



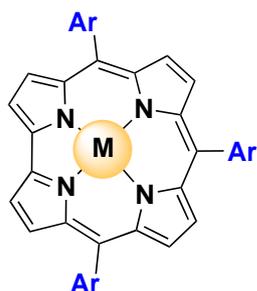
Press release - Toulouse, November 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2019.

**Long-term collaboration on new generation antivirals  
between NeoVirTech and French TTO SAYENS**

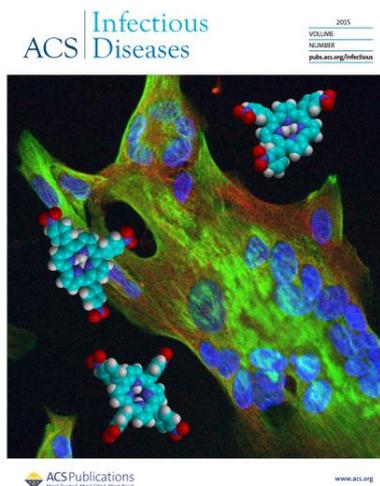
NeoVirTech announces its collaboration with the French Technology Transfer Accelerator Office SAYENS to develop and optimize a new generation of broad-spectrum antivirals for human and animal health.

*Origin of the project*

This project begins with the discovery of nitrocorroles as anti-herpes molecule in a first screening campaign in collaboration between NeoVirTech and ICMUB (UMR CNRS 6302, uB, Dijon), highlighted by the July 2015 ACS Infectious Disease cover. These compounds are commonly used as ligands for metal complexes but never for their potential anti-viral properties. First generation compounds displayed promising antiviral activity *in vitro*.



**Corroles**  
M = 3H or metal



*An agreement to foster innovation*

SAYENS, a French Technology Transfer Accelerator Office is dedicated to detect and invest into the best research project for potential industrialization ; and NeoVirTech, a French biotechnology company focusing its activity on antiviral discovery and virus/viral vector imaging, now enter into an agreement to develop second and third generation antiviral compounds. Backed by the Chemistry Group of Prof. C. P. Gros from ICMUB and the Medicinal/Pharmaceutical school (uB), this collaboration already led to the generation of more

than 200 variants and optimized antivirals with new mechanism of action, nM activity with selectivity indexes over 500. Optimized compounds did not display any toxicity in vivo and are active on a large variety of dsDNA viruses, leading to 2 international patents fillings. Optimized variants are not only highly potent, they are also very simple to synthesize with a “one to two step” reaction. Upscaling is therefore made easier. On a multibillion-dollar market such as the infectious disease market, new molecules offer a promising return on investment.

*“We are very proud to be involved in this project that will lead to the generation of new antiviral compounds that have broad spectrum activity, which are still lacking in the field. With current outbreaks of several viruses impacting human and animal health, such as Ebola and African Swine Fever respectively, there is an urgent need to develop new antivirals with innovative mechanism of action. NeoVirTech engage its expertise to achieve this goal.”*

Franck Gallardo, CEO NeoVirTech SAS

*“We have decided to engage a significant investment in this project based on its future economic potential and high value for human and animal health. Working with an expert in antiviral evaluation, such as NeoVirTech, insure us the suitable way to develop our technology with best chances of success.”*

Catherine Guillemin, CEO of SAYENS

## **About NeoVirTech**



NeoVirTech develops autofluorescent viruses and viral vectors for imaging and discovery of novel antiviral drug candidates in the fields of human health and biodefense. The company has a catalog of viruses and fluorescent vectors in constant extension and offers access to its proprietary ANCHOR™ technology, the only non-invasive technique to detect DNA dynamics inside living cells.

For more information: [www.neovirtech.com](http://www.neovirtech.com) - Press contact: [contact@neovirtech.com](mailto:contact@neovirtech.com)

## **About SAYENS**



SAYENS, one of the 13 French Technology Transfer Accelerator Offices (SATT), is a company founded by the 8 major academic institutions (universities and research organizations) from Burgundy Franche-Comté, Lorraine and South Champagne-Ardenne (Troyes) area. Its mission is to improve the socio-economic impact of academic research results by improving, accelerating and fostering technology transfer from public research to companies and start-ups.

**Since 2014** : 327 IP assets in portfolio, 626 projects analysed, 355 projects in pipeline, 19,9 M€ invested in 102 projects, 18 start-ups engaged in transfer programs, 8 start-ups created, 54 running licenses, 1,6 M€ licensing revenue, 5 M€ R&D and partnerships income

La SATT SAYENS is an affiliate of Burgundy University, Franche Comté University, Lorraine University, University of Technologie of Troyes, AgroSup Dijon, University of Technologie Belfort-Montbéliard, ENSMM, CNRS, INSERM, French Government.

For more information: [www.sayens.fr](http://www.sayens.fr)

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### **About ICMUB**



The Dijon's Research Team "Polyamine, Porphyrins, Development & Applications" of the Institute of Molecular Chemistry of the University of Burgundy (P2DA, ICMUB, UMR CNRS 6302) is worldwide recognized in the field of porphyrin, corrole and polyazamacrocycle (DOTA, NOTA) chemistry with over 25 years of know-how. The group develops innovative molecular tools, in particular for health application (diagnostic and/or therapeutic agents).

For more information: <http://www.icmub.com/en/team/p2da-team-polyamines-porphyrins-developments-and-applications.html>