

## **Cellaïon SA announces the arrival of Walid Abi-Saab in its Board of Directors, the hiring of Griet Goddemaer to lead clinical development and the green light from the DSMB for the continuation of ACLF- Dheliver Clinical trial.**

**Mont-Saint-Guibert, Belgium, 2023/05/25:** Cellaïon is a biotechnology company based in Mont-St-Guibert, active in the field of liver regenerative advanced therapy, an area of excellence in the life sciences industry in Wallonia. Its flagship product HepaStem®, in advanced clinical development, targets severe liver diseases, and in particular Acute on Chronic Liver Failure (ACLF)<sup>1</sup>.

Dr Walid Abi-Saab has joined the board of Cellaïon as Independent Director. Dr Abi-Saab has more than 20 years of Pharmaceutical R&D experience in medium and large size companies such as Pfizer, AbbVie, Novartis, Shire and as Chief Medical Officer at Galapagos.

"We are very proud to welcome Walid in our Board. The medical and scientific expertise of Walid's and his broad knowledge and experience in drug development up to market is a key extension of our Board to successfully bring Cellaïon to the next stage of an international liver company" says Dr Philippe Pouletty, Chairman of the Board of Director.

Dr Walid Abi-Saab said "Cellaïon is a great company working to address a serious unmet medical need. I have been impressed by the great science and the quality of the medical and clinical development; I believe HepaStem® promises to be the first in class approved advanced therapy in liver regenerative medicine".

Prof Etienne Sokal, Hepatologist, founder, CEO of Cellaïon and Vice-Chairman of the Board added " I am very enthusiast to work in close hands with Walid on the current strategy but also on the future plans for HepaStem®, as a platform therapy able to bring innovative solutions for a broad spectrum of inflammatory liver diseases".

Cellaïon also announces the appointment of Griet Goddemaer as Vice President of Clinical Development. Following the completion of the ongoing phase IIB Proof of concept for which conditional approval is expected, Griet Goddemaer will prepare the company for the advanced clinical stage development including phase III and post marketing studies in EU and North and South America.

Griet has 30 years of drug development experience in pharmaceutical and CRO companies (Covance), holding various operational and leadership functions such as Clinical Operations, Global Regulatory Affairs, Global Clinical and Ancillary Supplies and Clinical Trial start-up.

"It's great to welcome Griet ! Griet will bring our already solid team her executive expertise from a large international organization to develop further HepaStem® following the completion of the ongoing Dheliver Phase IIB trial, and bring this life saving therapy to the market for patients in need" says Prof Etienne Sokal.

"I am very excited to be part of the Cellaïon team in the development of HepaStem®, aspiring to provide a solution for patients with an unmet medical need. It is very inspiring to see the drive

for quality, powered by science and passion!" says Griet Goddemaer, Vice President Clinical Development.

Cellaïon is also delighted to announce that following the randomization and completion of the study of the first fifty patients in the phase IIB clinical study Dheliver in Acute on Chronic Liver Failure (ACLF), the Data and Safety Monitoring Board (DSMB) has evaluated positively the safety of HepaStem® and gave Cellaïon the green light to pursue the clinical trial as designed. "The safety package of HepaStem® is becoming stronger and stronger, and we look forward to demonstrate with Dheliver the life saving benefit of HepaStem® in ACLF patients" says Etienne Sokal.

#### **\*1 About ACLF**

ACLF is an acute hepatic failure leading secondarily to multi-system failure (i.e., other organs such as kidneys, heart, brain, lungs). Mortality exceeds 50% in the short term. HepaStem® brings hope to counter this hyper-inflammatory condition and to significantly improve the survival of these patients. There is currently no therapeutic alternative, and emergency liver transplantation remains largely inaccessible for these patients.

#### **About Cellaïon SA and HepaStem®**

Cellaïon is a Biotechnology company created in March 2021 and established in the Walloon biotechnological valley of cell therapy, in Mont-St-Guibert, Belgium.

Cellaïon develops cellular therapy using the anti-inflammatory and regenerative signaling properties of liver stem cells.

Its technology is protected by a wide range of patents resulting from academic research at UCLouvain (Louvain-La-Neuve, Belgium) and its own research and development.

The leading indication, namely multi-organ failures that complicate the loss of liver function - Acute on Chronic Liver Failure - ACLF - is a fatal disease for which no treatment is currently available.

HepaStem® acts directly on the cells making up the inflammatory reaction and on the signaling pathways of hepatic regeneration. By restoring liver function, secondary failures of other organs also recover their functional capacity.

The company is in advanced clinical development after successfully passing safety studies. More than one hundred patients have already received HepaStem®. Cellaïon has developed a manufacturing method allowing HepaStem® to be administered by a simple intravenous infusion with perfect tolerance.

The capital of Cellaïon SA is held by Fund+, Sofipôle, Wallonie Entreprendre, Truffle Capital, Newton Biocapital, Invest BW, 6K Venture Capital as well as by Belgian and German private Shareholders.

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