

Press release

Lyon, May 20<sup>th</sup>, 2019



**Cell Therapy Innovation 360°: First Edition of the International  
Congress Dedicated to Cell Therapies to Fight Cancer,  
in Lyon, May 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2019**

*The CALYM Carnot institute, LYriCAN and the Curie Cancer Carnot Institute have joined forces to organize this exceptional scientific event on May 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2019 in Lyon (Ecole Normale Supérieure) gathering more than two hundred and fifty participants and chaired by Prof. Gilles Salles, president of CALYM and Pr. Jean-Yves Blay, director of LYriCAN.*

**The cancer immunotherapy revolution**

Since the beginning of the 2010s, cancer treatment experiences a real revolution with the appearance of new treatments, aiming to restore the immune system of patients, thus allowing some people to eliminate by themselves the disease.

Ongoing developments with novel therapeutic classes, using Cellular Therapy methods, bring hope that even more promising advances will lead to significant changes in the management of patients at all levels (technological, clinical, organizational, economic, etc.).

For example, the first published results on CAR T-cells in acute childhood leukemia, in diffuse large B-cell lymphoma and very recently in myeloma, are just the beginning of the emergence of a new therapeutic class with more than one hundred clinical trials in progress, including several with French teams participating. In patients with these three blood cancers, treated at very advanced stages of their disease, a single administration of CAR-T cells directed against their tumor cells, showed a regression of the disease in more than half of patients with a significant proportion (30 to 60% depending on the diseases and studies<sup>1-4</sup>) of relapse-free patients after a follow-up of one to two years, whereas conventional treatments had become ineffective. However, these treatments sometimes have serious side effects and need to be performed in highly specialized centers, under the supervision of trained multidisciplinary teams.

**A congress to share progress with international experts**

The first edition of Cell Therapy Innovation 360 ° will bring together all French and European actors involved in the development of these new treatments in onco-hematology. Oncologists, hematologists, organ specialists, transplant specialists, hospital pharmacists, immunologists, institutional players, biotech specialists and pharmaceutical companies will be able to discuss and share their experience on the perspectives and challenges of

cellular therapies during these two intense days. More than eleven international experts in the field will share their experience and their vision of the future of these new treatments.

*"We sincerely hope that you will be able to join us and we look forward to welcoming you in May 2019 for what promises to be a therapeutic revolution, a clinical reality and a new upheaval for any actor fighting cancer, but especially for the patients."*, say Prof. Gilles Salles and Pr. Jean-Yves Blay.

Please, discover the program of CTI360° on <https://www.cti360congress.com!>

#### **About the CALYM Carnot Institute**

*The CALYM Carnot Institute brings together teams of academic, translational and clinical research able to conduct the full development of medical therapies or diagnostic tools for lymphoma, currently the 1<sup>st</sup> blood cancer and 6<sup>th</sup> global most common cancer worldwide. In front of this major public health problem, the 15 CALYM entities, including the cooperative group, LYSA (Lymphoma Study Association), its clinical research operation structure, LYSARC (Lymphoma Academic Research Organisation) and 13 public research laboratories, offer a unique R&D approach, from basic research to the evolution of standards of care. CALYM is ISO 9001:2015 certified for the management and monitoring of its partnership research activities and for the coordination of the activities related to its CeVi lymphoma viable cell collection.*

For more information: <https://www.calym.org>

#### **About LYriCAN**

*LYriCAN, an Integrated Cancer Research Site in Lyon, is one of eight SIRICs accredited in 2018 by the National Cancer Institute. Its goal is to develop translational research of excellence. The LYriCAN, led by Professor Jean-Yves Blay and carried by the Leon Berard Center, the Comprehensive Cancer Center of the UniCancer Federation in Lyon and the Hospices Civils de Lyon, the University Hospital of Lyon, is based on the concept of the plasticity of cancer cells and immune cells. Three integrated research programs are based on the fundamental research excellence of the Cancer Research Center of Lyon (CRCL), LabTau and Créatis. The ambition of LYriCAN is to identify new therapeutic targets, to better understand resistance mechanisms, to propose new combinations as well as to treat plasticity at the macroscopic level by physical destruction approaches. Its strong support has helped to structure various state-of-the-art platforms, which are at the disposal of the medical-scientific community. Therapeutic innovation is at the heart of SIRIC LYriCAN in order to improve patient management.*

For more information: <https://www.cancer-lyrican.fr/>

#### **About Institut Curie and Curie Cancer Carnot Institute**

*Institut Curie, a leader in the fight against cancer, combines an internationally renowned research center with a state-of-the-art hospital group that takes care of all cancers, including the rarest ones. Founded in 1909 by Marie Curie, Institut Curie brings together more than 3,500 researchers, physicians and care professionals around its 3 missions: care, research and teaching.*

*Since 2011, Institut Curie has been labelled "Curie Cancer Carnot Institute". Curie Cancer offers industrial partners the opportunity to set up research collaborations, benefiting from the expertise of Institut Curie's teams in developing innovative therapeutic solutions against cancers from the therapeutic target to clinical validation.*

For more information: <http://techtransfer.institut-curie.org/>

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4. Raje N *et al.* Anti-BCMA CAR T-Cell Therapy bb2121 in Relapsed or Refractory Multiple Myeloma. *N Engl J Med.* 2019 May 2; 380 (18): 1726-1737. doi: 10.1056 / NEJMoa1817226.

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