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PRESS RELEASE
COMMUNIQUÉ DE PRESSE

BIOASTER and FUNPEP are signing a strategic agreement to optimize an *in vitro* assay to induce a human B cell immune response to FUNPEP leading candidates.

BIOASTER, a French Technology Research Institute dedicated to microbiology and infectious diseases, and FUNPEP, a Japanese biotech dedicated to antibody-inducing peptides (therapeutic vaccines), are pleased to announce the signing of a master agreement to collaborate on optimizing an *in vitro* assay for antibody production against FUNPEP therapeutic vaccines. This partnership will leverage BIOASTER's expertise in developing and transferring assays to partners to support the evaluation of vaccine candidates.

In the development of FUNPEP's antibody-inducing peptides (therapeutic vaccines), predicting antibody production in humans at the *in vitro* stage is the key to success.

This strategic alliance marks a significant step in the evaluation of antibody functionality by combining BIOASTER's state-of-the-art technology and specialized knowledge in vaccine & immunology with FUNPEP's proprietary antigen design. This collaboration aims to predict the immune response to FUNPEP's products in various individuals with different HLA molecules. In addition, it will pave the way toward novel therapeutic vaccines based on FUNPEP innovation on antibody-inducing peptides, providing therapeutic solutions for inflammatory and allergic diseases.

The collaborative project under this framework agreement is expected to begin immediately, with both organizations investing resources and expertise toward achieving shared goals in immunology & therapeutic vaccines.

*"We are thrilled to partner with FUNPEP to help them evaluating and selecting their best candidates to be tested in the clinic by improving a pivotal assay required in their product development," said **Xavier Morge, CEO of BIOASTER.** "It is an opportunity to work with a dynamic company working in the field of therapeutic vaccines.*

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Toshimi Miyoshi, FUNPEP's founder and CEO added:

"We are honored to be able to conduct joint research with BIOASTER, an institute with extensive knowledge and technology in vaccines and immunology. Through this joint research, we believe to achieve effective and efficient screening of therapeutic vaccines."

About BIOASTER

Created in 2012, BIOASTER is a Technology Research Institute, a not-for-profit foundation, developing a unique technological and innovative model to support the latest challenges in microbiology, vaccine & immunology. BIOASTER uses and develops high value technological innovations that accelerate the development of medical solutions for populations and for personalized medicine.

The aim of BIOASTER is to work on collaborative projects with international academic & industrial companies and to develop & improve innovative technologies for the health industry.

Key figures:

- 4 fields of expertise: antimicrobials, diagnostics, microbiota, vaccines
- BSL2 & BSL3 laboratories in Lyon and Paris
- 100+ employees, including 80% of scientific experts, 17 nationalities
- 400+ research contracts, involving 107 private partners, 54 public partners. 13 Grants & European projects.

www.bioaster.org

About FUNPEP

FUNPEP is a public (TYO: 4881) Japanese, late clinical-stage therapeutics company that has developed a functional peptide and antibody-inducing peptide platform. Antibody-inducing peptides are therapeutic vaccines for chronic diseases, including inflammatory and allergic diseases.

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