



The SEVEN4PTSD consortium led by PRAGMA Therapeutics awarded 2015 French ANR grant to further advance its mGlu7 program for Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder

Archamps (France), Novembre 23, 2015 - PRAGMA Therapeutics, a biotech company discovering and developing breakthrough therapeutics for stress-related disorders, announced that it has been awarded a €483,281 grant from the French Research National Agency (ANR) to advance its main mGlu7 program for the treatment of Post-Traumatic Stress Disorders.

Led by PRAGMA Therapeutics, the SEVEN4PTSD consortium is a public-private partnership certified by two bioclusters, Lyonbiopôle and Eurobiomed. It gathers two leading academic groups, namely the Functional Genomic Institute (IGF; UMR5203 CNRS/INSERM) at the University of Montpellier, and the Biomarkers, Radiopharmaceuticals And Neurochemicals laboratory BioRAN laboratory at Lyon Neuroscience Research Center (CRNL; CNRS UMR5292 / INSERMU1028; University of Lyon 1), and an industrial partner, the preclinical and clinical Contract Research Organization Biotrial, based in Rennes.

"We are really proud that our Seven4PTSD project is validated by a committee of international experts and honored that French leading experts in the field of neuroscience drug development have accepted to constitute this consortium of scientific excellence. The ANR grant is one of the most prestigious and renowned French grant which will undeniably help PRAGMA moving this program forwards and significantly impacting the PTSD field with next generation medicines" stated Guillaume Duvey, co-founder and Chief Scientific Officer at PRAGMA.

This 2-year funded project proposes to examine novel negative allosteric modulators (NAM) of a Class C GPCR, the metabotropic glutamate receptor type 7 (mGlu7) to attenuate the anxiety and stress responses associated with dysregulated glutamatergic signaling in the cortex, hippocampus and amygdala. Patients affected by PTSD, which represent a sizable proportion of the population, have limited efficacious and safe pharmacotherapeutic options for treatment.

"For almost 30 years, I've been promoting research on mGlu receptors as drug targets with great potentials in the CNS area. I am excited to help PRAGMA Therapeutic unravelling mGlu7 pharmacology and thrilled to share all the tools and assays we developed to validate their drugs for PTSD treatment" commented Jean-Philippe Pin from IGF.

Precisely, this project consists of preclinical research aimed at the discovery, chemical optimization, *in vitro* biological characterization, translational *in vivo* pharmacology, biomarkers evaluation and brain imaging studies of proprietary mGlu7 NAMs.

*“We are pleased to work with PRAGMA Therapeutics in advancing this original program. This grant will now enable us to move the program through the development of original PET radiotracers necessary to the *in vivo* exploration of the cerebral mGlu7 receptors in preclinical and clinical studies”* added Prof. Luc ZIMMER, head of the BIORAN laboratory at the CNRL.

The Seven4PTSD consortium will benefit from the longstanding experience and complementary in-depth expertise of each partner, accelerating the discovery of novel mGlu7 modulators towards preclinical development as well as further understanding the role of mGlu7 in the pathophysiology of stress-related disorders, in particular PTSD.

About the National Research Agency (ANR)



ANR provides funding for project-based research in all fields of science - for both basic and applied research - to public research organizations and universities, as well as to private companies (including SMEs). Employing a method based on competitive peer reviews compliant with international standards, ANR provides the scientific community with instruments and programs promoting creativity and openness, and stimulate new ideas and partnerships, particularly between academia and industry. Its activity also contributes to enhancing the competitiveness and the influence of French research in Europe and across the world. For more information about ANR: see www.agence-nationale-recherche.fr/.

About PRAGMA Therapeutics

PRAGMA Therapeutics is a French Biotech company founded in 2015, member of Lyonbiopôle cluster, dedicated to discovering and developing its proprietary and innovative therapeutics for the treatment of stress-related disorders. PRAGMA currently develops allosteric modulators of specific metabotropic glutamate receptors which corresponds to a unique and innovative approach to regulate stress-related responses, fear and cognitive dysfunctions in civilian and military population suffering from Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder.

For more information about PRAGMA: see <http://pragmatherapeutics.com>.

Please contact: contact@pragmatherapeutics.com

About SEVEN4PTSD partners

For more information about the Functional Genomic Institute: see www.igf.cnrs.fr



For more information about the Lyon Neuroscience Research Center: see <https://cnrl.univ-lyon1.fr>



For more information about Biotrial: see www.biotrial.fr



Press contact:

Sylvain Celanire

Chief Executive Officer

PRAGMA Therapeutics

Email: contact@pragmatherapeutics.com