

PRESS RELEASE

Louvain, October 15, 2019 – Belgium UCLouvain Louvain Drug Research Institute (LDRI) and Netherlands MedTech Start-up Gilbert Technologies join efforts for improved therapy for Cystic Fibrosis Patients

LDRI receives funding for the development of a long-acting PEGylated rhDNase for CF-treatment with reduced therapeutic burden.

Today Université Catholique de Louvain, Louvain Drug Research Institute announced to have received funding for their project "SALDI" to work on the development of an improved formulation and administration of rhDNase, a mucolytic agent for the symptomatic treatment of Cystic Fibrosis (CF).

Professor of Formulation and Drug Delivery, Rita Vanbever (LDRI) explains why there is a need for long-acting drugs like a long-acting PEGylated rhDNase. Many drugs are unstable, insoluble, immunogenic and/or rapidly cleared from the body. Combining a drug with a polymer forms a drug-polymer conjugate with optimal pharmacological properties, extending drug half-life thereby improving patient adherence and quality of life.

Vanbever: 'Combining our improved formulation of a long-acting PEGylated rhDNase with the new generation soft mist inhalation technology of Gilbert Technologies, a spin-off of the University of Technology Delft, offers the potential to optimize this widely daily used treatment for CF-patients'.

The funding received for the "SALDI" project comes from the Walloon government (la Région Wallonne – SPW Economie Emploi Recherche) within the framework of the FIRST Spin-off program. This program aims to support the development of researchers into entrepreneurs and the creation of spin-off companies through the development and validation of new products, processes or services that can be industrially exploited in the short term. This funding enables us to finalize our PEGylated rhDNase research towards our pre-clinical development program.

President and CEO of Gilbert Technologies, George Hersbach confirms: 'The potential and synergy of combining this improved formulation of rhDNase with our propriety EHDA*-inhalation technology is definitely there and we are proud to collaborate with the LDRI team on this promising development and improvement for CF-patients'.

For more information, please contact:

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* EHDA = Electro Hydro Dynamic Atomization