



PRESS RELEASE

## **ENYO Pharma announces closing of a €22 million funding round**

### **Company about to roll out its clinical programme in hepatitis B, its first target therapeutic area**

**Lyon, 3 February 2016.** ENYO Pharma, a biopharmaceutical company focused on developing treatments for acute and chronic viral infections, today announced that it has secured a €22 million Series A financing round. The investment is intended to help the company roll out its clinical hepatitis-B programme more quickly.

The deal was led by Sofinnova Partners, alongside Morningside and Bpifrance via its fund InnoBio, and should enable ENYO Pharma to conduct Phase I trials in the first half of 2016, and phase II trials on chronic hepatitis B sufferers should follow by 2017.

Viral infections represent a major public health and socioeconomic problem. According to the WHO, more than 350 million people with chronic hepatitis B infections are awaiting treatment, half of whom are in Asia and mainly in China.

Jacky Vonderscher PhD, CEO of ENYO Pharma, commented : *"We are delighted to have carried out this financing round with Sofinnova Partners, a leading European venture capital firm specialized in Life Sciences, our long-standing partners since seed-funding, along with Morningside, which is making its first ever investment in France, and the fund InnoBio managed by Bpifrance. The commitment from these investors and the renewed engagement of our founders, Inserm Transfert Initiative and ADV Life Science, vindicates our strategic vision based on a genuine paradigm shift in treating viral illnesses, which are growing rapidly, and for which existing therapies are badly lacking. Beyond our flagship hepatitis B programme, and through our novel approach of disrupting the interactions between viral proteins and human intra-cellular proteins in order to prevent a virus from acting, we have already identified several new human drug targets involved in the replication of severe forms of these viruses, such as those that are currently emerging for influenza. This discovery of compounds capable of changing the activity of these new targets opens up new therapeutic horizons that go far beyond virology."*

Rafaèle Tordjman, M.D., PhD, Managing Partner at Sofinnova Partners says *" This financing comes after a first seed funding, and it is a continuation of several major advances: ENYO Pharma has licenced several patents and developed a unique technology platform: the team is ideally positioned to convert the growing virology market"*

Chahra Louafi Senior Investment Director and Head of the Biotherapies and Rare Diseases Fund of Bpifrance and Jason Dinges, PhD, member of the investment team at Morningside, are now joining Jean-Jacques Garaud, Rafaèle Tordjman and Jacky Vonderscher as members of the board of ENYO Pharma.

### **ENYO Pharma's technological platform**

ENYO Pharma's strategy for discovering therapeutic molecules is based on the work initiated by a team at Inserm in Lyon, formed by ENYO Pharma's co-founders, Pr Patrice André, Dr Vincent Lotteau, Dr Benoît de Chasse and Laurène Meyniel-Schicklin. The strategy involves targeting not the constituents of a virus like most current anti-virals do, but the host's cellular functions that are needed for the virus to replicate. Viral proteins interact with the intra-cellular proteins of the host in order to misuse the human cellular machinery and thrive, using very effective strategies. The new approach involves blocking these interactions, which are vital for the virus. It has the potential to combat the emergence of new resistant strains and to diversify the therapeutic tools used to treat them.



### **About ENYO Pharma SAS - [www.enyopharma.com](http://www.enyopharma.com)**

Based in Lyon (France), ENYO Pharma was founded in January 2014 by Inserm research scientists to develop treatments for acute and chronic viral infections. A seed fund, Inserm Transfert Initiative, and business angels, ADV Life Sciences and Vonderscher & Co, were joined early 2015 by Sofinnova Partners. ENYO Pharma's strategy is to disrupt the nexus of interactions between viral proteins and human intra-cellular proteins to prevent the virus from multiplying. ENYO Pharma has licensed several Inserm patents originating from discoveries made by the research scientists who founded the company and has developed a unique platform to identify new intracellular therapeutic targets and molecules acting against these targets.

### **About Sofinnova Partners - [www.sofinnova.fr](http://www.sofinnova.fr)**

Sofinnova Partners is a leading European venture capital firm specialized in Life Sciences. Based in Paris, France, the firm brings together 12 highly experienced investment professionals from all over Europe, the US and China. The firm focuses on paradigm shifting technologies alongside visionary entrepreneurs. Sofinnova Partners seeks to invest as a founding and lead investor in start-ups and corporate spin-offs, and has backed nearly 500 companies over more than 40 years, creating market leaders around the globe. Today, Sofinnova Partners has over €1.5 billion under management.

### **About Morningside - [www.morningside.com](http://www.morningside.com)**

Based in the United States, the Morningside Group was founded in 1986 by the Chan family of Hong Kong to make private equity and venture capital investments. The group is managed by investment professionals who are entrepreneurial, have deep industry knowledge and are effective in the local

environment in which they operate. In addition to its investment activities, Morningside Group is strongly committed to social responsibility.

### **About Bpifrance and InnoBio - [www.bpifrance.fr](http://www.bpifrance.fr)**

The public investment bank Bpifrance is the result of the merger of business funding and investment organizations OSEO, FSI, CDC Entreprises and FSI Regions. It was established by French law on Dec. 31 2012. It has two shareholders, the French State and the Caisse des Dépôts (The French Deposits and Consignments Fund). The aim of Bpifrance is to support businesses, (SMEs, mid-cap companies and larger entities of strategic importance to the French economy), from their seed capital stages up to stock market listing. They offer access to credit, collateral and equity funding. Bpifrance also provides assistance and enhanced support services for innovation, export and external growth. They act as a single point of contact regarding the funding and investment needs of entrepreneurs in every region. InnoBio is a EUR 173 million venture capital fund managed by Bpifrance, which is also an investor in the fund. Sanofi, GSK, Roche, Novartis, Pfizer, Lilly, Ipsen, Takeda and Boeringer-Ingelheim are among the other investors. The main aim of the fund is to make equity investments in innovative companies providing technology, products and services for health care.

### **About Inserm Transfert Initiative (ITI) - [www.inserm-transfert.fr](http://www.inserm-transfert.fr)**

Inserm Transfert Initiative (ITI) is a French investment firm, based in Paris, dedicated to investing in early-stage life sciences companies which develop breakthrough innovations from French academia with high therapeutic potential.

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