

CALL FOR APPLICATION PRESENTATION

ACCELERATING PROGRAM DEDICATED TO THE SUPPORT
OF INNOVATION IN ONCOLOGY

MATWIN

Maturation and **A**ccelerating
Translation **W**ith **I**ndustry in Oncology

All information  www.matwin.fr

With the support of:

AstraZeneca 

 **Boehringer
Ingelheim**

 **Bristol Myers Squibb™**

 **Daiichi-Sankyo**

**EXACT
SCIENCES**

GSK

 **MSD**

 **Pfizer**

 **Pierre Fabre**

sanofi

SERVIER 

 **Takeda**

Before submitting an application, please contact the MATWIN team in advance to jointly assess its relevance, depending on the objectives and stage of the project development. Depending on the geographical origin of the project, the discussion about the interest of a MATWIN application may be shared with the representatives of local partners (cancer cluster, incubator, technology transfer office, etc.)

 contact@matwin.fr

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CALENDAR

Application filing:

- START program
- GROW program

October 31st 2025

January 31st 2026

Presentation to the MATWIN International Board (if selected)

May 20th & 21^h 2026

CONTEXT

As a national support program designed to optimize the maturation of oncology projects, MATWIN is part of an open-innovation approach to develop translational research in oncology and accelerate the transfer of innovations to patients.

Its main objective is to provide the means to assess and support innovative projects with development potential by promoting early partnerships (pharmas / biotechs, investors) that will help them accelerate their clinical development in particular.

By relying on the French ecosystem (canceropoles, TTOs, incubators, clusters, etc.) MATWIN optimizes the transfer potential of innovative R&D projects, through a shared collaborative process between research and industry. The majority of major international laboratories involved in oncology are currently partners of the MATWIN program (AstraZeneca, Boehringer Ingelheim, Bristol-Myers Squibb, Exact Sciences, Daiichi Sankyo, GlaxoSmithKline, MSD, Pfizer, Pierre Fabre, Sanofi, Servier, Takeda) in order to increase their own scouting activities of early promising (preclinical/early clinical) innovation in the field. Since 2018, the program is open to European candidates (outside France), willing to collaborate with the French ecosystem such as setting-up or relocating a business in France, staff recruitment, launching a clinical trial in France, collaborating with French companies or academic teams... When applying for the MATWIN support, the collaboration can be either already established or to be established.



Since 2023 MATWIN is joining forces with the [Paris Saclay Cancer Cluster](#) (PSCC¹) in order to increase the added value of the support offered and capitalize on the synergies of the offers and networks of these two cancer-focused organizations.

OBJECTIVES

¹ Founded in February 2022 by Gustave Roussy, Sanofi, Inserm, the Institut Polytechnique de Paris and the University of Paris-Saclay, the PSCC has been labeled "Biocluster" as part of France 2030. Its mission is to orchestrate strong interactions within the French oncology ecosystem between researchers, patient associations, healthcare professionals, start-ups, SMEs, Big Pharma and investors. Its objective is to accelerate the development of new cancer treatments, medical devices and diagnostic solutions in France. The PSCC supports selected industrial projects at different levels of maturity via a comprehensive offer: access to experts, technological platforms, patient data and samples and the resources that projects need to accelerate. It animates the ecosystem and facilitates connections. It relies on an innovation site dedicated to oncology, in Villejuif (94).

When supporting the maturation of early-stage projects in oncology, MATWIN has been offering for the last 15 years a program designed to optimize the selected projects' industrial structuring and enhance the development potential of the most promising projects. The support offered thus makes it possible to:

- Assess and Increase projects' potential in their discovery/preclinical development phase by transforming scientific results into attractive assets,
- Obtain development plan validation guidelines (clinical positioning, indications, milestones, etc.)
- Prepare for the investment phase by reducing market access risks
- Optimize partnership opportunities with biotechs/pharma/investors likely to codevelop or support them.

Since 2023, the MATWIN program content is reinforced with the PSCC support. The project may benefit during the support program from:

- Feedback from international-level expertise combining experts from MATWIN and PSCC
- Individualized coaching / mentoring sessions
- Possibility of joining certain programs / workshops offered by PSCC: OncoEntrepreneur program, access to workshops "preclinical strategy", "regulatory", "medical devices", etc.
- Privileged access to the PSCC assessment committee (opportunity to access expertise, training, technological platforms, access to data / biological samples, facilitation of clinical trials, funding, office/lab space, etc.)
- Presentation of the best projects to the international MATWIN Board, unique in Europe

MATWIN INTERNATIONAL BOARD

Unique in Europe, the [MATWIN International Board](#) gathers around twenty internationally renowned members: academic leaders from major European cancer research centres and international decision makers from Global R&D Oncology departments from MATWIN industrial partners specially nominated by their company to review the projects, assess their development potential and label the best ones. This committee meets once a year in France on a MATWIN initiative.

The quality of this committee reflects the value of the commitment of all partners.

A network of investors (business angels' network, venture capital funds, corporate funds) also collaborate with MATWIN to identify projects of potential interest and possibly financially support their development.

See information on the OUI (Oncology Upward Investment) panel on: <https://matwin.fr/oui-investment/>

See MATWIN Board composition (below):

Chairman : Fabrice BARLESI



International Industrial Representatives



AstraZeneca

Vilia VALGE-ARCHER

Senior Director, External R&D
Scientific & Clin Alliances EU



Bristol Myers Squibb

Jim CARMICHAEL

VP Integrative
Sciences



**Boehringer
Ingelheim**

Mark PEARSON

Dpt Head Cancer
Pharmaco & Drug Positioning



Daiichi-Sankyo

Mark PARIS

Exec Director, Oncology
Search & Evaluation



**EXACT
SCIENCES**

Rick BAEHNER

Chief Medical Officer
Precision Oncology



GSK

Kenneth HANCE

VP, Head of Extracellular Targeted
Cancer Therapeutics Research Unit



MSD

Christian FISCHER

Scientific Executive Director
Oncology Discovery Chemistry



Pfizer

Joel KLAPPENBACH

Executive Director, Global
Oncology Business Development



Pierre Fabre

Anna KRUCZYNSKI

External Science & Innovation
Director



SERVIER
moved by you

Alix SCHOLER

Director Global BD
& Licensing Oncology



sanofi

Valeria FANTIN

Global Head of
Oncology Research



Takeda

Sasha HUHALOV

Head Oncology Search
& Evaluation, CEI

Academic / Expert - Key Opinion Leaders



EORTC
The future of cancer therapy

Jean-Pierre BIZZARI

Chairman New Drug
Advisory Committee



imagine
INSTITUT DES MALADIES GÉNÉTIQUES

Olivier HERMINE

Head of Clinical
Hematological Dpt



**UNIVERSITY OF
BIRMINGHAM**

Paul MOSS

Director of Research,
College of Medicine



Unil
UNIL | Université de Lausanne

Pedro ROMERO

Professeur Honoraire -
Faculty of Biology &
Medicine UNIL



CHUV **Unil**
UNIL | Université de Lausanne

Solange PETERS

Head Medical Oncology
Department CHUV - UNIL

Invited Members



**Fondation
Fournier-Majoie**
Entreprendre
pour vaincre le cancer

Jerome MAJOIE

CEO



unicancer

Muriel DAHAN

Director of R&D

CALL FOR APPLICATIONS TERMS

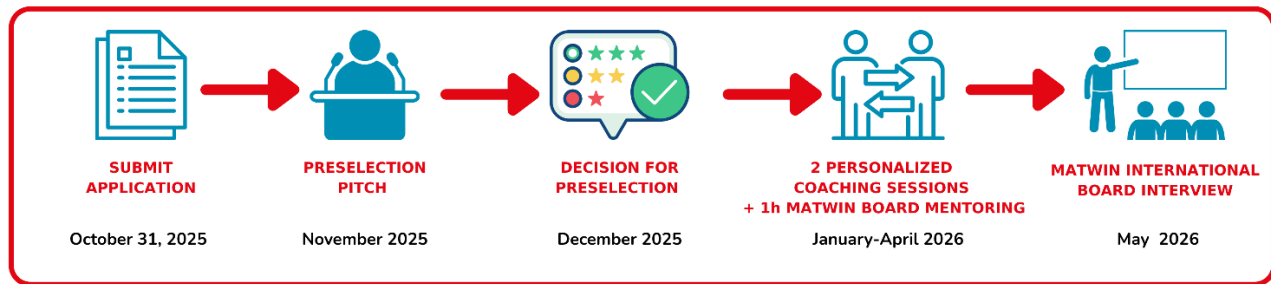
APPLY TO MATWIN

Before submitting an application, please contact the MATWIN team in advance to jointly assess its relevance, depending on the objectives and stage of the project development.

To apply to the MATWIN, project leaders have 2 possible courses. (START program over 6 months, GROW program over 3 months). The principle is as follows: the earlier the application is submitted, the more MATWIN support is developed. [The details of the various support courses](#) and the application files can be consulted [HERE](#) [“MATWIN’s Call for Application”](#)

- START program (6 months): application possible until **October 31st 2025** at the latest

Restricted to academic teams or young startups needing to optimize their project's strength and having only preclinical results available before the regulatory tox for therapeutic innovations or ante validation / CE marking for diagnostic tests / medical devices.



- GROW program (3 months): **application possible until January 31st 2026** at the latest

Restricted to startups with preclinical results of regulatory tox or a first clinical study (Phase 1) for therapeutic innovations or a validated test for diagnostic tests / medical devices.



The application file presents the project through three parts:

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- I. Abstract
 - II. Intellectual property
 - III. Scientific project and development plan
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All experts having access to the MATWIN application file (experts, coaches, board members) are subject to strict confidentiality, and as such have agreed to sign a Confidentiality, Non-Disclosure and Non-Conflict of Interest Agreement with MATWIN.

Eligibility and potential interest of the project will be first assessed by a preselection jury regularly involved in the MATWIN process (preselection pitch) then submitted for the opinion of the MATWIN International Board members who will be the sole decision-makers for a presentation to the MATWIN board at the end of the program.

If the feedback from the MATWIN preselection jury is positive, the project will be offered to enjoy a first individualized coaching session before sending their application form to the MATWIN International Board for a possible selection for presentation in May.

Can apply :

- academic teams regardless their tutelage(s) (universities, hospitals, research organizations, cancer research institutes, etc.) and private structures (start-ups exclusively and not subsidiary of a large group);
- applicants must be based in France or in Europe (Switzerland, UK, Norway included). Non-French European applicants can apply if they can prove that they will collaborate with French partners (academic team or company).

Eligibility criteria for integrating the MATWIN programme:

- application should be based on a competitive R&D project ; service offers (e.g. CRO services) are not eligible for the MATWIN support
- original and innovative target/mechanism of action for a product or original marker/biomarker or medical device or technological approach (AI included)
- maturity: the project must introduce first scientific evidences demonstrating efficacy of the product (*in vitro* / *in vivo* proof of concept, demonstrated mechanism of action, Structure-Activity-Relationship, associated biomarker...) or of the diagnostic test (selectivity, specificity, impact on therapeutic options ...) or the technological approach (clinical proof of concept)
- strength of intellectual property (if existing). An off-patent innovation may, however, be eligible if protection of the results is ongoing.

PITCH PRESELECTION (NOVEMBER 2025 OR MARCH 2026)

Applications (Project Application Form) will be first validated internally to check their eligibility to the program after a discussion with project leaders.

Eligible applicants will then defend their project in front of a preselection jury of a dozen experts (Biotechs, academic and investors representatives) members of both MATWIN's and PSCC's networks.

For the START program, the pitch session will occur in November / December (in Paris or in video) as an oral pitch of 8-10 minutes followed by a discussion of 10 minutes max with the panel.

Each candidate will then receive a short feedback from the preselection jury summarizing the strengths and weaknesses of the project.

The projects pre-selected by the jury will gain access to a 1st coaching session (January). If the coaching is positive, the project application form will then be submitted for the opinion of the MATWIN International Board members who will be the ones deciding which projects will be presented to them at the end of the program in May.

For the GROW program (3 months), candidates selected on the advice of the MATWIN Board will join the program directly at the second coaching session (see below).

Volume estimation per year:

- ± 25 applications received (Project Application Form)
- ± 15 projects selected after the Pitch session (November/March)
- ± 10 projects selected after the MATWIN Board's review to be presented after coaching

COACHING & MENTORING SESSIONS (MARCH AND APRIL 2026)

2 working sessions are organized to optimize the structuration and industrial orientation of the projects (work on content) and their presentation (work on form). Technology Transfer offices are strongly encouraged to participate with the project leader to the MATWIN program to take advantage of the generated added-value.

In the case of an application for the GROW program, the candidate will only have access to one coaching session (session 2) and mentoring sessions.

Two coaching sessions (compulsory for project leaders selected by the preselection jury) :

- **session 1 : development plan review (Jan-Feb 2026):**

Driven by R&D experts consultants, members from MATWIN and PSCC networks, this first work session addresses the project's background and allows optimizing its structure and industrial orientation. This session aims at supporting candidates in their valorization approach and usually leads to a clear restructuration of the project. Following this 1st session, the applicants receive a written feedback from the coaches listing their recommendations.

If the coaching is positive, the project application form will be forwarded to the members of the MATWIN International Board, who will decide which projects will be presented to them at the end of the programme in May.

- **session 2 : training for the Board audition if selected by the board (April 2026):**

This second work session aims at preparing the project leader for the MATWIN International Board review strengthened by the 1st session contributions. Coaches bring their expertise to optimize the project presentation. This session is in a real condition format (20 mn in English, with 2 coaches) to reflect the MATWIN Board interview. This last session is an opportunity to check that the previous recommendations have been considered.

Board mentoring session:

Each project selected by the board will be assigned one or two board mentor and will have the opportunity to have a one-hour video discussion with their mentor before their interview in May in order to better prepare their presentation and see what are industrials' points of attention on the project.

At the end of the coaching, the projects not selected to be auditioned by the MATWIN Board will be part of the preferential list of 10 candidates who will be able to present their project during the QUICK PITCH session of the [MEET2WIN](#) partnering convention, organized jointly with the meeting of the International Board (May 2025).

MATWIN BOARD INTERVIEW (MAY 2026)

Candidates selected by the Board after the coaching sessions will present their project in front of the [MATWIN International Board](#).

Moreover, each year the MATWIN Board attend the QUICK PITCH session, and has the opportunity to select 1 or 2 extra projects which will be offered a longer presentation to the MATWIN Board in a slightly different format.

Following the MATWIN Board meeting, a written summary of the Board main recommendations will be provided to the applicants as well as individual Board member's feedback. The feedback of such unique committee is of significant added value for the development of the project. For academic teams, it may provide arguments for legitimating investment decision-making by the supportive structures (TTOs, etc.).

The PSCC will look carefully at the projects labeled by the MATWIN Board for possible support.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

MATWIN PROGRAMME

Who is this programme for?

This program is open to any European project leader who generated an innovation with oncology applications that may have a predictive, diagnostic or therapeutic benefit to the patients. This innovation patented or not, must have a strong potential for industrial development. Project leaders may come from a public structure or from a start-up (if not attached to a large group).

Can a start-up apply?

Yes, a private structure such as a start-up can apply. By private structure are understood - *indicative criteria*: (i) business in the process of creation or recently created <10 years; (ii) reduced staff; (iii) the start-up must not be attached to a large group.

Can a non-French candidate apply?

Yes, non-French candidates (academic or start-up) based in Europe (Switzerland, UK, Norway included) can also apply if they are willing to collaborate with the French ecosystem (set-up or relocate a business in France, staff recruitment, launch a clinical trial in France, collaborate with French companies or academic teams...). When applying for the MATWIN support, the collaboration can be either already established or to be established.

MATWIN'S PURPOSE

What to expect from MATWIN?

Academic researchers or start-ups who want to see their work valued and developed will find with MATWIN, ways to increase the development potential of their project for industrial partners or investors. All projects benefit from high-added value recommendations from international academic and industrial experts that will enhance their attractiveness regardless of the MATWIN process' outcome.

Does MATWIN have funds to provide to projects?

To date, MATWIN does not have funds to support the projects even if they received a positive label from the MATWIN Board.

Participation of investors within the MATWIN network (business angels, VCs, Foundations, etc.) and the partnership with PSCC may also offer funding opportunities for projects with high potential. The supportive structures of the projects (TTOs, etc.) also benefit through MATWIN, from arguments that can justify investment decision-making around projects thus providing funding relays to support the projects' maturation.

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

Intellectual property, which prerequisite?

Ideally, intellectual property will already be ensured when the MATWIN application is submitted. But project expertise remains possible without any protection since the experts are engaged through a confidentiality agreement and no conflict of interest. The potential intellectual property's strength remains an element of appreciation of the innovation.

In case of industrial interest on a project, how is the IP transfer done?

Discussions about potential partnership contract with an industrial partner (whether or not from the MATWIN program) are operated directly by the start-up or the mandated Technology Transfer Office (for academic team).

If the interest comes from a MATWIN partner, the first introduction will be made through MATWIN, then the Parties will discuss and negotiate freely together.

In both cases, MATWIN is not involved in the negotiation of license or partnership contracts, but asks to be kept informed of the discussions in progress and their outcome, and associated in terms of success fees and communication (Cf. MATWIN Charter HERE): <https://matwin.fr/en/matwins-call-for-application/>

CONFIDENTIALITY

Every committee member (experts / coaches / Board members) who will have access the MATWIN application is subjected to confidentiality, and has accepted to sign a Personal Commitment of Confidentiality, Non-Disclosure and Non-Conflict of Interest with MATWIN. Therefore, it is mandatory from project leaders being fully transparent and sharing all relevant scientific data and intellectual property elements.

COST OF THE PROCESS

What is the cost of the MATWIN support process?

To date, all MATWIN's activities (assessment, coaching, and connection with the industrial world) rely mainly on the financing of industrial partners who support the MATWIN initiative.

The financial terms associated with the MATWIN support are described in a Charter listing the rights and duties of both MATWIN and the applicant, which can be consulted HERE: <https://matwin.fr/en/matwins-call-for-application/>

To access the program, candidates (academic or start-up) commit to pay a lump sum of 1,000€ HT (START or GROW program) if their application is pre-selected by our panels (preselection jury or MATWIN Board).

The remuneration of MATWIN is then based on the principle of success-fees. MATWIN applicants (or their Technology Transfer Office when applicable) commit themselves, only in the case of a financial income generated post MATWIN support, to:

- reimburse MATWIN for the costs incurred by MATWIN for the support program (i.e. in case of a signature of a collaboration / codevelopment / license agreement, patent sale, start-up fundraising, crowdfunding, etc.);
- pay a flat-rate success fee to MATWIN only if the success is a direct consequence of the MATWIN support & intermediation (e.g. collaboration resulting from a direct action from MATWIN (Cf. Charter);

Once preselected by the MATWIN Board, the rights and duties of both MATWIN and the applicant listed in the [MATWIN Charter](#) will be integrated in an agreement which will be signed by the applicant (or its Technology Transfer Office when applicable) and MATWIN.