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## Press release

### Erganeo signs a license agreement with Evora Biosciences, a pioneer in next-generation cellular therapies



*On Friday 13 March, Erganeo and start-up Evora Biosciences signed a world-exclusive license agreement for a new-generation digestive fistula cellular therapy treatment.*

**evora**  
BIOSCIENCES

*Hadrien Lanvin, CEO of Evora Biosciences, and Naceur Tounekti, Vice-President of Erganeo*

#### **A condition with serious consequences, and complex cases that are inadequately treated**

An estimated 1.2 million people across Europe and the United States suffer from digestive fistulas. A fistula is a physical anomaly in which two cavities inside the body interact abnormally. Digestive fistulas, more specifically, refer to interaction between the digestive tract and another organ and/or the skin. These frequently occur in people with auto-immune diseases such as Crohn's disease, or in patients that have undergone digestive system surgery, such as those carried out as a result of obesity or cancer. Each patient's initial state frequently impacts on a situation that is complex enough as it is.

Once diagnosed, this condition requires fast treatment, particularly as secondary complications have serious consequences on patients' quality of life (pain, tiredness, malnutrition, multiple devices). In the most complex cases, patients' long-term quality of life can ultimately be affected. In addition, the surgical and treatment options open to medical practitioners carry high failure rates and significant associated risks.

#### **Evora Biosciences and the next generation of cellular therapies**

The cellular therapy treatment currently available is based on stem cell injections. Founded in March 2020, Evora Biosciences now offers a new approach. Using their technique, stem cells are no longer injected but are instead used to produce extracellular vesicles, also known as exosomes, which facilitate intercellular communication and regenerate damaged tissue in a similar way to the stem cells

that produce them. These extracellular vesicles are incorporated in an occlusive gel that is injected into the fistula.

Using extracellular vesicles will make it possible to overcome part of the risk associated with the administration of stem cells. Evora Biosciences also intends to replicate the effects of traditional cellular therapy by reducing patient risk while offering a simplified logistical model that is compatible with wide-scale production.

This technology was developed at the Matière et Systèmes Complexes laboratory (UMR 7057) by a number of researchers from the Université de Paris, APHP, CNRS, and Inserm laboratories: Amanda Silva Brun, Gabriel Rahmi, Florence Gazeau, Claire Wilhelm, Christophe Cellier and Olivier Clement. Erganeo is responsible for managing the patent, which covers the use of an extracellular vesicle gel to treat digestive fistulas and was registered in 2017.

Suat Topsis, CEO of Erganeo, is delighted with this new license agreement: *“Erganeo is proud to be assisting with the emergence of this new generation of cellular therapy aimed at reducing complexity of use for medical personnel as well as patient risk”.*

Hadrien Lanvin, CEO of Evora Biosciences, explains that *“signing this license marks a first step in shifting towards treatment that will be a game-changer for many patients’ lives. For Evora Biosciences, this is also the first stage in the journey towards developing next-generation cellular therapies.”*

#### **About Erganeo** – [www.erganeo.com](http://www.erganeo.com)

Erganeo is an investment fund that specialises in breakthrough innovations (Deep Tech) with major societal impact. We invest early in the game to secure researchers’ newest inventions before they are transferred to companies or before start-ups are founded, across a wide range of scientific fields: Biotech, Infotech (telecom, connected objects, big data, AI) and Enertech (new energy, chemistry, materials), among others.

Erganeo aims to accelerate and simplify links between research and industry for the benefit of society. To do so, we finance and accompany the new generation of French researchers and entrepreneurs on the road to international recognition and success.

As a member of the SATT Network, Erganeo draws on the Ile-de-France network in building the foundations of a better tomorrow, tapping into a talent pool of over 20,000 researchers across 350 cutting-edge, leading laboratories. Since it was founded, Erganeo has invested over €29m, thus contributing to the signing of 70 licensing agreements with companies of all sizes, and setting up 16 start-ups.

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#### **About Evora Biosciences** - [www.evorabio.com](http://www.evorabio.com)

Evora Biosciences is a Paris-based biotechnology company specialising in developing cellular therapies that draw on extracellular vesicles’ regenerative properties (e.g. exosomes). Founded by a collective of entrepreneurs, doctors and researchers working with new technologies from the CNRS, Université de Paris, the AP-HP and INSERM, Evora Biosciences is a pioneer in the use of extracellular vesicle therapy treatments.

Evora Biosciences’ focus is therapeutic patents that are underpinned by harnessing disruptive technologies and first in-vivo results for clinical development, particularly via partnerships with cutting-edge clinical and university research centres.

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