify the future partners of Honing Biosciences" concludes **Abdelkader Bousabaa, co-founder and CEO of Honing Biosciences.**

Press contact

Hélène Bléher | +331 41 34 18 65 | hbleher@hopscotch.fr

About Institut Curie & Carnot Curie Cancer

Institut Curie, a leading player in the fight against cancer, combines a leading French research center in oncology and a state-of-the-art hospital group that treat all types of cancer, including the rarest. Founded in 1909 by Marie Curie, the Institut Curie brings together more than 3,300 researchers, physicians and healthcare professionals around its three missions: care, research and teaching. As a private foundation recognized for public utility, Institut Curie is authorized to receive donations and bequests and can, thanks to the support of its donors, accelerate discoveries and thus improve the treatment and the quality of life of the patients

For more information: www.institut-curie.org

Since 2011, Institut Curie is certified "Institut Carnot Curie Cancer". The Carnot label is a label of excellence granted to academic research structures with proven high quality and involvement in partnership research. Curie Cancer offers industrial partners the opportunity to set up research collaborations, benefiting from the expertise of the Institut Curie teams, for the development of innovative therapeutic solutions against cancers from the therapeutic target to clinical validation.

For more information: www.instituts-carnot.eu/en

About Honing Biosciences : inventing the next generation cellular therapies

Honing Biosciences is a bio-therapeutics company that develops and improves cell-based therapies in particular of cancer and other chronic diseases. Honing Biosciences leverages technologies that allow precise control of cell functions after delivery to patients, increasing the efficacy and limiting the harmful drawbacks of previous generations of treatments. Our molecular CellTune™ technology allows to develop new classes of tunable cell therapeutics to control the dynamic delivery of proteins in patients. We can regulate protein expression at the cell surface or secretion of enzymes, cytokines, antibodies, adapting the delivery of therapeutic proteins to patient clinical evolutions. Honing Biosciences proprietary technological platform has breakthrough applications in all types of cell-based therapy, including immunotherapy and reconstituting cell therapies for autoimmunity and chronic diseases.

For more information : www.honing-biosciences.com