

Back on the 10th edition of BioFIT

10th edition of BioFIT: a successful digital format!

From December 7th to 9th, 2021, the 10th edition of BioFIT, the leading European partnering event for early-stage innovation deals and investment rounds in the field of Life Sciences, was organised in a digital format.

During these 3 vibrant days, more than 700 attendees from more than 35 countries met on a digital platform and initiated more than 6,000 one-on-one meetings in order to build collaborations. Through roundtable discussions, more than 50 speakers shared their ideas and experiences on current topical issues in Life Sciences. 47 previously selected innovative projects had the opportunity to be presented to a jury of experts and an audience of potential investors and partners. Three of these projects were awarded as the most innovative in their respective specialties.

A conference programme featuring Life Sciences experts

During BioFIT 2021, international Life Sciences experts gathered to discuss effective funding sources for early-stage innovation, best practices in academia-industry R&D collaborations, winning ways to grow early-stage assets and animal health highlights.

During the plenary session moderated by Gerald Law (Innovation DB), the talented speakers Marion Paolini (Servier BioInnovation), Karin Conde-Knape (Novo Nordisk) and Nathalie ter Wengel (Pfizer) have debated a key issue about biopharma early-stage R&D in 2021: is it time to review innovation sourcing strategies? They notably discussed innovative ways of sourcing early-stage assets and collaborating, the volume of cash currently available to biotechs and how this may affect the market and the impact of the "on-line-ification" of sourcing on both deal making and partnering.

Vésale Bioscience, awarded the most innovative start-up in Life Sciences

21 start-ups were selected to pitch during the Start-up Slams at BioFIT in different categories such as infectious, 3D-cell culture tools, therapeutics, cancerology/oncology, AI/big data and diagnostics. **Vésale Bioscience, a Belgium start-up represented by Philippe Ghem, Chief Commercial Officer, is the winner of the BioFIT 2021 Start-up Slams:**

"We are very proud to receive this award. It recognises the great work performed by the Vésale Bioscience team and further motivates us to pursue our research into solutions to multidrug-resistant infections, which constitute a major global public health challenge. We are in the middle of a Series A funding round; this prize serves to validate our development choices and our credibility."



Vésale Bioscience, a biotech company specialising in phage therapy, with a particular focus on research into alternative solutions to antibiotics and the development of treatments for multidrug-resistant infections. The Belgian start-up is developing an effective and reproducible phage therapy approach that offers a personalised solution to the major issue of AntiMicrobial Resistance (AMR).

The BioFIT 2021 Start-up Slams were sponsored by Novo Nordisk



VALANX Biotech, awarded the most promising technology in Life Sciences

19 TTOs, universities, research institutes and companies have been selected to pitch during the BioFIT Collaborative and Licensing Opportunity Presentations in different categories: infectious, inflammation, CNS, research tools and cancerology/oncology. **VALANX Biotech, an Austrian project represented by Michael Lukesch, CEO, received the “Most Promising Technology” award:**

“We are incredibly honoured to receive the BioFIT price. The award is very helpful in communicating to our collaboration partners, customers and investors the quality of the work we do which would not be possible without our gifted and dedicated team.”



VALANX Biotech develops a site-specific protein conjugation platform with the goal to make the struggle of precise, reproducible protein conjugation a thing of the past, for the benefit of our partners, customers, and patients. Our goal is to be the first company to offer up to 10 freely selectable conjugation sites on any expressible protein in excellent yield to give superior product quality. With our conjugation platform in place we have started to develop VLX101 a novel cytokine conjugate with applications in the treatment of autoimmune disease.

An Anses project, awarded as the most innovative in animal health

5 innovative animal health projects have been selected to present for the Animal Health Presentations and showcased their project in front of potential partners and investors. **The French organisation Anses, represented by Olivier Bourry, Deputy Head of NRL African Swine Fever, submitted a project which was awarded during the Animal Health Presentations and won the 2021 competition:**

“This was our first participation in BioFIT and we are honoured that our project was awarded as the most innovative animal health project. BioFIT was a very good opportunity to present our vaccine candidate against African Swine Fever to potential industrial partners. We hope the exchanges initiated during BioFIT will lead to the development of our vaccine and give the pig sector an indispensable tool to fight against this devastating disease that is currently spreading all around the world.”



ANSES (French Agency for Food, Environmental and Occupational Health & Safety) has a network of nine laboratories, located throughout the country, near the related production sectors. The Ploufragan-Plouzané-Niort (PPN) laboratory works more specifically on the health and welfare of production animals including pigs. Within the PPN Laboratory, the Swine Virology and Immunology Unit is interested in various viral infections, including African Swine Fever, for which it is National Reference Lab and as such develops reference and research activities, particularly in the field of vaccinology.

The BioFIT 2021 Animal Health Presentations were sponsored by the French association for the animal healthcare industry (SIMV)



Save the Date: BioFIT 2022

We would be delighted to welcome our attendees, this time in person, to the next edition of BioFIT, on November 29th & 30th, 2022. The 11th edition will be held at the Strasbourg Convention Centre - Palais de la Musique et des Congrès, in the charming city of Strasbourg.

Organisers



Eurasanté - 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 @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 @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 @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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