



MYOCURE

Project reference: 667751

Funded under: [H2020-EU.3.1. - SOCIETAL CHALLENGES - Health, demographic change and well-being](#)

Development of an innovative gene therapy platform to cure rare hereditary muscle disorders

From 2016-01-01 **to** 2019-12-31, ongoing project

Project details

Total cost: EUR 5 998 937,5	Topic(s): PHC-14-2015 - New therapies for rare diseases
EU contribution: EUR 5 998 937,5	Call for proposal: H2020-PHC-2015-two-stage See other projects for this call
Coordinated in: Belgium	Funding scheme: RIA - Research and Innovation action

Objective

The objective of MYOCURE is to develop an innovative gene therapy platform to cure rare hereditary muscle disorders, specifically focusing on myotubular myopathy (MTM) and glycogen storage disorder (GSD) type II. These are attractive diseases for gene therapy since they compromise a diverse family of rare genetic diseases typically caused by single gene defects that often provoke significant morbidity and mortality due to skeletal muscle, cardiac and/or diaphragm dysfunction. There are no effective cures and current treatment is suboptimal. MYOCURE focuses specifically on overcoming the key bottlenecks that hamper muscle-directed gene therapy by (i) boosting gene transfer using muscle-specific adeno-associated viral vectors (AAV) generated de novo by directed molecular evolution (ii) increasing expression by using robust computationally designed muscle-specific promoters that are 400-fold more efficient than the state of the art, allowing the use of lower and thus safer therapeutic vector doses (iii) minimize undesirable immune reactions against the vector, gene-modified muscle cells and therapeutic proteins. The efficacy and safety of this advanced therapy medical product (ATMP) will be validated in preclinical MTM and GSD II animal models. A scalable manufacturing process will be developed for subsequent toxicology studies and an orphan drug designation will be applied for. MYOCURE will consolidate a roadmap towards clinical development and economic valorisation and maximize dissemination to the relevant stakeholders. The outcome of MYOCURE will constitute the basis of a Phase I gene therapy clinical trial in MTM and GSD patients consistent with the IRDiRC objectives to provide 200 therapies for rare disease by 2020. MYOCURE applies to 'PHC14 New Therapies for Rare Diseases' and advances the development of a new therapeutic option for patients suffering from these rare inherited muscle diseases, as well as related preclinical research and animal model development.

Coordinator

VRIJE UNIVERSITEIT BRUSSEL
PLEINLAAN 2
1050 BRUSSEL
Belgium

Belgium

EU contribution: EUR 1 101 370

Participants

UNIVERSITE PIERRE ET MARIE CURIE - PARIS 6
Place Jussieu 4
75252 PARIS
France

France

EU contribution: EUR 555 175

ASSOCIATION GENETHON
RUE DE L INTERNATIONALE 1 BIS
91002 EVRY
France

France

EU contribution: EUR 1 437 162,5

UNIVERSITAETSKLINIKUM HEIDELBERG
IM NEUENHEIMER FELD 672
69120 HEIDELBERG
Germany

Germany

EU contribution: EUR 515 250

UNIVERSITAT AUTONOMA DE BARCELONA
CAMPUS DE LA UAB BELLATERRA
08193 CERDANYOLA BARCELONA
Spain

Spain

EU contribution: EUR 491 730

Huntingdon Life Sciences Ltd
Woolley Road
PE28 4HS Alconbury, Huntingdon
United Kingdom

United Kingdom

EU contribution: EUR 1 156 500

ASPHALION SL
VIA AUGUSTA 59 PLANTA 1 DESPACHO
08006 BARCELONA
Spain

Spain

EU contribution: EUR 275 000

EURICE EUROPEAN RESEARCH AND PROJECT OFFICE GMBH
STUHSATZENHAUSWEG 69
66123 SAARBRUCKEN
Germany

Germany

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