# Aqemia raises €1M with Elaia to develop its groundbreaking molecule matching solution for drug discovery

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## Under embargo until 10/17 at 6 o'clock

**Paris, October 17th, 2019 - Aqemia**, the deep tech start-up willing to disrupt drug discovery, has just closed a pre-seed round of €1 million led by Elaia.

Sacha Loiseau, Ph.D., Venture Partner at Elaia declares: _"Aqemia's technology to predict affinity between drug candidates and therapeutic targets has the clear potential to change the drug discovery paradigm and to thus have a major impact on the success rate of the entire drug development process. This is in strong adequation with Elaia's strategy for the PSL Innovation Fund to invest in early-stage companies with disruptive technologies. We're excited to be the first investor backing Aqemia and look forward to what lies ahead."_

Maximilien Levesque, Ph.D., Chief Executive Officer of Aqemia adds: _"We're very excited to close this first financing round led by Elaia. It supports our ambitious objective of spinning off the academic lab, recruiting a world-class team to build upon Aqemia's deeptech asset, and above all proving our value: hunting molecules for the pharmaceutical industry with unprecedented accuracy and speed."_

### From fundamental research to entrepreneurship

Aqemia's core technology stems from 8 years of fundamental academic research within the team of Maximilien Levesque - Aqemia's CEO - at École normale supérieure – PSL. It has been developed by a multidisciplinary team at the crossroads of theoretical chemistry, physics, and mathematics. The proprietary technology is licensed worldwide to Aqemia by University PSL, on behalf of ENS - PSL and the other co-owners

Anne Boutin, Ph.D., Director of the Chemistry Department at ENS —- PSL concludes: _"It's always exciting when state of the art fundamental research conducted in the chemistry department of ENS - PSL leads to disruptive technology. Aqemia, thanks to PSL and Elaia's Deep Tech PSL Fund, has the clear potential to revolutionize the way new drugs are discovered."_

### A conceptual breakthrough

Aqemia's technology addresses a key challenge in a huge **$60b drug discovery market**: identifying the best drug candidates for a given target amongst millions of compounds. Aqemia's core software solution predicts with high accuracy the affinity between a pharmaceutical target and a molecule, which is critical to anticipate its potential efficacy on a disease. The most accurate software methods on the market require up to a week to predict one drug-target affinity, while Aqemia needs minutes.

With this first financing round, Aqemia is looking to recruit a world-class team of in silico-drug hunters, software developers and experts in generative artificial intelligence.

**We're looking for our very first team members. Do you enjoy being challenged on topics that matter? Do you wish to join a learning-centered and ambitious team? Drop us an email: : welcome@aqemia.com**

## About Aqemia

Aqemia aims at discovering new molecules for the pharmaceutical industry based on a software leveraging disruptive theories and algorithms from fundamental academic research. Aqemia's DNA is intimately multidisciplinary, with scientific and business roots. Funded in early 2019, Aqemia raised 1M in pre-seed in July 2019 and is now building its team to disrupt drug discovery. Learn more at aqemia.com

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