



EUROPEAN CENTER FOR TRANSPLANTATION SCIENCES AND IMMUNOTHERAPY

The Nantes University Hospital Institute (*Institut Hospitalo-Universitaire, IHU*) strengthens its medical and scientific management team with creation of the post of Assistant Chief Executive and the appointment of Professor Mohamad Mohty

- ✓ *Professor Mohamad Mohty is an internationally renowned specialist in the field of hematopoietic stem cell allografts*
- ✓ *Project champion Professor Jean-Paul Souillou expects the appointment to strengthen the IHU's growth strategy*

Nantes, France – February 28th, 2011 – The city of Nantes' bid for a **University Hospital Institute** (entitled the "European Center for Transplantation Sciences and Immunotherapy" (TSI-IHU)) has strengthened its medical and scientific management team with the creation of the post of Assistant Chief Executive on the Board of Directors. Professor Mohamad Mohty has been appointed to the post and will work closely with the IHU's project champion (Professor Jean-Paul Souillou) in a field of expertise that closely matches his own, namely stem cell grafts.

As Chief Executive of the future IHU, Professor Souillou expressed his delight with the appointment and confirmed that *"this new post occupied by cell therapy specialist and Board member Professor Mohty will make a positive contribution to the strategic growth of the Nantes IHU project. Mohamad Mohty is known worldwide for his translational research and for his role as manager of the stem cell transplantation programme at Nantes University Medical Centre. He has been heavily involved with the IHU project at Nantes since it began last November. Together, we shall work hard to strengthen our network of partners and ensure that this project has a powerful international component."*

Professor Mohty commented on the appointment by saying *"I am very happy to be working closely with Jean-Paul Souillou and the IHU's scientific team. Our work to build the IHU project at Nantes has already come a long way and has been endorsed by our international partners. We will continue along this track, with the ultimate objective of ensuring that the Nantes IHU has a unique profile, creates jobs and opens its doors to the international scientific community."*

The IHU has thus reinforced its Board of Directors and intends to maintain its high-quality initiatives. The Board comprises Professor Jean-Paul Souillou, Professor Mohamad Mohty, Dr Ignacio Anegón, Professor Gilles Blancho, Professor Magali Giral (the IHU's Director of Biomedical Innovation), Dr Philippe Moullier and Jean-François Balducchi (Chief Executive of the Nantes-based Atlanpole innovation centre and the IHU's Director of Economic Development and Private-Public Partnerships). The IHU also has two preclinical primate facilities - one at the Boisbonne Animal Investigation Centre (coordinated by Dr Moullier and funded by the Nantes National Veterinary School (Oniris), INSERM, AFM and IBISA) and the other within the Large Animal Laboratory at Nantes University Medical Centre/INSERM (coordinated by Professor Blancho)

Professor Mohamad Mohty - a haematologist leading the Nantes University Medical Centre's stem cell transplantation programme

Haematologist Mohammed Mohty is 40 years old and is presently runs the hematopoietic stem cell transplantation programme at Nantes University Medical Centre. He graduated from the Faculty of Medicine at Montpellier University and was awarded a PhD by the University of Marseilles. Professor Mohty then worked at Imperial College London's prestigious haematology department, at Hammersmith Hospital. He currently leads a translational research team at INSERM unit U892 in Nantes, focused on the physiopathology of graft-versus-host reactions and the immunological study of antigen presenting cells in both normal and disease states. Mohammed Mohty sits on several committees for the European Group for Blood and Marrow Transplantation (EBMT), including the Acute Leukaemia Working Party and the Prospective Clinical Trials Committee (based in London). Professor Mohty's role at the EBMT means that the Nantes University Medical Centre enjoys enhanced access to international data and collaborations as part of a network that brings together 528 bone marrow transplant centres across Europe.

Mohammed Mohty is also Associate Editor of the journal *Leukemia* and sits on the editorial board of *Haematologica*. He has so far published 130 original scientific articles in peer-reviewed immunology and haematology journals, including over 80 as first or last author. He published 25 articles in 2009 and as many in 2010. Recently, Professor Mohty was among a small number of European investigators invited by the US National Cancer Institute (NCI) to take part in the "NCI International Workshop on the Biology, Prevention and Treatment of Relapse after Allogeneic Hematopoietic Stem Cell Transplantation". Professor Mohty is also an active member of the American Society of Hematology, the American Society for Clinical Oncology, the American Society for Blood and Marrow Transplantation, the European Haematology Association, the International Society for Experimental Haematology and the European Group for Blood and Marrow Transplantation.

About the Nantes IHU project

The Nantes University, Nantes University Hospital, the Nantes National Veterinary School (Oniris), Nantes urban area and the region Pays de la Loire intend to create a University Hospital Institute (*Institut Hospitalo-Universitaire*, IHU) called the "European Centre for Transplantation Sciences and Immunotherapy". This patient-centered translational research project is focused on curing diseases by the transplantation of organs, cells and genes and by opening up new frontiers in regenerative medicine, with a strong unifying bond: immunology. The TSI-IHU project (led by Professor Jean-Paul Soulillou and involving over 1000 staff) is establishing itself as Europe's leading program in the transplantation sciences, Europe's busiest centre for kidney transplants and leading pancreas transplant centre and one of the most visible places in gene and cell therapy in France (in collaboration with the AFM). The TSI-IHU project combines clinical laboratories (5 joint INSERM and INRA/university units), Nantes National Veterinary School and university groups. For the first time in Europe, TSI-IHU brings together research groups working on not only organ and hematopoietic cell transplantation but also new frontiers in transplantation: allo- and xenogenic cells and "gene drugs". The project envisions the creation of new companies and over 800 highly qualified jobs. Key partnerships have been signed with biotech firms (9 of which were founded within the IHU's boundaries) and leading pharmaceutical groups including the Grimaud group, LFB, Roche and Novartis.

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Partners

