

MATWIN celebrates 15 years of innovation against cancer

Bordeaux, France, 2024 May 23 – Following the 9th edition of [MEET2WIN](#), European Partnering Convention dedicated to the fight against cancer that took place on May 16 & 17 in Bordeaux France with nearly 300 international attendees, [MATWIN](#) (Unicancer's subsidiary) also celebrated fifteen years of value creation in oncology innovation.

"The last 20 years have been an extraordinary time for cancer research and our daily challenge has been to transform these innovations as quickly as possible to ensure that every patient has an opportunity to benefit from them. Our MATWIN subsidiary is a vital and invaluable link in this chain, and has already supported nearly 300 projects, enabled the creation of 50 start-ups and the launch of more than 20 clinical trials over the last six years! It's a tremendous success story for a platform with such limited resources", says Pr Jean-Yves Blay, Unicancer President.

Pr Fabrice Barlesi, MATWIN President and Gustave Roussy CEO adds *"MATWIN was visionary 15 years ago when launching this first French initiative to bring together research and industry ecosystems around oncology innovation! It has been a real catalyst to transform promising research ideas into innovative solutions and develop an entrepreneurial cancer-focused culture!"*.

The three 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.

- "Best drug-based innovation" - [Syndivia](#): the French biotech company located in Strasbourg is revolutionizing the field of ADC with its innovative GeminiMab™ technology, the first of its kind for Cys229 site-specific conjugation in the hinge region of native antibodies. This format promises superior antitumor efficacy with reduced toxicity, as demonstrated in numerous in vivo models of breast and prostate cancer, marking a decisive turning point in the fight against cancer."
- "Best technology innovation" - [Novigenix](#): Using AI and RNA sequence analysis, the Swiss biotech Novigenix captures the cancer immunity cycle during the multi-stage disease progression and response to therapy. Novigenix has a proven track record with best-in-class blood test on the Swiss market for early detection of colorectal cancer. Using its proven LITOSseek™ platform, Novigenix offers solutions for biopharma companies in drug development and drug target discovery to enable more effective therapeutics, and faster time to market for better patient outcomes.
- "Coup de Coeur award" - [Arjuna Therapeutics](#): Headquartered in Spain, Arjuna Therapeutics is developing an entirely new class of medicines for untreatable cancers. Our first drug Ag5 targets abnormal energy metabolism seen in the most aggressive cancers and is effective in mouse models of cancer with a proven low toxicity. First doses of Ag5 for patients are planned in late 2025. If successful, Ag5 may form part of future multi-drug strategies in multiple solid tumours and help revolutionise cancer treatment.

All candidates received upfront six or three-months support by the MATWIN accelerator, making the most of 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 proved to be decisive for a biotech like Smart Immune, providing us with a form of due diligence on all strategic aspects: selection of the flagship project, anticipation of clinical development stages, pitch training. The quality of the industrial experts also made a difference, enabling us to quickly open doors internationally. One year after our presentation to the MATWIN board, we launched our first clinical trial and became more visible to the ecosystem, as the laureate of two MATWIN awards. For all oncology innovators who have the opportunity to benefit from it, the MATWIN program is a high-value accelerator.” reports Karine Rossignol, [Smart Immune](#) CEO and Co-founder.

Simultaneously with the MATWIN Board meeting, the 9th edition of [MEET2WIN](#), European Oncology partnering Convention, also enabled some thirty projects to be showcased, some of which received awards from the various panels of experts.

- The investors jury **OUI Oncology Upward Investment** gathering around fifteen investors (Business Angels’ networks, venture capital or corporate funds, etc.) willing to support the growth of young European companies thus rewarded two French companies [Stromacare](#) (“Best investment potential”) and [Serendip Innovations](#) (“Coup de cœur award”).
- The **QUICK PITCH jury** gathering both MATWIN Board members and the entire MEET2WIN audience highlighted three projects headed by the following companies [Fungo](#) (Latvia), [PERSEA](#) (France) and [Actipulse Neuroscience](#) (France).

This 9th MEET2WIN event was a new successful operation for MATWIN with more than 300 international attendees meeting in person in Bordeaux, with 1,000 face-to-face meetings being organized over the 2 days, 30 speakers, all complemented by conferences, thematic workshops and forums on the R&D strategy of major groups such as Exact Sciences and Pierre Fabre. More on www.meet2win.fr

About MATWIN

Fully owned subsidiary of [Unicancer](#), the federation that brings together the 18 French Comprehensive Cancer Centres, MATWIN is a French open-innovation platform fully dedicated to the support of innovation in oncology.

For 15 years, the platform has been offering 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, Exact Sciences, GlaxoSmithKline, insitro, MSD, Pierre Fabre, Pfizer, Roche, Sanofi et Takeda). Since 2021, MATWIN coordinates the [OncoSTART](#) consortium dedicated to entrepreneurship in oncology, which brings together 14 organisations with expertise in cancer research and innovation. More on: www.matwin.fr

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