

## **MATWIN highlights about thirty innovative projects to tackle cancer**

**Bordeaux, France, May 15 2023** – Following the 8<sup>th</sup> edition of [MEET2WIN](#), European Partnering Convention dedicated to the fight against cancer that took place on May 11 & 12 in Bordeaux France, [MATWIN](#) (Unicancer subsidiary) announces the various laureates of its pitches sessions that were showcased during the event.

The two 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. Two projects were singled out for special awards by the MATWIN board, based on their relevance from a scientific or translational perspective.

- « Best disruptive science » - [Apmonia Therapeutics](#) : the French biotech company located in Reims develops innovative therapeutic strategies against various cancers. Capitalizing on cutting-edge bioinformatics approaches, Apmonia Therapeutics targets so-called "matrix proteins" to fight tumors by reprogramming their microenvironment. The company's most advanced program is about to enter its first clinical trial in several advanced solid tumors.
- « Best translational development » - [Invectys](#) : Invectys is a biotech specialized in immune-oncology, spin-off from the Pasteur Institute in France. Its main project is the development of the first chimeric antigen receptor T cells (CAR-T) targeting HLA-G, an antigen specifically expressed by tumor cells. This immune checkpoint is expressed on the placenta during pregnancy in healthy subjects, but can be neo-expressed by tumors, mimicking the immunosuppressive context of the pregnancy to promote the immune-escape. Invectys' CARTouche project is a cutting-edge immunotherapy aiming at specifically targeting HLA-G expressing tumors. These CAR-T not only eradicate these tumors but restore anti-tumoral patients' immune response.

All candidates received upfront six or three-months support by 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 ORAKL; it has boosted our image and increased our industry and investors contacts. It has also enabled us to get feedback from real experts which has helped us to mature our entrepreneurial project. Just one year after our presentation to the MATWIN board, we have created the company, have been selected by the Sciences et Tech incubator in Paris Agoranov for a personalised support, awarded by the "Golden Ticket" from Sanofi and Servier, and we are currently raising our first seed round of funding!"* reports Fanny Jaulin, CEO of [ORAKL](#), new spin-off from Gustave Roussy Institute.

Simultaneously with the MATWIN Board meeting, the 8<sup>th</sup> edition of [MEET2WIN](#), European Oncology partnering Convention, has highlighted other several laureates.

- The investors jury **OUI Oncology Upward Investment** gathering around twenty investors (Business Angels' networks, venture capital or corporate funds, etc.) willing to support the growth of young European companies thus rewarded [Arjuna Therapeutics](#) and [MPC Therapeutics](#) companies for their development potential.
- The **QUICK PITCH jury** gathering both MATWIN Board members and the entire MEET2WIN audience highlighted three projects headed by [MPC Therapeutics](#), [VIOLET Pharmaceuticals](#) and [KAIROS Discovery](#).

All in all, around 30 projects were showcased during a particularly rich program for this 8<sup>th</sup> 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, 25 speakers, all complemented by conferences, thematic workshops and forums on the partnership strategy of major pharmaceutical groups such as MSD, Boehringer Ingelheim and Takeda.

### **About MATWIN**

MATWIN is a French open-innovation platform fully dedicated to oncology.

For more than 14 years, the platform has offered various actions (expertise, accelerator programme, events, etc.) aiming at accelerating the development of innovative projects dedicated to the fight against cancer. These actions are based on a long-standing partnership with about fifteen international laboratories keen to develop partnerships in this field\* (Amgen, AstraZeneca, Bristol Myers Squibb, Boehringer Ingelheim, Gilead, GlaxoSmithKline, MSD, Nanostring Technologies, Novartis, Pierre Fabre, Pfizer, Roche and Sanofi).

Since 2021, MATWIN coordinates the [OncoSTART](#) consortium dedicated to entrepreneurship in oncology, which brings together 13 organisations with expertise in cancer research and innovation.

Since 2015, MATWIN is a subsidiary of [Unicancer](#), the federation that brings together the 18 French Comprehensive Cancer Centres.

More information on: <https://matwin.fr/en/home/>

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