



PRESS INFORMATION

Nantes, October 1st, 2021

- EY Entrepreneur of the Year Award 2021 -

The French biotech XENOTHERA awarded Start-Up of the Year for the Western region (Pays de la Loire).

During [the Entrepreneur of the Year Awards organized by EY](#), the Start-Up of the Year Award for the Western Region was awarded to [XENOTHERA](#). During the award ceremony that took place yesterday evening in Nantes, Odile Duvaux, founder of the Nantes-based company, along with her team, was rewarded for her committed and successful entrepreneurial career.

For several years, the Entrepreneur of the Year Award has honored the entrepreneurial **careers of women and men who run growth companies, reconciling responsibility and a sustainable economic model**. More particularly this year, marked by an unprecedented context, EY wished to salute the entrepreneurs who are driving the transformation of the French economy and who have shown resilience, courage and agility. The aim of the Prize is to show the central role of the entrepreneur in society and to highlight meaningful initiatives that are likely to change the course of events; great successes both in terms of business management and in social and environmental commitments they have made in the local ecosystem.

Odile Duvaux is a MD PhD, she graduated at the Ecole Normale Supérieure, with a dual medical and scientific background. Her many skills have led her to as many professional lives: first as an intensive care physician, she became involved in research at the Pasteur Institute both in Paris and Lille, before turning to change management and communications in an international retail company (Auchan group) for five years. After this experience, her entrepreneurial spirit led her to develop her own consulting firm, DMJ. For 15 years, she worked for a wide variety of clients on executive coaching, strategic consulting and transformation management. At the same time, she was involved in the APM network (Association pour le Progrès du Management).

After moving to Nantes, she continued her entrepreneurial adventure with the creation of XENOTHERA in 2014. Specialized in the field of biotechnology (immunology, infectious diseases and oncology), the company is now in full development and has nearly 20 employees.

What is the XENOTHERA's vision? To save lives and relieve patients by creating new medicines that can change the lives of millions of people! In particular, the Nantes-based biotech has developed an anti-lymphocyte serum, LIS1, designed to neutralize the patient's immune system in order to prevent graft rejection during organ transplants in humans (induction treatment). The drug is expected to increase the life span of transplants by an average of five years, which, beyond the comfort for the patient, would make it possible to shorten the waiting time for patients.

Like the project that Odile Duvaux defends, XENOTHERA's corporate culture is resolutely human-oriented. The management is welcoming: autonomy, simplicity and being on first-name terms are the rule and all employees are involved in internal meetings. The manager makes it a point of honor that each employee adds "his or her stone to the building" and can share his or her own ideas.

The COVID-19 epidemic and the health crisis have disrupted the company's development. The possibility of countering this new virus was immediately perceived by the biotech, who had been aware of the potential of the treatment developed by XENOTHERA on this family of viruses for several years. **The team therefore immediately focused its efforts on developing an anti-COVID-19 treatment, XAV-19**, for patients with moderate Covid; its aim is to block the worsening of the disease and the transition to the severe form, and in particular to avoid transfer to intensive care.

XAV-19 is currently undergoing clinical trials in France and also in Greece, Romania, Bulgaria and Spain with the EUROXAV trial. The company has been able to invest in the industrialization of its production, in collaboration with the Alès plant of LFB, a French biopharmaceutical laboratory. Once early access authorization (AAP) will be obtained from the French National Authority for Health (HAS) and the French National Agency for the Safety of Medicines and Health Products (ANSM), the treatment could be made available to patients for whom it would be beneficial.

XENOTHERA is also pursuing the development of its other products, in multi-resistant bacteria infections, other viruses, and cancer.

"This Start-up of the Year award for our region is a tremendous recognition of the investment of all the collaborators who make XENOTHERA today! Being an entrepreneur means having a dream and investing in it by always believing in it. It also means knowing how to surround yourself with the right people, and XENOTHERA would not be where it is today without the entire team that is committed to its daily development and shows resilience, because the life of a start-up is punctuated by projects that have many twists and turns and obstacles that must be faced emotionally," says Odile Duvaux, President of XENOTHERA.

The Entrepreneur of the Year Award is held throughout France in the regions of Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes, East, Île-de-France, North of France, New Aquitaine, West, South-East and Occitanie. The winners in each region will then compete for the national ceremony.

ABOUT XENOTHERA:

Founded in 2014, XENOTHERA is a Nantes-based biotech that develops "glyco-humanized" polyclonal antibodies. Its technological platform is built on dual expertise in genetics and immunology. The company has a comprehensive product portfolio, the first of which, LIS1, an immunosuppressant in transplantation, has been in the clinic since 2019. XENOTHERA has also been developing its treatment for coronavirus infections for several years. XAV-19 is XENOTHERA's treatment for patients at the start of hospitalization, it is based on a unique patented antibody production technology, developed and proven for several years by biotech. XENOTHERA, member of the Atlanpole Biotherapies competitiveness cluster, is part of the scientific and medical environment of Pays de la Loire. The company has since been supported by private investors, by the Pays de la Loire region, and by BPI France.

More info at: www.xenothera.com

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