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Press release

A new method for anticipating viral mutations.

The start-up Lafame and Erganeo announce the signing of an exclusive licensing agreement for an innovative bioinformatics process in virology, aimed at securing the effectiveness of treatments and vaccines.

RNA viruses — such as hepatitis C, influenza, measles, and Covid-19 — exhibit very high mutation rates, which makes the development and long-term effectiveness of many vaccines highly complex.

To address this challenge, researchers have developed an innovation project designed to predict the evolutionary trajectories of viruses, primarily RNA viruses, in order to identify robust therapeutic regions. The objective is to anticipate mutations that could enable viruses to evade antiviral treatments or vaccines, thereby strengthening the long-term effectiveness of prevention and treatment strategies against viral infections.

Developed at Université Paris Cité and the CNRS, this technology is the result of several years of research conducted by Professor Anne Vanet and her teams. This work led to a patent filing and software registration in 2022, which Erganeo leveraged to carry out the industrial valorization of the project.

This momentum led to the creation, in July 2025, of the start-up Lafame, founded by the project team to ensure the development and industrialization of the technology. The young company, incubated within Paris Biotech Santé, secured several funding awards in 2025 (French Tech Emergence Grant, Paris Innovation Fund, Wilco honorary loans), supporting its initial development phases.

The commercialization of the process is scheduled for 2027. By combining bioinformatics approaches with the analysis of viral evolutionary mechanisms, this method paves the way for the development of more effective therapeutic strategies better adapted to the evolving dynamics of pathogens. *“This innovation illustrates the potential of French academic research to deliver breakthrough solutions to global health challenges. Erganeo’s support in technology transfer has enabled the structuring and acceleration of the industrial development of this technology,”* said Naceur Tounekti, President of Erganeo.

About Erganeo – www.erganeo.com

Erganeo is a French tech transfer company specialises in breakthrough innovations (deep tech) with a 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. Erganeo aims to accelerate and simplify links between research and industry for the benefit of society. To do so, we finance and support 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 €44m, thus contributing to the signing of 130 licensing agreements with companies of all sizes and setting up 37 start-ups.

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About Lafame – www.lafame.com

Lafame is a start-up committed to improving the lives of cancer patients and strengthening population protection against viral threats. By combining robust biological models, AI, and multi-omics data, Lafame helps increase treatment effectiveness, prevent clinical failures, and accelerate access to vaccines. Its mission is to generate a tangible societal impact by making medical innovations more reliable, faster, and more accessible.