

# Stimunity Reaches Major Milestone and Secures Next Round of Financing

**Paris, February 2019 – Stimunity, the Paris-based cancer immunotherapy company focused on STING, is pleased to announce that the company has reached a major milestone in its preclinical development plan and secures additional €600k from Portage Biotech, Inc. to start the manufacturing of its biologic cGAMP-VLP (STI-001) lead compound.**

Stimunity's first stage of the preclinical development plan was to unlock the mechanism of action of its main biological drug cGAMP-VLP (STI-001) and to reveal its therapeutic potential in comparison to competitors that are only focused on chemical approaches. STI-001 by its biologic nature shows a clear benefit for treating distant tumors in combination with immune checkpoint therapy whereas this effect was not comparable with competitor's compound. « We are very happy about this new preclinical result as it clearly demonstrates the superiority of the biological approach over chemical approaches on the STING pathway. STI-001 leads to a more potent T-cell response against the tumor, and this translates into a higher therapeutic benefit on distant tumors, which is important as we aim to treat patients with advanced cancer and metastasis » says Sylvain Carlioz, CEO.

Achievement of this important step comes with the release of the next round of financing that will be dedicated to finish the preclinical package plus to complete the process development and scale-up of STI-001. Dr Ian Walters, chairman of the board representing Portage biotech Inc. commented "we are extremely impressed with the progress that the Stimunity team has made and are looking forward to seeing what they can achieve in the clinic." Stimunity is also pleased to welcome Robert Kramer, PhD as scientific advisor. « I am delighted to join Stimunity as it has discovered a breakthrough technology, differentiated from competition, and is based on top-tier science from the Curie Institute in France. STING is a fascinating new therapeutic target for which I will bring my background of R&D at big pharma » added Dr. Kramer. He is the CSO of SalvaRx a biotech company focused in immuno-oncology, and he was previously the head of Cancer Discovery Research at BMS where he championed the acquisition of Medarex in order to acquire their immuno-oncology portfolio which comprised Ipilimumab and Nivolumab and other novel antibodies. He also held a similar position leading cancer drug discovery research at Janssen. In total, he supervised the development of 35 drugs from discovery to the clinic.

In the same time, Stimunity secures a €50k non-dilutive financing from Paris Île-de-France "Innov'up Développement" to help advancing on its second generation of drug STI-002 based on cGAMP-VLP technology.

## About Portage Biotech



Portage Biotech, Inc. is a pharmaceutical company that identifies, finances, and develops best-in-class or first-in-class early-to-mid stage products. Portage chooses products with established scientific rationales and augments a company's existing management teams. Portage creates much of its value by developing pre-proof of concept assets through proof of concept (POC).

Through Management's extensive experience within Pharma, Portage is able to access a broad network of drug development professionals who through experience can determine the optimum development pathway for each compound, skewing the Portage's risk/reward profile. Management have over 80 combined years of experience in biotech, have overseen the development of 5 separate billion-dollar drugs, have built multiple companies valued in excess of 10 billion dollars, have taken 4 companies public, and have executed numerous multi-million-dollar licenses with Big Pharma.

Most recently Portage has acquired SalvaRx limited which has made investments in and helped form six immuno-oncology companies which are developing nine products. SalvaRx was formed by ex-Bristol Myers Squibb executives with extensive experience in the development and commercialization of immunotherapy.

For more information, visit <http://www.portagebiotech.com>.

## About "Innov'up Developpement"



"Innov'up Developpement" is a specific financial grant from the region Paris Ile-de-France to support innovative companies from bench to commercialization. This grant will support experimental validation and will finance up to 50% of the R&D expenses.

More information at <https://www.bpifrance.fr/Toutes-nos-solutions/Prets/Prets-regionaux/INNOV-up>

## About Stimunity



Stimunity is an early-stage research and development company focused on the development of STING agonists in cancer. The technology, licensed from Institut Curie, Inserm, and University of Oxford, is based on a unique biologic approach which combines the endogenous STING activator encapsulated into a Virus-Like Particle (VLP). Stimunity's drug is best-in-class, and activates the innate immune system, enhances T-cell response against tumor cells.

More information at <https://stimunity.com> or [contact@stimunity.com](mailto:contact@stimunity.com).