

## Press Release

### **OCR and ImaBiotech initiate a strategic partnership to provide *in situ* drug efficacy and target exposure services in Pets with naturally occurring tumors**

**Lille, 17<sup>th</sup> January 2019** – OCR and ImaBiotech have announced the launch of a new preclinical service for Biotech-Pharma-MedTech companies that allows drug efficacy and target exposure services at cellular level using Pets with naturally occurring tumors. This new innovative service consists of a joint effort between OCR, which has developed a unique mastery in recruiting dog and cat patients suffering from spontaneous tumors across Europe, and ImaBiotech, a world recognized expert in the measurement of drug efficacy and toxicity across all stages of drug development; from candidate selection, across preclinical studies, and through clinical trials. This ambitious translational strategic partnership has the double objective of confirming drug localization and pharmacological effects based on bioanalytical imaging platforms to a new pre-human living organism – dog with cancer – which has not yet been done at the industrial level, and providing Biotech-Pharma-MedTech access to highly predictive data for human cancer through a so-called “comparative oncology” approach.

The cooperative research services will combine complementary quantitative mass spectrometry imaging, veterinary, biology, and pharmacology expertise in order to advance late preclinical stage drug candidates for the treatment of human cancer.

Dr. David Bonnel, Executive Director at ImaBiotech (France), commented, “*We are convinced of the remarkable similarities between the emergence, development, treatment options, and more importantly, responses to therapies for tumours that occur in humans and pets. Combined with our scientific platforms, treated pets with naturally occurring tumors will allow to fast-track innovative human treatments in Oncology and Immuno-Oncology in addition to our current early preclinical and clinical offers.*”

Dr. Dominique Tierny, CEO of OCR, is committed to promoting the duality of human and ethical pet oncology research, “*OCR is proud to increase its research capability and to convince a key influencer in quantitative mass spectrometry imaging as ImaBiotech working within the comparative oncology space. We continue to be at the forefront of human and veterinary interdisciplinary cooperation in our battle against cancer and hope that this project will further highlight the unimagined benefits of combining the two.*”

This project will reinforce OCR's research capabilities in the area of comparative medicine and will address the unmet pharmacological assessment needs from Biotech-Pharma-MedTech, widening its "pre-human" offering that aims to derisk and foster the human drug development process in oncology.

#### **About OCR:**

Founded in 2011 by Dr. Dominique Tierny, OCR is a CRO based in Eurasanté, Lille, France and employs 15 people. Unique in Europe, OCR aims to accelerate the development of new human and pet treatments for serious chronic diseases by addressing the unmet need of providing access to highly predictive living organisms via their ethical clinical studies in pets. OCR works with pharmaceutical partners for the cost-effective design and management of in vitro, pre-clinical and clinical trials in dogs and cats. This innovative approach helps to advance the R&D process for new drug candidates and medical devices for humans in a variety of therapeutic areas including oncology, cardiology, neurology and inflammation. OCR has signed numerous collaborations with Biotech-Pharma-MedTech players focused on Human health, as well as Vet players.

To learn more about OCR:

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#### **About ImaBiotech:**

ImaBiotech is a Contract Research Organization (CRO) with facilities in Boston (MA, USA) and Lille (Eurasanté Parc, France). The company offers innovative services and software to the pharmaceutical research sector, providing highly *in vivo* informative drug efficacy and toxicity evaluations during preclinical and clinical stage developments at cellular level, making better and safer drugs.

Services are based on histology combined to label free molecular imaging (Quantitative Mass Spectrometry Imaging, QMSI) a technology developed and constantly improved by ImaBiotech. QMSI is a game changer for the pharmaceutical industry in all therapeutic areas. While other techniques provide global information, this molecular technique provides a deeper understanding of a drugs localization and its pharmacological effects at cellular level. This improves the interpretation of drug efficacy and toxicity, resulting in better drugs and decreasing time-to-market.

To learn more about ImaBiotech:

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