



Press release

#Covid19 #treatment #Financing

**Anti-Covid treatment:  
the POLYCOR consortium made up of XENOTHERA,  
of the University Hospital Center and the University of Nantes  
obtains funding from the French Government  
for 8 Million Euros**



Nantes, July 15, 2020 - [XENOTHERA](#) biotech, [Nantes University Hospital](#) and the [University of Nantes](#) announce the signature of a consortium agreement within the framework of a PSPC-COVID, operated on behalf of the French Government by BPI France as part of the Future Investment Program (PIA), led by the General Secretariat for Investments (SGPI), to support XENOTHERA's XAV-19 anti-COVID-19 treatment for patients at the beginning of their hospitalization. The project, named POLYCOR, covers the realization of a phase 2 clinical trial including more than 350 patients and the industrial scale-up of XAV-19 production.

Following the recent fundraising by XENOTHERA for more than €7 million, **this new non-dilutive funding of €7.8 million is granted to XAV-19, a potential anti-COVID treatment by the General Secretariat for Investment (SGPI) as part of the PSPC-COVID call for projects.** This is part of the French Government's priorities to fight the COVID-19 epidemic and is split between the Nantes University Hospital (€2.3 million), the University of Nantes (€0.2 million) and XENOTHERA (€5.3 million).

The PSPC-COVID is a program created by the Government in the context of the recent epidemic, which financially supports clinical trials for the treatment of the disease. It is part of the general framework of innovation funding by the French government.

This amount will be used to **finance a phase 2 clinical trial promoted by the Nantes University Hospital, a fundamental research program on COVID-19 by scientific teams from the University of Nantes, and the acceleration of the production capacities of GH-pAb (glyco-humanized polyclonal antibodies) by XENOTHERA.**

**POLYCOR is a clinical trial will take place in more than thirty hospitals throughout France** and will be piloted by the clinical teams of the Nantes University Hospital, led by Professor François Raffi.

Beyond the clinical trial, **the POLYCOR project covers research activities on the immunology of the COVID-19 infection**, which will be conducted jointly by teams from Nantes University Hospital and the University of Nantes, under the leadership of Ms. Sophie Brouard, Research Director at the CNRS.

**XENOTHERA will contribute through its expertise and the supply of XAV-19 for the clinical trial. The biotech will be in charge of setting up the whole production chain at industrial scale for its specific product.** Objective: to be able to cover the needs of the French population from 2021 onwards, in the event of a resurgence of the epidemic.

XENOTHERA's XAV-19 treatment is based on a unique and patented technology for the **production of protective polyclonal antibodies similar to the natural human response.** The Nantes-based biotech company has been working for over four years on coronavirus infections, in parallel with its other products in transplantation, infectious diseases and oncology.

*"I am very pleased with the overall support of SGPI for our project, as XAV-19 will be one of the only European anti-COVID treatments. We have good reasons to believe that it will cure patients at the beginning of their hospitalization, it may prove to be the effective specific treatment expected by the entire medical community. POLYCOR is also the expression of our partnership with the Nantes University Hospital, a natural partnership for historical reasons, as part of our technology was developed in the past by teams from the University Hospital, the University and INSERM,"* said **Odile Duvaux, President of XENOTHERA.**

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**About XENOTHERA:**

Created in 2014, XENOTHERA is a Nantes-based biotech company which develops "humanized" polyclonal antibodies. Its technological platform is built on a dual expertise in animal genetics and immunology. The company has a complete portfolio of products, the first of which, LIS1, an immunosuppressant used for transplants, has been in clinical trials since 2019. XENOTHERA is part of the Nantes scientific, medical and academic environment and is supported by the Pays de la Loire region's Atlanpole competitiveness cluster. Since its creation, the company has raised 6 million euros in equity and has received support from the BPI.

To find out more, please visit: [www.xenothera.com](http://www.xenothera.com)

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**Media relations:**

IZsoGOOD

Ingrid Zémor & Elise Plat

+33 (6) 73 72 99 92 / +33 (6) 79 98 48 94

[xenothera@izsogood.co](mailto:xenothera@izsogood.co)