

Press Release

TcLand Expression signs a collaboration agreement with the *Hospices Civils de Lyon* hospital group for the development of novel biomarkers in rheumatoid arthritis

Nantes and Lyon (France), May 18, 2010 - [TcLand Expression](#), a global leader in the field of gene expression biomarkers and companion diagnostics in allo- and auto-immunity, today announced that it has signed a collaborative research agreement with the [Hospices Civils de Lyon](#) hospital group (Lyon, France) on the development of new biomarkers for predicting the response to biologics in rheumatoid arthritis. The collaboration is founded on the expertise of clinical immunologist Professor Pierre Miossec, PhD, Director of the Immunogenomics and Inflammation Research Unit at the Edouard Herriot Hospital in Lyon and a key opinion leader in the field of translational research in rheumatology. The results of this project should strengthen TcLand Expression's position in the field of biomarkers for autoimmune diseases.

Over the last eight years, Professor Miossec has implemented a unique organizational structure which combines clinical care, sample collection, a biological resource centre and molecular analysis platforms dedicated to the development of novel biomarkers in immune-mediated diseases, with a particular focus on RA.

“I am delighted to be working with TcLand Expression. I believe that we can expand HCL’s expertise and clinical capabilities through this collaboration. The goal is to use genome expression profiling to discover relevant biomarkers and thus improve our current standard of care for RA patients and identify new drug targets”, commented Professor Miossec. *“Despite clear progress in the use of novel biotherapies, RA remains one of the most challenging diseases to treat - especially for non-responders. I am excited about TcLand Expression’s commitment to this important clinical area, which will benefit greatly from advances in personalized medicine”,* he added.

“The Hospices Civils de Lyon group has one of the largest rheumatoid arthritis research centres in Europe. This new collaborative project is a key step in reinforcing TcLand Expression’s leading position in the field of biomarkers for autoimmune disorders. The high quality of Professor Miossec’s scientific work and clinical data is acknowledged worldwide. We are very confident that this project will be a success, thanks to the excellent collaborative relations between the researchers at TcLand Expression and the Hospices Civils de Lyon”, emphasized Alain Huriez, MD, Chief Executive Officer at TcLand Expression.

“TcLand Expression has again confirmed its commitment to providing relevant, personalized medicine tools to the rheumatology community. This collaboration will enable TcLand Expression to leverage Professor Miossec’s extensive expertise in biomarker development and gain access to one of the largest collections of patient samples in the field of RA”, added Alain Huriez.

About rheumatoid arthritis

Rheumatoid arthritis (RA) is the most common severe type of inflammatory arthritis. It affects young individuals, with a greater prevalence in women. Given that the chronic inflammation in RA leads to joint destruction and cardiovascular damage, this disease constitutes a major public health concern. Despite significant progress in the treatment of RA over the last 10 years, many patients only respond partially and true remission is only achieved in a small proportion of cases. Joint destruction cannot be halted in all patients and the repair of existing damage (let alone a cure) is still an unattainable goal. Furthermore, some patients have to stop treatment because of toxicity and adverse events. The ability to predict the response to a treatment prior to its initiation would constitute a major step forward and would optimize patient care, reduce the risk of adverse events and substantially reduce healthcare costs.

About the *Hospices Civils de Lyon*

The *Hospices Civils de Lyon* (HCL) public hospital group is France's second largest university medical centre. It offers a full range of medical care in all disease areas, with 15 multidisciplinary or specialist hospitals and clinics and a total of 5,200 beds. More than half of the HCL's short-stay wards (totalling 4,000 beds) have been refurbished since 2007. Each year, the HCL group accounts for 1.4 million hospitalization days, 900,000 consultations and 220,000 accident and emergency visits.

Lyon University Medical Centre trains 1,700 students and 600 interns in medicine, dentistry and pharmacy; 1,600 other healthcare professionals (notably nurses, midwives and paramedics) are trained in 11 different HCL schools and institutes.

Research and innovation form an important part of HCL's strategy. Each year, the HCL group sets up 350 new clinical trials and publishes 1,900 scientific articles.

For more information, please visit: www.chu-lyon.fr

About TcLand Expression

TcLand Expression is an acknowledged pioneer in the discovery, the development and the validation of gene expression biomarkers for unmet medical needs in transplantation and auto-immune disease. The company benefits from an exceptional scientific and clinical environment.

For more information, please visit our website: www.tcland-expression.com

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