

## Back on the 9<sup>th</sup> edition of BioFIT | December 7<sup>th</sup> – 10<sup>th</sup>, 2020 | Digital format

### BioFIT 2020: A special digital edition

For this 9<sup>th</sup> edition, BioFIT, the leading European partnering event for early-stage deals and investment rounds in the Life Sciences field, was organised for the first time in a digital format and was a real success. In this pandemic context, the importance of facilitating collaborations between Life Science companies and the academic world as well as the importance of supporting early-stage innovations have been highlighted. In the unique context of this year, BioFIT organisers and its Steering Committee have made the decision to organise BioFIT together with MedFIT, the equivalent of BioFIT in the MedTech, diagnostic and digital health sectors.

This digital experience over 4 days has allowed participants to take away new ideas, new collaborations and new funding opportunities from their participation, all to build the innovations of tomorrow in the Life Science and MedTech industries. Over **1,000 attendees** from over **36 countries** have attended BioFIT/MedFIT Digital 2020. During the 4 day-event, **9,000 one-to-one meetings** have been generated, **70 speakers** have debated the right funding sources for early-stage innovation, the best practices in academia-industry R&D collaborations, and the winning ways to nurture emerging assets, **70** entities have increased their visibility through exhibition virtual **stands**, and **62 innovative projects** previously selected have had the opportunity to pitch.

### A successful digital edition

Launched in 2010 in Lille, BioFIT enables partnerships between big companies and start-ups/big companies and academic actors in the field of Life Sciences. BioFIT is also the place for start-ups, technologies, offers and animal health projects to find investment opportunities by pitching in front of investors and big companies. BioFIT was created to encourage academic and industrial actors to build partnerships, to source innovative and competitive early-stage deals, to facilitate the emergence of collaborative projects, to increase licensing opportunities, to obtain funding and to facilitate market access.

Organised by Eursanté and the three competitiveness clusters, Clubster-NHL, BioValley France and Eurobiomed, BioFIT was held for its 9<sup>th</sup> edition in a fully digital format and has gathered, along MedFIT, more than 1,000 participants from more than 36 countries. TTOs, research institutions, academics, pharma & diagnostic companies, emerging biotech companies, preclinical CROs and CDMOs, pre-seed, seed and Series A investors were there to discover the latest trends of the sector and contribute to develop tomorrow's innovative products and services in the Life Sciences sector.

In this uncertain time of pandemic, our community needed a framework to meet and interact with international key players in order to accelerate innovation in healthcare: deals needed to be done, new ideas needed funding and business meetings needed to happen. That is why BioFIT organisers and its Steering Committee had decided to organise this year's edition in a 100% digital format in order to attract as many participants as possible, and in particular our international delegates. Going online allowed us to fulfil our promise: to bring satisfaction to our participants and our partners in terms of meeting opportunities, deals achieved, partnerships launched...

BioFIT was held this year thanks to the support of the institutional partners who financed the event in these circumstances: the Hauts-de-France Region and the European Metropole of Lille. The Hauts-de-France region has a health sector with 1,000 companies in Life Sciences for 30,800 employees and a value of more than 12 billion euros. The pharma-biotech-nutrition sector employs 12,875 people and represents more than 50% of the regional turnover and 80% of the sector's export turnover. Some of the major names in the Hauts-de-France region include Bayer, GENFIT, LFB, Lesaffre, AlzProtect and Diagast.

### **StemSight, awarded the most innovative start-up in Life Sciences**

Among 35 applications received, 13 start-ups were selected to pitch during the Start-up Slams at BioFIT in different categories such as oncology, ophthalmology, cell therapy, infection, parasitic, inflammation, cardio-metabolic, gastrointestinal and tools (research, delivery, clinical development). **StemSight, a Finnish start-up involved in Ophthalmology and Cell Therapy, represented by Laura Koivusalo, Founder and CEO, is the winner of this year's edition of the Start-up Slams:**

"We are honoured to be considered as the most innovative start-up by the high-level jury of BioFIT, even though we are still in the very early stages. It is especially valuable to gain feedback on not just the pitching but also on the technology and business considerations of the project. This recognition from the BioFIT jury will hopefully also give an additionally boost to our fundraising."



StemSight is developing new treatments for blindness by differentiating cell therapies from human pluripotent stem cells. StemSight is initially targeting a rare form of corneal blindness called limbal stem cell deficiency, a state where the cells responsible for the normal healing of the ocular surface are lost to injury or disease. StemSight's approach aims to cure limbal stem cell deficiency permanently, by implanting allogeneic pluripotent stem cell-derived limbal stem cells to the corneal surface. StemSight is currently in the process of spinning out from Tampere University in Finland and raising their seed funding.

The BioFIT 2020 Start-up Slams were sponsored by Novo Nordisk



### **Antikor Biopharma Ltd., awarded the most promising technology in Life Sciences**

20 TTOs, universities, research institutes and companies applied to the BioFIT Collaborative and Licensing Opportunity Presentations to showcase their technology in front of potential partners in order to entail a collaborative project and / or a licensing deal. 8 of them have been selected to pitch during BioFIT in 3 different categories: infection/parasitic, oncology, tools/diagnostic. **Antikor Biopharma Ltd., a British project involved in Oncology, represented by Dr. Mahendra Deonarain, Chief Executive and Science Officer, received the "Most Promising Technology" award:**

“This was our first attendance at BioFIT and were impressed by the organisation and breadth of attendees. We were pleased to have been selected to give a partnering presentation and even more honoured to be selected as a winner for the best technology pitch. The judges feedback was very detailed and knowledgeable and their understanding of our value proposition and choice for the award validates our approach. We are indeed grateful for this recognition. Our progress in a difficult 2020 has been due to the exceptional team at Antikor and we hope that 2021 will be our most successful year yet.”



Antikor, based in Stevenage, UK are innovators in ADCs (Antibody-Drug Conjugates). After many years of disappointment and failures, the ADC area has recently resurged, doubling the number of product approvals in the last 2 years. However, despite this renewed optimism, treating difficult solid tumours like gastric, pancreatic and lung remain a significant challenge which is where Antikor’s Fragment Drug Conjugate (FDC) technology fits. FDCs uses smaller antibody formats, optimised for superior tumour penetration, but systemically clear more rapidly providing reduced normal tissue exposure. Using carefully chosen, stable human frameworks, highly tolerable to bioconjugation, Antikor’s FDCs obtain higher payload loading ratios making them more potent. These features leads to benefits of improved efficacy and superior tolerability leading to a larger therapeutic window for treating solid tumours. Antikor has a strong platform for FDC discovery, an integrated R&D team to develop innovative products, backed by strong IP. Antikor’s two lead programmes are at the advanced pre-clinical stage: ANT-43 (breast and gastric cancer) is partnered with Hong Kong-listed Pharma company, Essex Biotechnology and our new flagship programme, ANT-45 is for gastric, lung and colon cancer. Antikor attended BioFIT 2020 to introduce its technology and products and to initiate partnership discussions for ANT-45.

### **PRONOZIA, awarded the most innovative animal health project in Life Sciences**

3 innovative animal health projects have been selected among companies that applied to the Animal Health Presentations and showcased their project in front of potential partners and investors. **PRONOZIA, a French project involved in Animal Health, represented by Olivier Denis, President and Founder, is the winner of this year's edition of the Animal Health Presentations:**

“We are very proud that “ZAG concept by PRONOZIA” wins the 2020 award of the “most innovative animal health project” presented by SIMV/BioFIT. Winning this award in a highly competition line-up, it is a great recognition of huge work accomplished and a great satisfaction for PRONOZIA team and partners. “ZAG concept” is a new generation decision support tool at the service of vet professionals, based on data science and data management. Thanks to SIMV and BioFIT for organising these pitching sessions which are very interesting opportunities to share with investors and partners the outcome of 3 years of R&D work.”



PRONOZIA is a company specialised in digital technologies applied to the animal health field. PRONOZIA develop innovative custom digital tools and services for animal healthcare professional, based on data science and data management methodologies using a combination of algorithmic mathematics, statistical models and machine learning. PRONOZIA finalises the development of “ZAG concept”, a

decision support platform. “ZAG concept” provides qualified scientific data for helping vet practitioners to improve management of their daily clinical cases.

The Animal Health Presentations during BioFIT 2020 were sponsored by the French association for the animal healthcare industry (SIMV)



### BioFIT's 9<sup>th</sup> edition key numbers

#### BioFIT & MedFIT digital 2020 key numbers

**1,000** delegates  
**36** countries represented  
**9,000** one-to-one meetings generated  
**14** conferences  
**10** hosted events  
**68** international speakers  
**68** exhibitors  
**62** innovative projects presented during the Pitch Sessions

### Save the Date: BioFIT 2021

**BioFIT 2021 will be held on December 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> in Strasbourg, France**

### Organisers



#### **Eurasanté - [www.eurasante.com](http://www.eurasante.com) @Eurasante**

Eurasanté is a technology transfer tool, an incubator, an accelerator and a cluster manager in the Health field in Northern France. Eurasanté assists French and foreign companies, entrepreneurs, scientists and clinicians with their innovation and development projects. The region includes over 1,000 healthcare companies with 30,800 employees in this sector. Eurasanté also promotes and develops the Eurasanté bio-business Park which hosts 8 hospitals, 4 universities, 7 specialised schools, 170 companies and 50 laboratories within a European-wide scientific and medical site. Eurasanté also organises four international healthcare-related partnering events that aim to increase and improve interaction between academia and industry: BioFIT (Life Sciences), MedFIT (MedTech, Diagnostic, Digital Health), NutrEvent (Food, Feed, Nutrition, Health) and AgeingFit (Healthy Ageing).

**Clubster NHL – [www.clubstersante.com](http://www.clubstersante.com) @ClubsterNSL**

Clubster NHL is a competitiveness cluster and a network gathering 350 members committed to innovation in Life Sciences. Clubster NHL aims to connect academia, industry and health professionals and to foster innovation for better health and sustainable food. Its goal is to bring together and support stakeholders from the health and food sectors in designing, developing and financing their future products and processes.

**BioValley France – [www.biovalley-france.com](http://www.biovalley-france.com) @BioValleyFrance**

Competitiveness cluster since 2005, BioValley France aims to federate, develop and promote the healthcare sector in the Grand Est region through innovation. The cluster is based on a dynamic network of companies, a leading academic and clinical research, as well as an integrated network of key stakeholders in innovation. BioValley France supports its members in their R&D Innovation approach and gives them access to high value-added expertise, in a market approach. The Cluster contributes to the networking of the various actors and the creation of regional, national and international partnerships. Finally, BioValley France actively participates in the territory's structuring projects, such as Nextmed, which aims to create a Medical Technologies campus in Strasbourg that hosts an entire ecosystem of excellence dedicated to the development of tomorrow's health technologies.

**Eurobiomed – [www.eurobiomed.com](http://www.eurobiomed.com) @PoleEurobiomed**

Founded in 2009 by regional stakeholders, EUROBIOMED is the Life Science cluster from Southern France. We gather more than 390 innovative biotech and medtech companies, as well as leading research institutes, hospitals and universities. We lead territorial initiatives and help our members businesses and research organisations to innovate, finance, develop and achieve their scientific and business objectives, to ultimately improve the treatment and the lives of patients. Eurobiomed tops European rankings in all stages of innovation: education, basic, translational and clinical research, technological innovation centres, start-ups and industrial success stories. Some of Eurobiomed main assets are the number of people involved, but also the quality of the network and trust that is established between its members, which reinforces the interactions and facilitates collaborations.

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