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IntegraGen, Inserm and Inserm Transfert announce the signature of an agreement on biomarkers for a severe form of liver cancer

IntegraGen, Inserm (the French National Institute for Health and Medical Research) and Inserm Transfert (the Inserm's technology transfer subsidiary) today announced that the Evry-based biotech company is to acquire an option to an exclusive, worldwide license covering a patented portfolio of genetic biomarkers for hepatocellular carcinoma.

This agreement will enable IntegraGen to develop genetic diagnostic tools for improving the treatment of patients suffering from this severe form of liver cancer (which affects over 6,000 patients a year in France and 70,000 each year in Europe and in the United States).

"Thanks to this agreement, IntegraGen will have the best genetic analysis tool in the field of the hepatocellular carcinoma. We plan to fully validate the tool under clinical conditions within the next 2 years", commented IntegraGen CEO Bernard Courtieu. "The deployment of tools for improving patient care by adapting the treatment to the tumor's genetic profile is now one of the cornerstones of personalized medicine", he added.

Professor Jessica Zucman-Rossi MD (clinical researcher at the Descartes University of Paris/Georges Pompidou European Hospital and Director of the Inserm U674 research unit) discovered and developed the portfolio of markers genetic. She commented, *"I am delighted with this collaboration, which will favor the development of one of the first tools for truly personalized medicine in the treatment of hepatocellular carcinoma. Genetic characterization should significantly improve patient care and leverage more effective, better tolerated treatments".*

"This agreement emphasizes the quality of the work being done by Inserm's research units and its maturity for clinical applications in the field of personalized medicine. The methods developed by Professor Zucman-Rossi and her group will enable patient stratification - the first step towards better treatment", added Fabien Calvo MD, Director of the Inserm's ITMO cancer institute.

"Biomarkers is one of our strategic areas in the transfer to industry of the Inserm's research results and we are delighted to be collaborating alongside with IntegraGen in this field", commented Cécile Tharaud, CEO, Inserm Transfert.

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About IntegraGen

IntegraGen (based in Evry, France) is a biotechnology company dedicated to gene discovery with the goal of developing molecular diagnostic products and services that provide clinicians with new tools to personalize diagnosis, treatment, and therapy. IntegraGen and its wholly owned U.S. subsidiary IntegraGen, Inc., are focused on the prevention and proactive management of complex debilitating diseases and dedicated to addressing the needs of patients, clinicians and advocacy groups. IntegraGen's Genetic Services business division also provides state-of-the-art Genotyping Services to the research community. With discovery and intellectual property focused on Autism, Oncology, IntegraGen's Core Strategy is to deliver a portfolio of high-value molecular diagnostic products and services that drive personalized healthcare solutions for complex diseases. For more information, visit www.integragen.com.

About the INSERM

The INSERM is France's only public-sector organization entirely dedicated to biological & medical research and public health. Its researchers study all types of disease, from the most common to the very rarest conditions. The INSERM coordinates this research nationally via 10 thematic institutes: cancer; circulation, metabolism and nutrition; genetics, genomics and bioinformatics; the molecular and structural basis of life; cell biology, development and evolution; immunology, hematology, pneumology; infectious diseases. The INSERM is a member of the AVIESAN National Alliance for Life Science and Healthcare, founded in April 2009 with the CNRS, CEA, INRA, INRIA, IRD, the Pasteur Institute, the Council of University Presidents and the Council of University Medical Center Chief Executives. This alliance forms part of the French government's reform of the research system and seeks to better coordinate the various stakeholder and reinforce France's research in this sector through concerted planning. For more information, visit www.inserm.fr and www.aviesan.fr.

About INSERM Transfert

Founded in 2000, Inserm Transfert SA is the private subsidiary of the French National Institute of the Health and Medical Research (Inserm), dedicated to technology transfer (from invention disclosure to industrial partnership). Inserm Transfert manages European and International research projects, supports preclinical, clinical and post-marketing studies. Since 2009, Inserm Transfert has run a proof of concept fund. The company is also committed to seed financing in the biotech sector, through its dedicated fund Inserm Transfert Initiative. For more information, visit: www.inserm-transfert.fr