



**Ophta Biotech,
A unique collaborative platform in Europe,
dedicated to the Well being
of partially sighted people**

Paris, 2009 February – Four major specialists in ophtalmology have created Ophta Biotech, a collaborative platform bringing together actors from research labs, industry partners, hospitals, universities and patients associations located in Monaco, region Alpes-Maritimes, and Corsica.

Pr. Pierre Gastaud (Nice, CHU), Dr. Claude Claret (Horus Pharma), Dr. Pierre-Paul Elena (Iris Pharma) and Dr. Loïc Lozivit (ophtalmologist, Nice) managed to gather first-rank specialists into a cluster dedicated to the well-being of patients suffering from eyesight pathologies.

The Côte d’Azur - Monaco - Corsica Belt

▪ **A population with a high rate of partially sighted people**

According to CEO Claude Claret, "Ophta Biotech is located in a region whose population is much affected by eyesight pathologies. The area ranks first in Europe as regards ageing people, which explains the historical importance of ophthalmology. Local resources on that matter are fit to the needs induced by the demographic environment. Our aim is to bring together these outstanding resources, to the benefit of patients – most notably they who suffer from Age-Related Macular Degenerescence".

▪ **A historical first rank area in ophthalmology**

Ophta Biotech fits within a friendly framework: local authorities are well aware of the region’s exceptional potential, as exemplified by the Cyclotron in Nice. This Center stands as a spearhead for both fundamental and clinical research in the region. Since 1991, more than 3.500 patients from across Europe, have undergone treatment for choroidal melanoma at the Cyclotron.

▪ **Ophta Biotech: a relevance built on rich local resources**

- 236 ophtalmologists work in the region, in both public hospitals and the private sector.

- 7 research labs are concerned with eyesight pathologies (including CNRS, INSERM, INRIA, Institut de pharmacologie moléculaire...)
- The region is host of a great industry focused on ophthalmology (including Iris Pharma, Horus Pharma, Allergan, AMO, Cooper Vision, Europhtha, Immunosearch, Octalia...)
- Great transport infrastructures make a connection between local rooting and international openness.

Ophta Biotech: a comprehensive approach for eye sight pathologies, one of the 4 priorities in public health in France

According to Dr. Elena, " we have to tackle eye sight diseases in a global way, incorporating all the various dimensions of what affect patients. Psychological traumas associated with severe ocular pathologies, for instance, have to be taken into account."

With its 40 founding members, the Ophta Biotech association is first of all intended to better the patients' well-being. *"Our investment in fundamental research, our requirements in terms of economic efficiency, must not overshadow the main objective of Ophta Biotech: the effective improvement of the patients' every day living conditions",* says Pr. Pierre Gastaud. *"Indeed Ophta Biotech will soon create a House for Low Sight in Nice, where ophthalmologists, orthoptists, psychologists etc., will be able to work together, to the benefit of the patients. And last but not least, Ophta Biotech will conduct epidemiological surveys in ophthalmology in the whole region".*

Local rooting, international reputation

As a collaborative platform with an international scope, Ophta Biotech is a privileged interlocutor for all national actors in ophthalmology, and its future partnership with l'Institut de la Vision in Paris will endow it with a gate into a major international research web.

For more information, please contact

Katia Barcaroli

contact@ophtabiotech.asso.fr

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