

BiPER Therapeutics raises €1.25 million in seed funding to develop first-in-class small molecules to treat gastrointestinal cancers

Financing will help advance R&D programs and preclinical development of first-in-class compounds

Strasbourg, France, February 14, 2023 – BiPER Therapeutics, a preclinical biotechnology company developing first-in-class drug candidates targeting BiP protein to treat gastrointestinal cancers, today announces it has raised a total of €1.25 million (\$1.35M) in seed funding. The company received €300k (\$322k) in dilutive funds from WiSeed via WiClub Santé 2, €500k (\$544k) in convertible bonds from Bpifrance, and €450k (\$483k) in grants as part of the i-Lab innovation award and from the Grand Est region.

These funds will allow BiPER to work, over the next 15 months, on the preclinical development of its lead program, BPR001, a first-in-class BiP inhibitor, for the treatment of gastrointestinal cancers, and bring it to the Clinical Trial Application (CTA)/Investigational New Drug (IND) stages, with gastric cancer as the primary indication. It will also enable the company to advance its R&D programs in first-in-class Endoplasmic Reticulum (ER) stress inducers.

With an estimated [one million cases worldwide](#) and an annual projected increase of 2%, the gastric cancer market is [evolving rapidly](#). Despite the arrival of immunotherapies as a first line treatment, there is still a high unmet medical need in this indication.

BiPER offers a unique approach to cancer treatment by developing a first-in-class molecule targeting BiP, a key protein involved in cancer cell survival. The therapeutic interest in this target has been validated by several *in vivo* and *in vitro* proof of concept studies. BPR001 has already demonstrated efficacy *in vivo* as a single agent and in combination with chemotherapies and immunotherapies. To eliminate tumors, it pushes the cancer cells to 'burn out' by selectively inducing strong and unsolvable stress in tumors.

"Stephane Rocchi, Rachid Benhida, Cyril Ronco and myself have developed a drug candidate that has enormous potential as a new therapeutic solution for those patients resistant to standard treatments, who represent around 50% of gastrointestinal cancer patients," said Mehdi Chelbi, co-founder and CEO of BiPER Therapeutics. "I would also like to thank our great team and Zaki Sellam, managing partner at Landmark Bioventure, for their valuable support in the success of this seed round. This funding will bolster our efforts to advance the preclinical development of BPR001 to the CTA/IND stages. In parallel, we have started a Series A funding round to help finance the early clinical phases."

Alongside the funding, BiPER welcomes Guillaume Vetter-Genoud, director of Quest for health, to the board. "With our partners Wiseed, we're proud to be able to support a promising start-up like BiPER Therapeutics. The identification of new therapeutic agents with an original mode of action is fundamental to circumventing the resistance phenomena in standard-of-care treatment," said Guillaume.

Legal advisor: Morgan Rapinat at Rapinat Avocat

About BiPER Therapeutics

BiPER Therapeutics is a preclinical biotechnology company developing and commercializing novel therapeutics. It is creating a pipeline of small first-in-class molecules targeting the global metabolism of cancer. BiPER's first drug candidate – BPR001 – selectively targets



BiPER
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BiP/GRP78, a key protein involved in cancer cell survival and associated with a poor prognosis for patients. BPR001 triggers cancer cell death through Endoplasmic Reticulum (ER) stress induction.

Founded in 2021 and based in Strasbourg, France, BiPER Therapeutics is co-incubated at SEMIA and Quest for health. It employs five staff. The co-founders, Stephane Rocchi, Rachid Benhida, Cyril Ronco and Mehdi Chelbi, an experienced team of medicinal chemists, biologists and experts in preclinical and clinical development, have more than two decades of expertise in oncology. The company won an i-Lab innovation award in 2022.

<https://biper-tx.com/>

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