

MATWIN highlights many innovative projects to tackle cancer

Bordeaux, France, May 17, 2022 – Following the 7th edition of [MEET2WIN](#), European Partnering Convention dedicated to the fight against cancer that took place on May 12 & 13 in Bordeaux France, [MATWIN](#) (Unicancer subsidiary) announces the various laureates of its pitches sessions that were showcased during the event.

The 3 first laureates were selected by the [MATWIN International Board](#). This committee, unique of its kind in Europe, brings together around 20 key decision-makers in global oncology R&D from the MATWIN partner laboratories*, as well as experts and academic opinion leaders from the biggest cancer research centers in Europe. Among the eleven preselected projects, three were singled out for special awards by the MATWIN board, based on their relevance from a medical perspective and their future development potential.

- 'Best therapeutic innovation'- [Smart Immune](#) : The French Biotech develops the first cell therapy based on a thymus education which enables T cell reconstitution in a safe, rapid, effective, and durable manner. These cells, so called ProTcell™, can be genetically modified and armed to specifically target tumor cells after the step of maturation in the thymus.
- 'Best technological innovation' - [MPC Therapeutics](#) : the company has been founded on the belief that mitochondria, small organelles at the core of the cell's metabolism, represent untapped therapeutic targets. Headquartered in Switzerland, the startup is focused on cellular rejuvenation reprogramming to improve the performance of T cell therapies and treat degenerative pathologies.
- 'Best translational innovation' - [ORAKL](#) : Business creation project led by Dr Fanny Jaulin at Gustave Roussy, ORAKL is based on the development of functional in vitro diagnostic tests, generically called "organograms", predicting drug responses for each cancer patient. They are based on robust biological avatars: patient-derived organoids, i.e. 3D cell clusters from tumour biopsies cultured ex vivo. They will improve patient's survival and reduce the toxicity and cost of non-efficient treatments.

All candidates received upfront six months support in the MATWIN accelerator, profiting from the high added-value recommendations offered by around 50 experts, coaches and industry decision-makers that support the MATWIN initiative. This represents a huge benefit for the projects, in many cases opening new doors for them with international visibility and chances to boost development.

"MATWIN has proven to be decisive for a biotech like TOLLYS; it has boosted our image and increased our industry and investors contacts. It has also enabled us to get feedback from real experts – similar to a due diligence role. Icing on the cake is that one year after our presentation to the MATWIN board, we initiated a research collaboration with one of the program partners!" reports Vincent Charlon, CEO of [TOLLYS](#).

Within MEET2WIN, other pitches sessions highlighted several laureates.

- The investors jury **OUI Oncology Upward Investment** gathering around 15 venture capital funds willing to support the growth of young European companies looking for fundraising thus rewarded [Smart Immune](#) and [One-Carbon Therapeutics](#) companies for their development potential.
- The **QUICK PITCH jury** gathering both MATWIN Board members and the entire MEET2WIN audience highlighted the projects [VALANX Biotech](#) and [OKOMERA](#).

MEET2WIN also hosted for the first time this year the OncoSTART Summit, a satellite event supported by the French Tech Community Fund, dedicated to showcasing entrepreneurial projects in oncology, one year after the creation of the [OncoSTART](#) consortium. Coordinated by MATWIN, the consortium brings together 12 experts in cancer research and innovation willing to boost oncology entrepreneurship (Comprehensive Cancer Centers, cancer clusters, cancer institutes, biocluster, accelerator, etc.). During this event, a project presentation session was organized highlighting various winners.

- The **OncoSTART Showcase** jury rewarded the following business creation projects applied to the fight against cancer:
 - "Innovative business creation" - awarded by la French Tech to the [ORAKL](#) project led by Fanny Jaulin and Diane-Laure Pagès (Gustave Roussy)
 - "Medical Challenge" - awarded by the ARC Foundation to the "GALENT" project led by Didier Dubreuil ([CEISAM](#) laboratory; Nantes University)
 - "Patients – Better care" - awarded by Expertise Patient to the [PROSTPERIA](#) project led by Nicolas Martelin.

All in all, ten winners were rewarded during a particularly rich program for this 7th edition of [MEET2WIN](#). A new successful operation for MATWIN with more than 300 European participants meeting in person in Bordeaux, 1,000 face-to-face meetings organized over the 2 days, 38 project pitches, 25 speakers, all complemented by conferences, thematic workshops and forums on the partnership strategy of major pharmaceutical groups.

About MATWIN

MATWIN is a French open-innovation platform dedicated to promoting innovation in oncology. For thirteen years, the platform has offered a specific support program to help fast-track innovative projects – from both academic laboratories and startup companies across Europe – and promote partnerships with industrial partners or investors. The program is supported by 13 international laboratories* (Amgen, AstraZeneca, Bristol Myers Squibb, Boehringer Ingelheim, Gilead, GlaxoSmithKline, MSD, Nanostring Technologies, Novartis, Pierre Fabre, Pfizer, Roche et Sanofi) willing to develop partnerships in the field.

Since 2015, [MATWIN](#) has been a subsidiary of [Unicancer](#), the French federation that brings together the 18 Comprehensive Cancer Centers in France.

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