



**Montpellier, May 15<sup>th</sup>, 2015. First-in-human phase I study for SurgiMab's molecule SGM-101 launched in Montpellier Cancer Institute.**

SurgiMab, a French company founded in 2011 in Montpellier, is developing antibody-fluorochrome conjugates as *in vivo* diagnostic agents in oncology. *"Today we are pleased to announce that Montpellier Cancer Institute (ICM) has started patient inclusion in a phase I clinical trial for our most-advanced product, SGM-101."*

SGM-101 is a fluorescent conjugate comprised of a tumor-specific monoclonal antibody and a near-infrared emitting fluorochrome. With this molecule the goal is to provide oncology surgeons with an intraoperative imaging tool that will allow them to visualize tumors overexpressing carcinoembryonic antigen - colorectal, gastric, pancreatic, non-small cell lung and breast carcinomas for example. As a first indication, SGM-101 is being tested for the real-time visualization of infra-clinical size tumors during the surgical resection of peritoneal carcinomatosis originating from digestive malignancies.

The primary objective of this study is to evaluate the safety of SGM-101 in patients suffering from peritoneal carcinomatosis and determine the recommended dose for the phase II clinical trials that should follow.

Among the exploratory objectives, however, is the assessment of the feasibility of detection of neoplastic lesions for patients with peritoneal carcinomatosis from digestive cancer.

Currently surgeons rely on visual appearance and palpation to discriminate between tumor and normal tissue, which may lead to incomplete resection of malignant tissue or unnecessary removal of healthy tissue. Since complete resection is a crucial factor in the prognosis of a patient, intraoperative imaging technologies are currently studied leading to the development of real-time image-guided surgery. SGM-101 should allow surgeons to visualize tumors in patients in order to more effectively delineate surgical margins and detect microscopic tumors to improve long-term outcomes. Thanks to its capacity to target several tumor types, SGM-101 should improve patient care in a variety of cancer pathologies among which colorectal, pancreas or gastric cancers.

### **About SurgiMab**

SurgiMab was created in July 2011 by a team of four comprising an oncology surgeon from Montpellier Cancer Institute (ICM) and a research director in INSERM, specialized in therapeutic antibodies, together with two executive Biotech specialists.

The imaging technology developed by the company is a diagnostic technique. It will however influence surgeons' interventions and will thus directly contribute to the improvement of the vital prognosis of patients. This approach introduces a therapeutic dimension within the current strategies for early detection of cancers.

The company is currently raising money to accelerate the clinical development of SGM-101 both in Europe and in the US, and carry its second Lead to the clinic.

### **About Montpellier Cancer Institute**

Montpellier Cancer Institute (ICM) is a member of the Unicancer network, that federates the 18 French Comprehensive Cancer Centers (FCCC) devoted to fighting cancer with missions of patient care, research and teaching.

Within ICM, the center for early clinical phase trials, labeled by the French National Cancer Institute (INCa) constitutes a platform of phase I and II clinical trials for all types of adult tumors. With around 140 clinical trials in several domains, and close to 990 new patients included in 2014, ICM is one of the major French actors of oncology clinical research.

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