

## **Modulate and secure cellular therapies: a €2 million fundraising for Honing Biosciences**

**Embargoed until July 7th at 8 CET**

**Honing Biosciences, spin-off from Institut Curie, secures €2 million in financing from Elaia, a private investor and BPI France. The funds will accelerate the development of the company's proprietary cell therapy technology and initiate new areas of development. The funding will also help strengthen the team for the development of pre-clinical models.**

**Paris, July 7th, 2020 - Honing Biosciences**, spin-off from Institut Curie created in 2018, develops technologies to regulate protein transport in drug-cells in order to optimize their efficacy and reduce their potential toxicity, has secured €2 million in funding from Elaia, a private investor and BPI France.

Based on the work of Dr. Franck Perez's laboratory, CNRS Research Director and Director of Joint Research Unit 144 "Cell Biology and Cancer" (Institut Curie, CNRS, Sorbonne University), Honing Biosciences has been developing since 2018 a technological platform to control the intensity of a treatment using therapeutic cells. Honing Biosciences is positioning itself in the field of CAR-T cell immunotherapy for cancer treatment, by allowing precise control of these powerful therapeutic treatments by the simple addition of controlled doses of a specific vitamin to the patient's diet. This system should make it possible to limit the toxicity of CAR-T treatments but also to enhance their potential.

### **An innovative technology for modulating intracellular traffic**

More broadly, Honing Biosciences offers a technology for modulating intracellular traffic which is at the heart of many cell-based therapeutic treatments.

*"Intrinsically, our technology can be adapted to many other pathologies related to metabolism or neurodegeneration. Whenever a cell needs to secrete a particular protein or hormone, our technology can be applied."* explains Franck Perez, co-founder and chief scientist of Honing.

*"Securing this funding two years after the creation of the company is a real satisfaction for the work accomplished, and a decisive step forward in the development of the technology. This would not have been possible without the French Tech Seed label obtained through the PSL Tech Seed consortium in which participates Institut Curie, the funding mobilized through Carnot Curie Cancer, the iLAB label and the dynamism of PSL University with the establishment of the PSL*



*Innovation Fund managed by Elaia. As the patents (co-owned by Institut Curie, CNRS and INSERM) are under exclusive license to Honing Biosciences, the company will pursue its development plan with confidence."* adds Amaury Martin, Director of Valorization and Industrial Partnerships at Institut Curie and Director of Carnot Curie Cancer.

*"The innovative strategies developed by Honing have impressive potential and could make it possible to modulate a large number of cell therapies. We are very pleased to join this young company and support its development in France and internationally. PSL Innovation Fund, seed fund created in partnership with the PSL University, is precisely designed to support this type of young hyper-technological deep tech start-ups stemming from a very high level of academic know-how."* says Franck Lescure, partner at Elaia.

*"This significant investment will enable Honing Biosciences to strengthen its technologies and intellectual property and to start studies on the application of its regulation technique to other types of cell therapies. In addition to the development of our own products, our ambition is to offer our technological platform to partners, whether academic, start-up or pharmaceutical, who need to modulate their own therapies."* concludes Abdelkader Bousabaa, President of Honing Biosciences.

### **About Elaia**

Elaia is a European top-tier VC firm with a strong tech DNA. We back tech disruptors with global ambition from early stage to growth development. For the past 17 years, our commitment has been to deliver high performance with values.

We are proud to have been an active partner in over 70 startups including success stories such as Criteo (Nasdaq), Orchestra Networks (acquired by Tibco), Sigfox, Teads (acquired by Altice), Mirakl and Shift Technology.

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### **About Institut Curie**

Institut Curie, France's leading cancer center, combines an internationally-renowned research center with a cutting-edge hospital group that treats all types of cancer, including the rarest. Founded in 1909 by Marie Curie, Institut Curie employs 3,500 researchers, physicians, and health professionals across three sites (Paris, Saint-Cloud, and Orsay), working on its three missions: treatment, research, and teaching. A private foundation with public utility status, Institut Curie is authorized to receive donations and legacies, and thanks to the support of its donors, is able to make discoveries more quickly, improving treatments and quality of life for patients.

To find out more : [curie.fr](http://curie.fr)

### **About Honing Biosciences**

Honing Biosciences is a young start-up company based on the development of modulation systems for cellular therapies. Honing's ambition is to develop its own products for immunotherapy of cancers and other pathologies, but also to become a major player in bringing an additional level of regulation to cell therapies in order to enhance their potential and limit their toxicity.

To find out more : [www.honing-biosciences.com](http://www.honing-biosciences.com)

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