

## THERANEXUS AND THE COLLEGE DE FRANCE SIGN A RESEARCH AGREEMENT ON ASTROCYTE-NEURON INTERACTIONS

**Lyon, 15 March 2018** – Theranexus, an innovative biopharmaceutical company in neurological diseases that is pioneering new drug candidates affecting the interaction between neurons and glial cells, has today announced the signature of a three-year research collaboration with the Collège de France, an internationally renowned institution in the field of neurosciences. This work, looking at the impact of glial cells on neuronal activity, will be led by Dr Nathalie Rouach within the Center for Interdisciplinary Research in Biology (CIRB) headed by Prof Alain Prochiantz. The research will include a doctorate conducted via a CIFRE<sup>1</sup> contract (industrial agreement for training through research) with the National Association for Research and Technology (ANRT).

Theranexus was formed after the important role played by non-neuronal cells (also known as “glial cells”) in the body’s response to psychotropic drugs was discovered. Research by the company’s joint founders and directors, Franck Mouthon and Mathieu Charvériat, revealed that by changing the organisation of glial cell networks, the neuronal response could be significantly improved and the effectiveness of psychotropic drugs greatly increased as a result.

*“We are very proud of this new collaboration with the Collège de France, the leading player in the science of neuron and glial cell interactions for many years. The work will deepen our knowledge of mechanistic aspects of these interactions and more specifically the role that the organisation of astrocyte networks mediated by connexins plays in synaptic transmission. Deciphering this new information will help us understand their interdependency in brain functioning and central nervous system diseases and in the response to psychotropic drug treatment,”* explains Chief Scientific Officer Mathieu Charvériat.

Nathalie Rouach adds: *“Our team is delighted to start this research collaboration, and to welcome a PhD student working at the interface of our institutions, between fundamental science and treatment applications. Theranexus is a privileged partner to promote innovation in the rapidly growing field of interaction between astrocytes and neurons. As well as the major role of astrocytes within tripartite synapses, the network organisation of these cells is key to how the brain processes information and remains a vital issue in understanding physiological and pathological processes in the brain.”*

Theranexus’ therapeutic strategy targets neurons and glial cells at the same time, by designing and developing innovative combinations of two drugs. These combinations act directly on the neuronal cellular environment, maximising the brain’s response to psychotropic drugs and enabling more effective medicines to be developed for neurological conditions. With this unique, radical therapeutic approach, Theranexus aims to meet patients’ needs with four indications: narcolepsy, Parkinson’s disease, Alzheimer’s disease and neuropathic pains.

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<sup>1</sup> CIFRE: Industrial agreements for training through Research.

CIFRE contracts provide a firm that hires a doctoral student who will work in a research collaboration with public laboratory with a subsidy that cover a part of the cost incurred over a three-year period until the PhD.

## About the Collège de France

The Collège de France is a public higher education institution that is unique in France and has no equivalent abroad. Since the sixteenth century, the Collège de France has fulfilled a dual role: to conduct the most ground-breaking research and to teach this. Dedicated to fundamental research, the Collège de France has the unique mission of “teaching knowledge in the making in every field of literature, the arts and sciences”. It works in partnership with the National Centre for Scientific Research (CNRS), the French National Institute of Health and Medical Research (INSERM) and several other leading institutions

### ABOUT THERANEXUS

Theranexus is a clinical-stage biopharmaceutical company that emerged from the French Alternative Energies and Atomic Energy Commission (CEA) in 2013. It develops drug candidates for the treatment of nervous system diseases. Theranexus identified the key role played by non-neuronal cells (also known as “glial cells”) in the body’s response to psychotropic drugs (which target the neurons). The company is a pioneer in the design and development of drug candidates affecting the interaction between neurons and glial cells. The unique, patented technology used by Theranexus is designed to improve the efficacy of psychotropic drugs already approved and on the market, by combining them with a glial cell modulator. This strategy of combining its innovations with registered drugs means Theranexus can significantly reduce development time and costs and considerably increase the chance of its drugs reaching the market.

The proprietary, adaptable Theranexus platform can generate different proprietary drug candidates offering high added-value for multiple indications.

Theranexus is listed on the Euronext Growth market in Paris (FR0013286259- ALTHX).

More information at: [www.theranexus-bourse.com](http://www.theranexus-bourse.com)



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