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## **THE FOUNDATION ALLIANCE BIOSECURE ANNOUNCES THE RESULTS OF ITS CALL FOR PROJECTS 2007**

**Lille (France), Edinburgh (UK), 28 September 2007** – The Research Foundation Alliance BioSecure, recognized as of public utility, aims to promote fundamental and translational research applied to biological safety, announces today, both at EURO BIO forum in Lille and at Prion 2007 congress in Edinburgh, the results of its international call for projects 2007, launched on April 5<sup>th</sup>, and for which a total sum of 400,000 Euros was available.

Eight collaborative projects have been selected (out of 36 evaluated dossiers). All of them address the research topics defined by the Scientific Council in accordance with the objectives of the Foundation Alliance BioSecure.

1. Physiopathology of prion-related illnesses or related to other emerging pathogens,
2. New methods for detection, elimination and inactivation of prions in biological fluids and in biological or biotechnological medicinal products,
3. New therapeutic approaches of prion-related illnesses.

The eight selected projects are the following ones :

### *Axis 1*

- Physiopathology of prion-related illnesses in bank vole (*Myodes glareolus*), a new *in vivo* model, predictable of human encephalopathies: project conducted by **H. AGRIMI** (ISS, Roma, Italy),
- Development of a new *in vitro* model for culture of human cell lines, infectable by prion: project led by **F. MOUTHON** (CEA, Fontenay-aux-Roses, France), in collaboration with H. LAUDE (INRA, Jouy-en-Josas, France) and R. HESP (Health Protection Agency, Weybridge, UK).

### *Axis 2*

- Development of a innovative method for detection of protein aggregates; application to the detection of prion: project carried out by **M. KAMALI** (Uppsala University, Sweden),
- New methods for detection of prion in blood and titration of its infectivity: project headed by the French Blood Establishment (research centres of Montpellier (**J. COSTE**) and Lille (**D. DERNIS**)), in collaboration with K. HOLADA (University of Prague, Czech Republic), H. LAUDE (INRA, Jouy-en-Josas, France), E. COMOY (CEA, Fontenay-aux-Roses, France) and the Biological Safety laboratory of the company LFB (Les Ulis, France),
- New methods for elimination of prion by filtration : project led by **O. ANDREOLETTI** (INRA, Toulouse, France), in collaboration with J. GRASSI (CEA, Saclay, France), H. SIMMONS (VLA, Weybridge, UK), and the company MacoPharma (Tourcoing, France).

### *Axis 3*

- Immunotherapy of prion-related illnesses : project conducted by **C. ZURZOLO** (Pasteur Institute, Paris, France),
- New inhibitors of the conversion of physiological (PrP) into pathological prion (PrP<sup>res</sup>) : project headed by **H. REZAEI** (INRA, Jouy-en-Josas, France) in collaboration with A.SCHWOK (Inserm U696, Ecole Polytechnique, Palaiseau, France) and F. FRATERNALI (King's College, London, UK),
- Cannabinoid derivatives, a new therapeutic approaches of prion-related illnesses : project carried out by **J. CHABRY** (IMPC, CNRS, Nice, France).

Each project is to be granted for 1 year (grant may be renewed). Sums allocated vary from 20,000 to 135,000 Euros, according to the size of the project and the number of teams involved.

A report on the projects granted will be the focus of a scientific symposium to be organised by the Foundation Alliance BioSecure and planned in Autumn 2008.



### ***About Alliance BioSecure research foundation***

The objectives of Alliance BioSecure research foundation, recognized as of public utility by the French Government (Dec. 6, 2006), is to improve biological safety in the food and health sectors by working to analyse, understand and manage biological risks.

Alliance BioSecure has a Public Health mission, fulfilled either by evaluating the risks associated with current or emerging pathogen agents, in particular prions, or by contributing to a better understanding of the mechanisms of virulence, pathogenicity, and transmissibility of these infectious agents. The Foundation also aims to improve the detection, elimination and inactivation of these infectious agents in biological or biotechnological medicinal products, products destined for human or animal consumption as well as the equipment used in their production.

The Foundation Alliance BioSecure benefits from the new French momentum for the research foundations, presented in June 2004 by the Minister of research; François D'AUBERT. As a tool for mobilisation of private resources in benefit of research, these kind of Foundation enable to finance ambitious projects, rigorously selected in order to do work of general interest, Public health in the case of Alliance BioSecure research Foundation.

Alliance BioSecure Foundation's objectives are realised through an annual call for projects. The international quality and independence of the Foundation's Scientific Council and the transparency of the project selection process guarantee the application of research of the very highest level, guided by excellence and general interest.

### ***Founders united together for the one project, Biological Safety***

All industrial Founders of Alliance BioSecure are involved in sectors concerned by biological safety imperatives: medicinal products, derived from human plasma or biotechnologies (LFB, BAXTER), filtration, decontamination or quality control (MACOPHARMA, STERIS, ALBHADES PROVENCE).

The French federation of non-for-profit blood donors (FFDSB) and its main association (UNDSB, *Union Nationale des Donneurs de Sang Bénévoles, La Poste France Télécom*) join the initiative, that benefits as well from the support of two public health bodies, the French Blood Establishment (EFS) and the National Institute for Blood Transfusion (INTS). The Foundation Alliance BioSecure has been also granted by the French Ministry of Research.

The Foundation Alliance BioSecure is directed by a Board of Administrators, headed by Jean-François PROST, MD, Director of Scientific and Medical Operations at LFB (French Laboratory for Blood Fractioning and Biotechnologies), and that gathers representatives of Foundators and Donators, French Ministries representatives (Health, Research, Industry, Interior), and qualified persons.

Alliance BioSecure is helped by an independent Scientific Board, that gathers experts internationally recognized and involved in the evaluation of scientific interest of the activities of the Foundation. The Scientific Board is managed by two co-Presidents, Dr. Jean-Philippe DESLYS (CEA, Fontenay-aux-Roses, France), coordinator of European network Neuroprion and Pr. Paul BROWN, Former Senior Investigator at the National Institutes of Health (NIH, Bethesda, USA), who safeguard the excellence of Research conducted with the support of the Foundation.

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