

**PRESS RELEASE**

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**SUCCESSFUL PURSUIT OF PEPTINOV'S  
ACTIVE ANTI-IL-6 IMMUNOTHERAPY PROGRAM**

**Paris, Jan 20th 2016 – PEPTINOV** announces the publication in "Scientific Reports" (Nature Publishing Group) of its article, entitled "*Immunization against an IL-6 peptide induces anti-IL-6 antibodies and modulates the Delayed-Type Hypersensitivity reaction in cynomolgus monkeys*", by Lucille Desallais et al. Dr. Desallais is a Senior Scientist at Peptinov and is heading the development of the company's in-house anti-IL-6 immunotherapy program. Directly available from Scientific Reports' website (<http://www.nature.com/articles/srep19549>), the article describes for the first time ever, the safety, immunogenicity and efficacy proof-of-concept of active anti-IL-6 immunotherapy in non-human primates.

The overproduction of Interleukin-6 (IL-6, a major mediator of the immune system) is involved in the pathogenesis of several chronic inflammatory diseases and has been validated as a relevant therapeutic target for the treatment of diseases such as rheumatoid arthritis and juvenile idiopathic arthritis. Anti-IL-6 product candidates are currently in evaluation against several other indications.

In this article, the safety, immunogenicity and efficacy of Peptinov's innovative anti-IL-6 active immunotherapeutic agent (a bioinformatically-designed peptide derived from the structure of human IL-6 and coupled to an immunogenic carrier protein) was assessed for the first time ever in non-human primates (cynomolgus monkeys). The induction of anti-IL-6 antibodies was observed following iterative immunizations with the anti-IL-6 immunogenic peptide conjugate. Neutralizing anti-IL-6 antibodies were detected and their presence was correlated to the protective effect observed against the skin inflammation induced by DTH (Delayed-Type 1 Hypersensitivity) when comparing immunized monkeys vs. controls. These results further strengthen the already-promising ones observed in mice (Desallais et al., 2014, *Arthritis Res Ther*).

"With the use of an IL-6 peptide sequence strictly identical between humans and cynomolgus monkeys, these very encouraging results may be predictive of a similar outcome in humans and further demonstrate the attractiveness of our approach and technology. We are confident that this important milestone brings us one step closer to the start of clinical development.", said Prof. Jean-François Zagury, Peptinov's Founder and Chief Scientific Officer.

**ABOUT PEPTINOV**

Peptinov is a privately-owned, Paris-based biotech company developing innovative anti-cytokine active immunotherapeutic agents against auto-immune diseases and cancer. The company's most advanced programs include the development of anti-IL-1 and anti-IL-6 immunotherapeutic candidates.

For more information, please visit [www.peptinov.fr](http://www.peptinov.fr)

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