Profile of Dr. Céline Vallot, expert in Single-cell technology

One Biosciences was born from a good idea and a meeting. Dr. Céline Vallot’s good idea was to leverage her expertise in single-cell technology to try to treat complex diseases. The meeting took place with the start-up’s future CEO, Magali Richard. “We had been talking for a long time and I was finally convinced. Then we went to discuss it with the Start-up team in the TTO, and they were very receptive and were able to include it in my professional plan”, she smiles.

One Biosciences was created with Institut Curie providing personalized support. The choice of by-laws, the protection and management of the transfer, and the drafting of collaboration agreements... These are some thorny issues that are resolved through permanent monitoring.

“Institut Curie was able to answer all my questions and complete this enormous task of facilitation. If there is a problem I know that they are there to help”, confides Dr. Céline Vallot.

Created in collaboration with the French venture builder Home Biosciences, the start-up received a first funding package in the amount of 7 million euros, including 2 from BPI France, when it was launched in July 2020.

“This funding has been extremely positive for us. Since our technology is very applied, it enabled us to forge collaboration projects which would otherwise not have been created. A solid protocol in the long term is very powerful and it saves time”, she explains.

This is crucial support for overcoming the main obstacle to this ambitious project, namely the workload. “We don’t realize this but it can be very tricky to make sure that nothing is forgotten and that everything goes smoothly. “We don’t have the same availability for everyone as we did before, but we are making do with it.” As in a laboratory, we have to be able to distinguish an idea that works from an idea that doesn’t work. “But in the laboratory, incubation time is longer. In a company, we know that we have to make the right decisions straight away.”

Now that the first phase in the life of the start-up is over, the company will expand and continue to raise money. In this project Dr. Céline Vallot plans to stabilize her investment as a scientific adviser. She is also continuing, four times a year, to discuss by-laws and progress with the other members of the Start-up Club, a space for exchange between entrepreneurs set up by Institut Curie.
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Since 2011, Institut Curie has been certified “Carnot Curie Cancer”. The Carnot certification is a recognition of excellence awarded to academic research organizations whose quality and involvement in partnership-based research have been demonstrated. Curie Cancer offers industrial partners the opportunity to implement research collaborations utilizing the expertise of Institut Curie’s research teams to develop innovative therapeutic solutions for cancer, from therapeutic target to clinical approval. Curie Cancer is a member of the Carnot FINDMED network, a group of thirteen Carnot institutes, to facilitate access to their technological platforms and to their innovations for very small and medium-sized companies in the pharmaceutical industry. Find out more: http://www.instituts-carnot.eu/fr/institut-carnot/curie-cancer - https://findmed.fr