

## **Phi Pharma SAB Announcement**

Sion, December 11, 2020

Phi Pharma is pleased to announce the formation of a Scientific Advisory Board (SAB), who will work closely with senior management to advance the Company's preclinical and scope of clinical applications of its patented anti-cancer technology. Dr. Francesco Bertoni, Dr. Behjatolah (BJ) Karbassi and Dr Andreas Tzakos, world-leading experts in drug targeting, drug development and clinical trials have been appointed as SAB members.

The SAB will work closely with Phi Pharma management as it actively identifies and explores the potential of Phi's intellectual patent portfolio to positively impact unmet clinical needs in oncology.

Franco Merckling, Phi Pharma's Chief Executive Officer, stated, "The newly appointed SAB is an esteemed group of experts in oncology and drug development chosen to advance our strategic goals in the development of our pipeline of peptide drug conjugated for many cancer indications. We're proud to have Dr. Bertoni, Dr. Karbassi and Dr. Tzakos on our Scientific Advisory Board to assist in deepening our understanding of the scientific and clinical aspects of Phi peptide drug conjugate technology for the benefit of cancer patients. The Phi Pharma SAB members carry a wealth of scientific experience in the biotech and pharmaceutical industries and, along with clinical experience, brings a powerful combination of intellectual and practical expertise"

### **SAB Members**

#### **Dr. Francesco Bertoni**

Prof. Francesco Bertoni obtained a Medical Degree magna cum laude (1994) and the Medical Oncology Specialty (1998) from the State University of Milan. Since 2019 he is Adjunct Professor at the Università della Svizzera italiana (USI). Since April 2003 Bertoni is the head of the Lymphoma Genomics group at IOR (IOSI Laboratory of Experimental Oncology until 2011). Since April 2007, he is the deputy director of the Institute. Bertoni actively participates to Swiss Cancer Research Group (SAKK), in which he is vice-president of the Project Group Lymphoma and member of the Project Group New Anticancer Treatment. Bertoni's research topics are the development of new anti-lymphoma compounds and lymphoma genomics. He is the author or co-author of over 200 original papers, over 50 editorials or invited reviews, 20 book sections, one edited book, several abstracts at national and international meetings, and over ten patents.

### **Dr. Behjatolah (BJ) Karbassi**

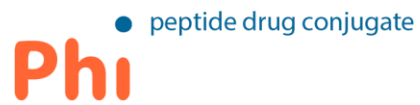
Dr. Behjatolah M. Karbassi received his Ph.D. in Molecular Biology from Institute of Molecular genetics, Russian Academy of Sciences, Moscow, Russia in 1997. He did a postdoctoral training in tumor Immunology and vaccine development at the University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA, USA from 1998 to 2002. Dr. Karbassi is currently an Assistant Professor in the Department of Pathology at the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences, Little Rock, AR, USA. He is also a member of Winthrop P. Rockefeller Cancer Institute. His major research interests include cancer immunotherapy and developing cancer therapeutics targeting glycan antigens. His research on development of peptide-based cancer vaccines is being evaluated in two on-going clinical trials in WPRCI. He has published more than 60 research articles in his field.

### **Dr. Andreas G. Tzakos**

Dr. Andreas G. Tzakos is Associate Professor of Organic Chemistry at the University of Ioannina, Greece. He is the head of a Chemical Biology Lab as also head of the Bioanalytical Center & Analytical Center that operate under the ISO:17025 accreditation. Andreas conducted his postdoctoral research as an EMBO fellow at the MRC Laboratory of Molecular Biology (Cambridge, UK) and received many prestigious grants and awards including Marie Curie, EMBO, FEBS, NATO, Leonidas Zervas, and his work on the discovery of potent bioactive compounds has been awarded by the Academy of Athens. His main research interest includes the design and development of cancer diagnostics, theranostics, tumor homing and tumor responsive drug delivery vehicles. He has authored more than 150 international publications in the field, one academic book, edited three books, participated in the development of 3 software, he is in the editorial board of several International Journals and has five patents.

### **About Phi Pharma**

Phi Pharma S.A. is a private Switzerland-based biotech company focusing on the development of innovative targeted medicines for the treatment of cancer with special emphasis on overcoming resistance to cancer therapy. We use a proprietary, patent protected technology platform to develop highly specific and effective Peptide Drug Conjugates (PDCs) for the treatment of liquid and solid tumours. Our pipeline currently comprises 3 development programs, including an IVD companion diagnostic for patient stratification. Our invention and key differentiating achievement relate to the novel oncology target class of Glycosaminoglycans (GAGs), in particular to C-4-S, over-expressed on tumour cells, addressing various cancers with major unmet medical need. Our technology allows the development of a powerful new class of Peptide Drug Conjugates which have the potential to not only overcome the limitations of Antibody Drug Conjugates but most importantly, resistance to cancer therapies. Phi Pharma's technology is based on the ground-breaking discovery of HIV using TAT peptide to penetrate white blood cells to deliver its deadly cargo. By super-computer assisted modelling Phi Pharma has been able to identify, synthesize and patent protect "semi-synthetic" TAT-derived peptides with dramatically improved stability and affinity, hence



targeting properties. Phi Pharma is currently finalizing the in-vivo PoC data package followed by lead optimization and formal pre-clinical development of the lead compounds to then run a first in human (FIH) PoC phase 1/2a clinical trial.