

Huntington's Disease: HuntX Pharma Raises €1.7 Million to Accelerate Preclinical and Clinical Development of Its Drug Candidate HX127

Grenoble, September 19, 2024. HuntX Pharma, a pharmaceutical company, announces a €1.7 million funding round led by Angels Santé, Paris Business Angels, Grenoble Angels, and families of patients affected by Huntington's disease. The company also benefits from the support of BPI France through the France 2030 program.

The funds raised will enable HuntX Pharma to finalize preclinical studies and prepare the regulatory safety study in animals and humans to continue the development of its drug candidate HX127 for the treatment of Huntington's disease, a rare genetic neurodegenerative disorder for which there is currently no curative treatment.

HuntX Pharma: an innovative approach aiming to restore the defective gene without resorting to gene therapy

The result of research by Professor Frédéric Saudou, Director of the Grenoble Institute of Neurosciences from 2013 to 2023 (GIN) and co-founder of HuntX Pharma, the company's first drug candidate, named HX127, aims to restore the altered transport in the brains of patients without using gene therapy. The action mechanism of this molecule has demonstrated its protective, and even curative, effect in several models of neurodegenerative diseases related to axonal transport defects, including Huntington's disease.

"We would like to thank all our investors and financial partners for their support and trust. With these funds, we will finalize preclinical studies for regulatory studies in animals to launch the Phase 1 clinical trial in humans by 2026. Our goal is also to verify the scalability of our strategy in another neurodegenerative disease caused by an axonal transport defect. We aim to provide a therapeutic solution to the 300,000 people concerned by the disease worldwide who currently have no treatment options," said **Laure Jamot, President of HuntX Pharma.**

"We were convinced by the dynamism and complementarity of the duo formed by Laure Jamot and Frédéric Saudou, who are developing a very innovative and unprecedented approach to repairing a gene without resorting to gene therapy," explained **Sophie Manuel of Angels Santé.**

"We were impressed by the quality and complementarity of the co-founders, Laure and Frédéric: experience, competence, creativity, commitment, and ethics. With HuntX Pharma, we are witnessing a groundbreaking therapeutic innovation that changes the game for patients with Huntington's disease, both in terms of quality of life and longevity. Beyond Huntington's, this highly promising biotech offers a platform for treating several other neurological disorders, such as Rett Syndrome and potentially Parkinson's," said **Stéphanie Barreau and Jacques-Etienne Grandjean, lead business angels for HuntX Pharma at PBA.**

"Professor Saudou is a Grenoble native with international renown for his research on Huntington's disease. We are delighted to contribute to the development and realization of his research," concluded **Alexandre Conroy, Business Angel in charge of evaluating HuntX Pharma for Grenoble Angels.**

Huntington's Disease: an autosomal dominant disease with no treatments, characterized by movement disorders and cognitive decline

This condition is characterized by a genetic mutation in the huntingtin protein, disrupting a mechanism essential for proper neuronal function: axonal transport. This process facilitates communication and exchanges between neurons, which are vital for their survival. In Huntington's disease, the transport of a survival factor, Brain-Derived Neurotrophic Factor (BDNF), between the cortex and the striatum is impaired. The striatum, deprived of this factor from the cortex, degenerates and dies.

Huntington's disease is marked by a triad of symptoms, including motor deficits (chorea and loss of coordination), cognitive impairments (difficulty performing complex tasks), and psychiatric disorders such as depression, psychosis, and obsessive-compulsive disorder. The disease progresses over 20 years, with symptoms worsening over time, ranging from moderate disability at the time of clinical diagnosis to patients becoming bedridden in the later stages. It requires increasingly heavy care as the disease progresses.

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About HuntX Pharma

HuntX Pharma, co-founded by Laure Jamot, President, and Frédéric Saudou, Director of the Grenoble Institute of Neurosciences from 2013 to 2023 (GIN), is a pharmaceutical company established in Grenoble in December 2022, supported by SATT Linksium (maturation incubation and shareholder). The company develops molecules for neurological diseases related to axonal transport defects, with the first being HX127 for Huntington's disease. The action mechanism of this molecule has shown protective and even curative effects in several models of this neurodegenerative disease linked to axonal transport defects. A patent filed by the University of Grenoble Alpes has been sublicensed to HuntX Pharma, which is advancing its clinical development with an initial focus on the "Huntington's disease" indication. <https://www.huntxpharma.com>

About Angels Santé

Angels Santé (www.AngelsSante.fr), the leading health-focused Business Angels network in France and Europe, is at the heart of healthcare seed funding. Based in France, Angels Santé is also a key player in Europe as a member of Business Angels Europe (BAE) and the European Business Angels Network (EBAN).

Angels Santé's mission is to:

- Identify innovative French startups offering solutions to major healthcare challenges with high medical and economic value.
- Support their seed funding phase through capital and expertise from its specialists.
- Unite generalist investors around its investment recommendations.

About Paris Business Angels

Paris Business Angels (PBA) is one of the leading business angel networks in France, focused on investing in and supporting early-stage startups. PBA brings together nearly 200 investors passionate about entrepreneurship, who share a common vision: to support the growth of startups in their early development phases. The support provided by members focuses on four key areas:

- Commercial deployment and go-to-market strategy,
- Governance challenges and talent recruitment,
- Industrial scaling (pre-industrialization and industrialization),
- Preparing for international expansion.

Since its inception, PBA has supported, mentored, and financed more than 200 startups across all sectors, with investments exceeding €60 million (first rounds and refinancings). More information at <https://www.parisbusinessangels.com>.

About Grenoble Angels

Grenoble Angels, founded in 2005, is one of the first regional Business Angels associations, bringing together around 100 local investors from the Isère department. Grenoble Angels supports and funds early-stage projects with a philosophy of the 3 Cs: providing Competence, Contacts, and Capital to entrepreneurs and innovative companies in the Grenoble Alpes-Isère region.

Since its creation in 2005, it has:

- Reviewed over 1,000 applications
- Funded or refinanced over 200 companies
- Invested €25 million from Grenoble Angels members.

In 2024, Grenoble Angels:

- Received 238 projects
- Studied 52 projects
- Funded or refinanced 13 projects
- €900K directly invested by Grenoble Angels members

Learn more at www.grenoble-angels.com

Follow Grenoble Angels news at www.linkedin.com/company/grenobleangels

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About Linksium, SATT Grenoble Alpes

Linksium is the technology transfer acceleration company (SATT) for Grenoble Alpes research laboratories. Linksium favors the creation of startups, which become vectors for technology transfer. Linksium is part of a network of 13 French SATTs specialized in the upstream phases of technological innovation projects. Linksium is a private company with public capital, supported by the French government via the Programme d'Investissements d'Avenir (PIA), the Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes Region and Europe (FEDER), and whose shareholders are Bpifrance, CEA, CNRS, Grenoble INP-UGA, INRIA, UGA, USMB. Since 2015, with €55M invested, Linksium has supported 218 deeptech projects, developed 172 patents and enabled the creation of 84 startups. For further information:

www.linksium.fr
