



Validation of Ksilink’s translational approach:

A New round of investment entry into Anagenesis Biotechnologies

Strasbourg, France – December 13th, 2018 – Ksilink, a public private partnership enabling translational research and Anagenesis Biotechnologies (“Anagenesis”) a private biotechnology company producing stem-cell derived lineages to develop drugs treating muscle and metabolic diseases, announce the success of their recently terminated collaboration which takes the form of an established and validated screenable human cellular model allowing drug discovery in the field of Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy (DMD). The co-development of this model helped Anagenesis complete the first step of its round A fundraising (see [press release from Anagenesis December 4th, 2018](#)).

The combination of Anagenesis’ technology which allows the differentiation of induced pluripotent stem cells (iPSC) into skeletal muscle cells with Ksilink’s co-investment and expertise in patient-based cellular disease modeling and phenotypic screening using artificial intelligence (AI), has allowed the establishment of a human iPSC-based assay, ready for high throughput/high content screening. This assay will now further be used by Anagenesis to identify novel treatment options in the field of DMD.

The collaboration has been initiated in December 2015 and finds its end with the achievement of this scientific milestone concomitant with the conclusion of a significant fundraising round for Anagenesis. The DMD project is a perfect example of the relevance of Ksilink’s translational concept. During a collaboration with Ksilink, SME partners benefit from its co-investment, its expertise in phenotypic screen and AI, and access to state-of-the-art equipment in an industrial environment enabling them to perform a drug discovery program and to attract new investors. These conditions enabled Anagenesis to develop within a short timeframe a screenable disease model that now can be leveraged into drug discovery and development.

Ulf Nehrbass, CEO of Ksilink, declares: “The outcome of this collaboration is a perfect proof of concept for Ksilink. It outlines that mastering the complexity of human iPSC-based models and their further use for phenotypic screening is laying the cornerstone for innovative drug discovery of tomorrow. It represents also the success of one of our mission given by Bpifrance and the Commissariat Général à l’Investissement: Providing an environment favouring the productivity of SME in cooperation with Pharma industry to contribute to the productivity and employment in the Biotech and Health industry. Mission accomplished and we wish every success to Anagenesis!”

Jean-Yves Bonnefoy, CEO of Anagenesis , says: “The collaboration with Ksilink allowed us to focus our resources on value-creating activities, thus reaching a first value inflection point on time: a validated human cellular assay ready for high throughput screening. We are very proud and happy that our achievements drew the attention of well-respected funds, which will allow us to grow and develop our R&D programs.”



About Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy (DMD)

Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy (DMD) is an X-linked rare degenerative neuromuscular disorder causing severe progressive muscle loss and premature death. One of the most common fatal genetic disorders, DMD affects approximately one in every 3,500 boys born worldwide. A devastating and incurable muscle-wasting disease, DMD is associated with specific errors in the gene that codes for dystrophin, a protein that plays a key structural role in muscle fiber function. Progressive muscle weakness in the lower limbs spreads to the arms, neck and other areas. Eventually, increasing difficulty in breathing due to respiratory muscle dysfunction requires ventilation support, and cardiac dysfunction can lead to heart failure. The condition is universally fatal, and death usually occurs before the age of 30.

About Anagenesis Biotechnologies www.anagenesis-biotech.com

Anagenesis Biotechnologies is a company that develops new treatments against muscle diseases (such as DMD) as well as metabolic diseases such as type 2 diabetes. One of the cofounders of the company is Pr. Olivier Pourquié, a worldwide key opinion leader in the field of musculoskeletal development and stem cells. Olivier is a Professor at Harvard Medical School and member of the Harvard Stem Cell Institute. Pr. Olivier Pourquié and Anagenesis Biotechnologies have both benefited from the long-standing support from AFM- Téléthon Patient Association. Anagenesis Biotechnologies is backed by a solid, experienced team led by its President & CEO, Dr Jean-Yves Bonnefoy. Jean-Yves comes from the Pharma & biotech industry and brings to the team his experience in the field of pharmaceutical development.

About Ksilink www.ksilink.com

Ksilink is a private, franco-german translational institute for phenotypic drug discovery and preclinical development, founded in 2014 in Strasbourg, France. Ksilink is a unique, integrated and funded solution for translational efforts that enables projects emerging from academic and clinical scientific excellence in the public realm to be translated into tangible deliverables for the benefit of society. It operates as a nexus of French and German scientific academic research excellence and innovation needs for therapy development in biotech companies and pharmaceutical industry and functions as an enabling broker coordinating the connection of key endpoints and bringing together ideas from different perspectives. Ksilink constitutes a bifunctional gate creating opportunities for both, knowledge provider from academic excellence and innovation users from biotech, pharmaceutical industry and health care providers. For therapy developers, it represents an enabling portal to facilitate the access to innovative concepts and approaches in order to address unmet medical needs.

For more information please contact Ulf Nehrbass : ulf.nehrbass@ksilink.com and Jean-Yves Bonnefoy : jybonnefoy@anagenesis-biotech.com