

- Press Release -

ARTHRITIS4CURE AND LFB BIOMANUFACTURING JOIN FORCES TO ACCELERATE THE DEVELOPMENT AND PRODUCTION OF A TARGETED IMMUNOTHERAPY AGAINST RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS

Alès (France) – Thursday 6th 2025 – Today, LFB BIOMANUFACTURING, a key player in the production of biopharmaceuticals in France, announced a strategic partnership with Arthritis4Cure, a biotech company created by the Arthritis Foundation to develop new targeted therapies against autoimmune diseases. Their ambition is to industrialise the manufacturing of its first lead candidate, the peptibody A4C-001, designed to cure rheumatoid arthritis, a potential major medical breakthrough for patients.

LFB BIOMANUFACTURING, a subsidiary of LFB, specialised in the production of therapeutic proteins, will provide its development platform and industrial capacities for the development and production of this specific immunotherapy designed by the biotech company Arthritis4Cure and its scientific partners for the treatment of rheumatoid arthritis. This lead candidate, the first from the biotech company Arthritis4Cure, is composed of an antibody fragment and a protein chain that attaches to the B lymphocytes responsible for the disease, thus inducing their targeted destruction. LFB BIOMANUFACTURING's plant located in Alès in the Gard department will support Arthritis4Cure producing clinical batches for the launch of the first clinical trials of the biomedical product.

Herbert GUEDEGBE, CEO of LFB BIOMANUFACTURING emphasizes: *"As a key player in bioproduction in France, we are proud to support Arthritis4Cure in this major and unprecedented scientific advance for patients. This collaboration illustrates our commitment to offer our industrial expertise for therapeutic innovations of tomorrow. Our aim is to ensure that this biomedicine is produced under optimal conditions, in order to accelerate its development and availability for patients."*

For Lionel COMOLE, CEO of Arthritis4Cure: *"Our ambitious project to develop this biomedical product was made possible through the excellent research carried out over the past 5 years in collaboration with academics and hospitals in Toulouse and Montpellier. Today, we were looking for a cutting-edge industrial partner to make this innovation a reality and move to large-scale production. LFB BIOMANUFACTURING was the obvious choice: its expertise and bioproduction capabilities will be essential to ensure the success of this promising therapy."*

About rheumatoid arthritis

Rheumatoid arthritis is an inflammatory autoimmune disease that affects the joints. This disabling condition is two to three times more common in women than in men¹. An estimated 0.5% of the world's adult population is affected by this disease that also causes damage in systems outside of joints (lungs, heart, blood vessels, skin, eyes, etc.) and reduces life expectancy by 5 to 10 years. Its incidence is constant throughout the world¹. There are several available treatments that focus on the symptoms, such as paracetamol for pain management, corticosteroids for inflammation or new generation treatments such as biological immunosuppressive therapies which are associated with many serious side effects.

Most patients develop resistance to these treatments over time, and the disease then resumes its destruction. With our new candidate A4C-001, we aim to act at the source of the pathophysiology.

¹ <https://www.inserm.fr/dossier/polyarthrite-rhumatoide/>

Unlike current targeted treatments that eliminate part of the immune system, or even B lymphocytes – leading to immunodeficiency –, the therapy developed by Arthritis4Cure and LFB BIOMANUFACTURING exclusively targets the pathogenic cells responsible for joint damage, by destroying the clones of cells that produce the autoantibodies responsible for the disease.

This revolutionary treatment could ultimately induce total remission of rheumatoid arthritis, a major and unprecedented innovation for patients suffering from this serious disease.

About LFB

LFB is a biopharmaceutical group that develops, manufactures and markets plasma-derived medicinal products and recombinant proteins for the treatment of patients with serious and often rare diseases. Created in France in 1994, LFB today is a leading European company providing plasma-derived medicinal products to healthcare professionals. Its mission is to offer patients new treatment options for unmet needs in three major therapeutic areas: immunology, haemostasis and intensive care. LFB's current market portfolio includes some 15 biomedicinal products sold in over 30 countries.

For more information on LFB, go to www.groupe-lfb.com.

About LFB BIOMANUFACTURING

LFB BIOMANUFACTURING, one of the key entities in the LFB group's bioproduction activities, operates the Alès (Gard department) industrial site specialising in the manufacture of recombinant medicinal products by cell culture, and of recombinant proteins and monoclonal antibodies in particular.

LFB BIOMANUFACTURING acts as a CDMO to offer its customers bioproduction services ranging from the development of cell lines to the manufacture of recombinant medicinal products compliant with GMP standards. At its FDA-approved industrial site in Alès, LFB BIOMANUFACTURING manufactures a recombinant coagulation factor for the LFB group, as well as clinical and commercial batches on behalf of third parties.

For more information about LFB BIOMANUFACTURING, go to <https://www.lfbbiomanufacturing.com>

About Arthritis4Cure

Arthritis4Cure was created in 2023 on the initiative of the Arthritis Foundation and Professors Guy Serre and Christian Jorgensen. The aim of the endeavour is to develop a platform of new breakthrough biomedicinal products to cure rheumatoid arthritis and other autoimmune diseases. Concretely, it works to meet the following challenges:

- *develop a precision biomedicinal product based on targeted therapy.*
- *launch the clinical phases of a first biomedicinal product at the IHU "Immune4Cure", a unique institute in Europe housing clinical facilities and R&D and bioproduction activities on the Medvallée campus in Montpellier.*
- *treat other autoimmune diseases mediated by autoantibodies.*

About the Arthritis Foundation

Recognised as an entity of public utility, the Arthritis Foundation is the leading source of private funding supporting the emergence of top-notch French research on rheumatism and musculoskeletal diseases. It was created in 1989 by the late Jacques Courtin, founder of the Clarins cosmetics group. Its missions are not only to prevent the onset of disability caused by joint diseases, but ultimately to cure all patients. It also aims to become the leading source of information and communication on rheumatology research in France. It therefore has a mission to provide information, reinforce prevention and raise awareness of these different pathologies and of advances in research.

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