

OCR and Ecrins Therapeutics initiate €1.9m “Dog to Man” pioneering translational research programme to advance human and vet oncology treatment

Lille, 2nd April 2015 – OCR has announced its key involvement in a French government funded (FUI*) research programme in collaboration with renowned partners Ecrins Therapeutics, a pioneering French biotech (Grenoble), Professor Jean-Yves Blay from the Léon Bérard Centre (Lyon) and Dr. Catherine André from the Institute of Genetics and Development (Rennes). The ambitious multi-million, three-year translational project has the double objective of using data collected from canine pre-clinical studies to accelerate and optimise their human equivalents and of developing a veterinary product for the treatment of sarcomas in dogs.

The cross-cooperation research will combine complimentary veterinary, biology, genetic and pharmacology expertise in order to advance the parallel development of ET-D5 for the treatment of human and canine sarcomas. ET-D5, Ecrins Therapeutics’ lead candidate, is a first-in-class small molecule drug candidate that is currently being developed for several oncology indications. It has already been proven to present outstanding anti-vascular and cytostatic properties, as well as interesting pharmacological properties and a good toxicology profile.

The parallel co-development project will initially concentrate on creating a biobank of canine sarcoma tissue samples for molecular, genetic and histopathological analysis and characterization. After pre-clinical studies in the areas of toxicology, efficacy and dosage, the researchers hope to benefit from the resulting pre-clinical data to initiate enhanced human and canine clinical studies at the beginning of 2017. This project excels not only in the area of scientific interest but also demonstrates the concrete benefits of comparative research.

Mr. Andrei Popov, President and CEO of Ecrins Therapeutics, commented, “We approached OCR because of their experience in comparative oncology research. Both companies are convinced of the remarkable similarities between the emergence, development, treatment options and more importantly, responses to therapies for tumours that occur in humans and pets. There is significant

scientific and commercial potential in parallel research in order to fast-track innovative canine and human treatments.”

Dr. Dominique Tierny, CEO of OCR, is committed to promoting the duality of human and ethical pet oncology research, “OCR is proud to increase its research capability and play a leading role in this parallel research endeavour which brings together some of the key influencers in oncology research. We continue to be at the forefront of human and veterinary interdisciplinary cooperation in our battle against cancer and hope that this project will further highlight the unimagined benefits of combining the two.”

This project will reinforce OCR’s research capability in the area of comparative medicine and also expand the company’s existing canine and feline biobank, widening its “in vitro” offering for future anti-cancer initiatives.

Moreover, positive results from this project will allow OCR and Ecrins Therapeutics to initiate the development of a much needed oncology therapeutic candidate to treat sarcomas in dogs for the veterinary medicine market.

***FUI - “Fonds Unique Interministériel”** – This is a French government research fund dedicated to innovative, collaborative research programmes which have been approved by national competitiveness clusters. In this case, the project was supported by the Nutrition, Health and Longevity Cluster in Lille and Lyon Biopole.

About OCR:

Founded in 2011 by Dr. Dominique Tierny, OCR is a CRO based in Eurasanté, Lille, France and employs 15 people. Unique in Europe, OCR aims to accelerate the development of new human and pet treatments for serious chronic diseases by addressing the unmet need of providing access to highly predictive models via their ethical clinical studies in pets. OCR works with pharmaceutical partners for the cost-effective design and management of in vitro, pre-clinical and clinical trials in dogs and cats. This innovative approach helps to advance the R&D process for new drug candidates and medical devices for humans in a variety of therapeutic areas including oncology, cardiology, neurology and inflammation. OCR has already signed partnerships with leading players in the veterinary and pharmaceutical sectors such as Pierre Fabre, Transgene, Beta Innov, Ecrins Therapeutics and Merial.

To learn more about OCR: www.oncovet-clinical-research.com

To learn more about Ecrins Therapeutics: www.ecrins-therapeutics.com

To learn more about the Léon Bérard Centre: www.centreleonberard.fr

To learn more about the IGDR:

www.igdr.univ-rennes1.fr

To learn more about the FUJ:

www.competitivite.gouv.fr

Media:

Matthieu Dubruque – COO

mdubruque@oncovet-clinical-research.com

+33 (0) 663 513 971