

STARKAGE THERAPEUTICS

PRESS RELEASE

STARKAGE THERAPEUTICS APPOINTS DR. BENJAMIN LE CALVÉ PH.D. AS CHIEF SCIENTIFIC OFFICER (CSO)

- **Dr. Le Calvé will lead the research activities of StarkAge Therapeutics and manage key collaborations with academic and industrial partners**
- **He joins from Celyad Oncology where he was Senior Scientist Early Development Group**
- **He brings expertise in senescence and a wealth of highly relevant international experience from academia and biopharmaceutical industry**

Lille, France, May 10, 2022 – StarkAge Therapeutics (SATX), a pioneering discovery-stage biotechnology company focusing on cellular senescence-related diseases, announces the appointment of **Dr. Benjamin Le Calvé** as Chief Scientific Officer, reporting to Dr. Pierre-Michel Bringer, CEO. Dr. Le Calvé will sit on the Management Committee¹ and will chair StarkAge Therapeutics Scientific Advisory Board²

“I am delighted to welcome Benjamin Le Calvé to StarkAge Therapeutics” said **Dr. Pierre-Michel Bringer**, *“Benjamin’s personal academic background and professional experience, including in the field of senescence, will be instrumental in driving StarkAge Therapeutics to the next level of development.”* In his tenure as Senior Scientist of the Early Development Group at Celyad Oncology, Benjamin led the development of an shRNA platform for the allogeneic CAR-T products through the identification of new potential targets increasing the persistence and activity of cell therapy.

As CSO, Dr. Le Calvé will refine the current discovery strategy and implement it. He will supervise the Lille-based research team and all key discovery project and scientific operations. In addition he will oversee and supervise StarkAgeTx’s growing international IP portfolio. Collaborations with academic and industrial partners are an important part of the SATX strategy, and he will manage all existing partnerships and actively seek to establish new opportunities.

“We have made significant progress in the past months, and I express my gratitude to Dr. Frédéric Oger for the phenomenal work he accomplished as acting CSO” added **Dr. Thierry Mathieu, President and Founder of StarkAge Therapeutics.** *“He has been instrumental in crystalizing our Research Strategy and furthering important collaborations which will provide access to multi-omics³ capabilities. Frédéric will accompany us through our upcoming seed round and will continue to play a key role in our collaboration with EGID⁴.”*

Dr. Le Calvé holds a Ph.D. in Pharmaceutical and Biomedical Sciences from the Free University of Brussels, Belgium and an MS in Engineering for Health and Drugs, option Biotechnology and Management from the University of Joseph Fourier in Grenoble, France. He has 27 scientific publications to his name in peer-reviewed journals. Benjamin lives in Bierges, Belgium with his wife and two children.

About senescence

Cellular senescence is a stress-induced, durable cell-cycle arrest of previously replication-competent cells. Senescent cells can be beneficial as well as detrimental regarding host physiology and disease. Indeed, while cellular senescence can facilitate physiological processes such as tissue repair and wound healing, the actions of their secreted pro-inflammatory cytokines can promote tissue dysfunctions, especially during aging. In this context, the rate at which senescent cells accumulate within tissues increases with aging leading to age-related disorders causing diseases such as idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis^{5,6} (IPF) and many others^{7,8,9,10}. Consequently, these detrimental senescent cells are considered a potential therapeutic target in age-related disorders. Nevertheless, the challenge remains to specifically target detrimental senescent cells while avoiding altering the functions of beneficial ones.

About StarkAge Therapeutics

StarkAge Therapeutics (SATX) is a pioneering privately held discovery-stage biotechnology company based in Lille, France. It was founded in 2018 by Dr. Thierry Mathieu based on the idea that eliminating disease-specific senescent cells using immunotherapy could deliver significant therapeutic benefits to patients.

Its ambition is to delay or halt disease progression and improve the quality of life of patients with age-related diseases.

Increasing evidence in literature confirms senescent cell accumulation as a hallmark in various aged-related diseases such as idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis^{5,6}, neurodegenerative diseases⁷, metabolic dysfunction^{8,9} or hepatic steatosis¹⁰. Recent scientific reviews^{11,12} identified potential targets and set the foundations for testing applications in humans.

StarkAge Therapeutics' unique expertise originates from its proprietary biomarker discovery platform, ExoCise™, which enables the characterization of senescent cell biomarkers from patient-derived extracellular vesicles and their specific validation for each disease.

StarkAge Therapeutics has selected Idiopathic Pulmonary Fibrosis (IPF) as its lead program. Other fibrotic diseases or metabolic diseases such as NAFLD / NASH are under evaluation.

Contacts

StarkAge Therapeutics

Institut Pasteur Lille - 1 Rue du Professeur Calmette - 59800 Lille - Tel: +33 3 74 02 03 03

www.StarkAgeTX.com

Dr. Pierre-Michel Bringer, CEO

pierre-michel.bringer@StarkAgeTX.com

Forward-Looking Statement

This press release may contain forward-looking statements. Such statements are based on StarkAge Therapeutics' beliefs and expectations regarding future events. They are subject to risks and uncertainties beyond the company's control which could cause actual results, performance, or achievements to be materially different from the expectations implied by such forward-looking statements.

References :

1. Management Committee = Comité de Direction (CoDir)
2. <https://starkagetx.com/starkage-therapeutics-establishes-its-scientific-advisor-board-of-international-independent-experts-sab-meets-for-the-first-time-scientific-advisory-board-and-holds-their-foundational-meeting/>
3. OMICs <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Multiomics> - <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Omics>
4. EGID <https://egid.fr/en/egid-european-genomic-institutes-for-diabetes/>
5. Hernandez-Gonzalez F et al., Cellular Senescence in Lung Fibrosis. *Int J Mol Sci.* 2021 Jun 29;22(13):7012.
6. Kellogg DL et al., Cellular Senescence in Idiopathic Pulmonary Fibrosis. *Curr Mol Biol Rep.* 2021 Aug 12:1-10
7. Baker DJ et al., Cellular senescence in brain aging and neurodegenerative diseases: evidence and perspectives. *J Clin Invest.* 2018 Apr 2;128(4):1208-1216.
8. Palmer AK et al., Targeting senescent cells alleviates obesity-induced metabolic dysfunction. *Aging Cell.* 2019;18(3):e12950.
9. Aguayo-Mazzucato C et al., Acceleration of beta Cell Aging Determines Diabetes and Senolysis Improves Disease Outcomes. *Cell Metab.* 2019.
10. Ogrodnik M et al., Cellular senescence drives age-dependent hepatic steatosis. *Nat Commun.* 2017;8:15691.
11. Di Micco, R., Krizhanovsky, V., Baker, D. et al. Cellular senescence in ageing: from mechanisms to therapeutic opportunities. *Nat Rev Mol Cell Biol* 22, 75–95 (2021). <https://www.nature.com/articles/s41580-020-00314-w>
12. Rossi, M.; Abdelmohsen, K. The Emergence of Senescent Surface Biomarkers as Senotherapeutic Targets. *Cells* 2021, 10, 1740. <https://www.mdpi.com/2073-4409/10/7/1740>