



Le Consortium pour l'Accélération de l'Innovation  
et de son Transfert dans le Domaine du Lymphome



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PRESS RELEASE

Marseille, 30 sept.2020

## LAUNCH OF ATLAS : AN AMBITIOUS COLLABORATIVE PUBLIC/PRIVATE RESEARCH PROGRAMME TO BETTER UNDERSTAND AND TREAT LYMPHOMA

With 86 000 new cases per year in the USA and 18 000 in France, with mortality rates which remain high, lymphoma remains a public health problem, with a major issue at the interface of basic and translational research.

Initiated by a Canceropôle Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur innovation scheme, 4 major players have joined forces to launch this partnership :

Bristol Myers Squibb and the French National Institute Of Health And Medical Research (Inserm) through the Centre d'Immunologie de Marseille-Luminy, the Institut Carnot CALYM.

### After a successful test phase, full-scale launch of ATLAS

The ambition of this joint research program is to provide a first high-resolution dynamic analysis of follicular and diffuse large B-cell lymphomas in their immune microenvironment. The challenge is to use cutting-edge cell characterization techniques to decipher the bases of the physiopathology of these cancers. The research teams will thus build an "Atlas", which will make it possible to identify the key biological parameters associated with transformation, tumor growth, relapse and resistance to treatment. After a first phase that allowed to demonstrate the feasibility of innovative technological approaches developed in academic research laboratories, ATLAS is getting to the heart of the matter by implementing/applying them on a large number of biological samples representative of these two types of lymphoma, among the most frequent types of B lymphoma. .

### A long-term partnership

To meet this challenge, Bristol Myers Squibb, Inserm Transfert, for Inserm/ the CIML, including two scientific teams from the CIML (B. Nadel/ S. Roulland and P. Milpied), and the Institut Carnot CALYM, have signed a 4-year partnership.



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«Thanks to the mobilization of all the partners involved in ATLAS, scientists and funders, in an “open innovation” collaborative mode, new avenues of research should open up to enable patients to be directed towards more appropriate and better-targeted treatments, from the initial diagnosis of their B lymphoma. », states Bertrand Nadel, Head of the research team « Genomic Instability and human hemopathies» at the Centre d'Immunologie de Marseille-Luminy (CIML, Inserm/AMU/CNRS) and Director of the Institut Carnot CALYM.

This project benefits from the financial support of the Canceropôle Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur: “The Canceropôle is proud to support the ATLAS project through our EmA program. This innovative project is a great example of how public and private research can join forces at the international level with the purpose of identifying new biomarkers and therapeutic approaches for the benefit of lymphoma patients” underlines Clara Ducord, Director of Canceropôle Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur.

“We are very proud to have contributed to this strategic and ambitious research program aiming at understanding and treat lymphoma. This major partnership has been created thanks to a structured technology transfer ecosystem and networks allowing national ambitions and territorial anchoring of the French research. This is in line with our willingness to support teams of excellence and strong connections with private partners,” adds Pascale Augé, Chairman of the executive management board of Inserm Transfert.

ATLAS will benefit from biological samples from the CeVi collection of live lymphoma cells set up by CALYM. This unique collection, which includes more than 2000 clinically annotated patient samples, allows the fine functional characterization of tumors within their microenvironment.

Clinical expertise will also be brought to the project through the involvement of expert clinicians who are members of the LYSA. (Pr. G. Salles, MSKCC, Dr. G. Brisou, HCL Lyon ; Pr. C. Haioun CHU H. Mondor, Paris ; Pr. F. Jardin, Centre H. Becquerel, Rouen).

« The collaboration set up within CALYM between LYSA clinicians and research biologists is a fantastic opportunity for this work to have a real reality and a diagnostic and even theranostic medical impact for the benefit of the patient. With on the one hand the precious biological samples provided by the CeVi collection, and on the other hand the strong involvement of our partners, our project is taking on an unprecedented scale» states Bertrand Nadel.

### **About the Institut Carnot CALYM**

The CALYM Carnot Institute brings together teams of academic, translational and clinical research able to conduct the full development of medical therapies or diagnostic tools for lymphoma, currently the 1<sup>st</sup> blood cancer and 6<sup>th</sup> global most common cancer worldwide. In front of this major public health problem, the 20 CALYM entities, including the cooperative group, LYSA (Lymphoma Study Association), its clinical research operation structure, LYSARC (Lymphoma Academic Research Organisation) and 18 public research laboratories, offer a unique R&D approach, from basic research to the evolution of standards of care. CALYM is ISO



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9001:2015 certified for the management and monitoring of its partnership research activities and for the coordination of the activities related to its CeVi lymphoma viable cell collection. [www.calym.org](http://www.calym.org)

CALYM is a member of the FINDMED "Health-medicines" Carnot sector. [lymphoma-research-experts.org/calym](http://lymphoma-research-experts.org/calym)

### **About Bristol Myers Squibb**

Bristol Myers Squibb is a global biopharmaceutical company whose mission is to discover, develop and deliver innovative medicines that help patients prevail over serious diseases. For more information about Bristol Myers Squibb, visit us at [BMS.com](http://BMS.com) or follow us on LinkedIn, Twitter, YouTube, Facebook and Instagram.

Celgene and Juno Therapeutics are wholly owned subsidiaries of Bristol-Myers Squibb Company. In certain countries outside the U.S., due to local laws, Celgene and Juno Therapeutics are referred to as, Celgene, a Bristol Myers Squibb company and Juno Therapeutics, a Bristol Myers Squibb company.

### **About Canceropôle Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur**

The Canceropôle is a public interest group supported by the National Cancer Institute and the Region Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur that brings together the major academic players within the South region of France including two universities (AMU, UCA), two university hospitals (AP-HM, CHU of Nice), two cancer centers (Institut Paoli-Calmettes and Center Antoine Lacassagne), and two public research organizations (CNRS, Inserm). The Canceropôle's mission is to fund and accelerate anticancer research and innovations, from fundamental discoveries to therapeutic applications for the benefit of cancer patients. To find out more: <https://canceropole-paca.com/>

### **About Inserm and Inserm Transfert**

Founded in 1964, the French National Institute of Health and Medical Research (Inserm) is a public science and technology institute, jointly supervised by the French Ministry of National Education, Higher Education and Research and the Ministry of Social Affairs, Health and Women's Rights. Inserm is the only French public research institute to focus entirely on human health and positions itself on the pathway from bench to bedside. The mission of its scientists is to study all diseases, from the most common to the rarest.

[www.inserm.fr](http://www.inserm.fr)

Inserm Transfert, the private subsidiary of the French National Institute of the Health and Medical Research (Inserm), is responsible for value creation of Inserm innovations in human health and promotes long-term technology transfers in line with international best practices. Inserm Transfert SA was founded in 2000, and manages, under a Public Service Management Contract (Délégation de Service Public), the entire promotion and transfer of knowledge emerging from the Inserm research laboratories to the industrial world, from invention disclosure to industrial partnerships and startups incorporation. Inserm Transfert also offers services relating to setting up and managing national, European and international projects, as well as supporting the technology transfer of clinical research and health data/databases. In 2009, Inserm Transfert and Inserm



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established an investment fund to finance proofs of concept. In 2005, Inserm Transfert Initiative, a dedicated seed money fund for life sciences, was created. [www.inserm-transfert.com](http://www.inserm-transfert.com)

### **About CIML**

Founded in 1976, the Centre d'Immunologie de Marseille-Luminy is a research institute internationally renowned in its discipline which has developed an organization and practices designed to foster the creativity and risk-taking of its researchers.

All models, all scales, all fields of contemporary immunology - From worm to man, from molecules to the whole organism, from physiology to pathology the CIML addresses all areas of contemporary immunology, on many models and at various scales. These include the genesis of numerous cell populations, their modes of differentiation and activation, their implication in cancers, infectious and inflammatory diseases, and the mechanisms of cell death.

Based in Marseille, the CIML is a Joint Research Unit of the CNRS, Inserm and the University of Aix-Marseille with a staff of 190 people, including 160 scientists, students and post-docs.

More information on <http://www.ciml.univ-mrs.fr>

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