

Dear friends and Protagen collaborators

We hope that you have enjoyed a relaxing Easter break. During the first quarter of 2018 we continued our immuno-oncology (IO) program, with exciting times ahead of us. In further verification studies with the NCT, Heidelberg and its partners, we were able to advance our melanoma program significantly. We have also built on our success with pharma collaborations by gaining repeat business from three clients, demonstrating the quality and importance of our work for therapeutic development programs. The next quarter will see us expanding the IO program to new indications, and also into validation for our irAE and response prediction markers, so stay tuned for more exciting news!



IO network: Gustave Roussy



We are proud to announce that we have added Gustave Roussy, the biggest cancer center in Europe, to our network of highly prestigious strategic Immuno-Oncology partner institutes. Gustave Roussy has numerous ongoing clinical trials in IO with pharma/biotech companies, as well as initiating a number of IO clinical trials themselves. We feel very privileged that Gustave Roussy, NCI and NCT are working with us, and look forward to adding to this unique network.

Conferences and Meetings

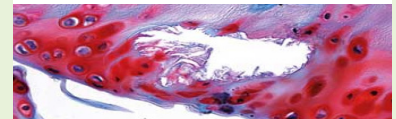


As always, we started the new year by attending the **JP Morgan Conference** in San Francisco, introducing our new IO strategy to investors, pharma/biotech companies and analysts. We also attended the **Lupus conference** in Dusseldorf, Germany, presenting our latest SLE data. In the upcoming quarter we will attend the **CIMT 2018 Annual Meeting** in Mainz and the Annual European Congress of Rheumatology **EULAR** in Amsterdam and look forward to meeting you there!

Corporate news & PR

nature
REVIEWS

RHEUMATOLOGY



A **press release** announcing our strategic collaboration with Gustave Roussy earlier this week represents a further milestone for us in the IO space, and has given us great attention and coverage. We are looking forward to this exciting collaboration. Over the last few years we also participated in the RA-MAP consortium, and are proud that the results were published in **Nature Reviews** with the title 'The RA-MAP Consortium: a working model for academia-industry collaboration'.

Quartely Update

During the first quarter we continued our momentum in IO and confirmed the importance of autoantibodies for irAE prediction and monitoring, as well as for response prediction in various indications. There is also increasing evidence demonstrating the importance of B-cells and

autoantibodies for patient stratification and as biomarkers. In our melanoma-verification study with a network of five institutions led by the NCT, we found biomarkers that are able to predict not only the appearance of irAEs in general, but also certain irAEs arising during checkpoint inhibitor treatment.

This will be a focus for us going forward. The first commercial antigen from our work in autoimmune disease, BICD2, has demonstrated its clinical utility in a Canadian cohort of almost 500 patients with Systemic Sclerosis, which was recently published in **Autoimmune Reviews**.

News

Gustave Roussy and Protagen AG collaborate to improve the risk profiling of cancer patients undergoing immunotherapy

Villejuif, France and Dortmund, Germany – 10th April, 2018 - Protagen AG and Gustave Roussy have today announced the start of a collaboration to utilize Protagen's SeroTag® technology to help identify biomarkers that predict and monitor immune-related adverse events (irAEs) in cancer patients...

[READ MORE](#)

The RA-MAP Consortium: a working model for academia-industry collaboration

Collaboration can be challenging; nevertheless, the emerging successes of large, multi-partner, multi-national cooperatives and research networks in the biomedical sector have sustained the appetite of academics and industry partners for developing and fostering new research consortia.

[READ MORE](#)

Finally
– The largest Easter Egg

Just in case you didn't have enough chocolate over Easter, according to the **Guinness World Records**, the tallest chocolate Easter egg measured 10.39 m in height and was made by Tosca, Italy. It was measured at Le Acciaierie, in Cortenuova on 16 April 2011. The chocolate egg weighed 7,200 kg and had a circumference of 19.6 m at its widest point!

