

**A global investment of 3.7 Million Euros will be done**

## **Oryzon participates in a R&D European consortium in Parkinson's disease**

**Barcelona, February 19th, 2012.** Oryzon a Biopharmaceutical company dedicated to the discovery of biomarkers and development of novel therapeutics and diagnostics announced that its CSO, Dr. Tamara Maes, participated at the kick-off meeting of the European Project DDPDGENES held on January 16 and 17 in Stockholm (Sweden)

**Barcelona, February 19th, 2012.** Oryzon participated at the kick-off meeting of the European Project DDPDGENES held on January 16 and 17 in Stockholm (Sweden). The project DDPDGENES (Identification of genes important for human midbrain dopamine neuron development and Parkinsons disease) is leaded by the Karolinska Institutet (Sweden), the rest of participants are the University of Cambridge (UK), l'Ecole Polytechnique Federale de Lausanne (Switzerland) the INBIOMED Foundation (Spain) and Oryzon Genomics also in Spain.

The project, with a global budget of 3,7 Million Euros, will receive a funding from the 7th FWP (Seventh Framework Programme) of 2,82 Million Euros in the Topic *Linking human development and ageing*. The consortium will extend their activities during 48 months starting from January 2012. The goal of this project is to determine whether the expression of certain genes during the development in the subpopulations of specific neurons involved later on in the disease may contribute to the loss of those neurons in the adulthood and to the pathogenesis of Parkinson's Disease.

In the kick-off meeting, Oryzon's representative was Dr. Tamara Maes, Chief Scientific Officer and cofounder of the company. Oryzon Genomics, is the global leader in Histone Lysine Demethylases with an special emphasis on Lysine Specific Demethylases (LSD) and has a drug discovery program developing mono and bi-specific inhibitors against LSD1 and MAO-B, enzymes that several genomic programs have pointed as putative targets in several neurodegenerative disorders, amongst them Parkinson's disease.

According to Dr. Maes, C.S.O. of the company, *“Oryzon’s compounds have shown promising preliminary results and we hope that this strategy of inhibiting LSD1 and MAO-B enzymes might be in the future part of the therapeutic approach to stop the progression of the disease. To be part of this consortium and working with some of the best academics and institutes across Europe is a privilege and will allow us to produce a better understanding of the molecular and cellular mechanisms of development of the disease”*

### About Oryzon

Founded in 2000, Oryzon ([www.oryzon.com](http://www.oryzon.com)) has one of the most complete technological platforms for biomarker identification in Europe. With a strong specialization in genomics, proteomics and bioinformatics, the company identifies biomarkers for a variety of neoplastic and neurodegenerative diseases. The company has a powerful platform for biomarker and target validation which includes technologies such as RNAi, microarrays, phage display and a structural genomic platform with a fragment screening approach (NMR and X ray crystallography). Oryzon develops new drugs and monoclonal antibodies against targets identified in its biomarker discovery programs but also develops diagnostic products.

Recently, the company announced its decision to enter in preclinical development with its first drug candidate, a first-in-class bispecific Lysine Specific Demethylase 1 (LSD1) and Monoamine oxidase B (MAO-B) inhibitor for the treatment of Huntington disease (HD).

**GynEC®-DX** is a good example of the Diagnostic activity of the company. This product was discovered after 5 years of intense research. It is a signature of 5 genes differentially expressed that are highly accurate to determine cancer status in uterine aspirates and when combined with pathology on aspirates has a Negative predictive value of 99,6% according to the results obtained in a recent multi-centric double blind prospective study. Commercialization of this product that has been developed jointly with Laboratorios Reig-Jofré is expected in 1Q 2012.

### Other launches under way

Oryzon entered into a partnership in the field of molecular diagnostics with New Zealand firm Pacific Edge Ltd in 2011. According to the agreement, Oryzon holds an exclusive license to market the Cxbladder assay, which detects bladder cancer in urine in some European countries. Oryzon will run the Cxbladder test in its Clinical Analysis Lab, which was authorized by the Catalanian Government last year. *“The central lab is the axis and launching platform of our diagnostic and personalized medicine division”*, explains Carlos Buesa. *“We have shown that our biomarker discovery platform is capable of developing personalized medicine products and bringing them to market. The goal is to become the leader in molecular diagnostics in Spain and to partner our therapeutic programs with specialized pharmaceutical companies.*

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