



CYTOO unveils MyoScreenΦ™, a new platform for the discovery of drug candidates for muscle disorders

Grenoble, France, 16th July 2015 - CYTOO, a biotechnology company specialized in the development of physiologically-relevant high content cellular assays, announces today the commercial launch of MyoScreenΦ™, a new screening platform for the identification of novel active molecules that can be used to treat musculoskeletal and neuromuscular disorders.

CYTOO, the first in the world to model a human muscle *in vitro*

By combining the technology of adhesive micropatterns with muscle cells isolated from human donors, CYTOO has created the first *in vitro* model of mature human muscle. MyoScreenΦ™ is a high throughput and high content screening platform that enables the identification and characterization of new compounds that effect muscle hypertrophy, contractility, metabolism and muscular diseases. The system thus meets the broad requirements of the pharmaceutical, nutraceutical and animal health industries aiming ultimately to discover new active ingredients.

Muscle is one of the last organs remaining to be modeled *in vitro* and to date, no drug or potential drug candidate has ever been identified using a human muscle model. The human body has more than 600 muscles that provide the power for us to stand and move around. Muscle is an essential tissue affected by numerous factors such as loss of muscle mass associated with ageing (sarcopenia) or certain medications (cachexia) while neuromuscular diseases such as myopathies (Duchenne muscular dystrophy), muscle weakness (myasthenia), amyotrophic lateral sclerosis and spinal muscular atrophy directly impact an individual's motor abilities.

« *With MyoScreenΦ™, CYTOO has achieved a major milestone including the first physiological muscle model showing striated myotube fibers in vitro. We are the only ones on the market to propose cell analysis and high content screening (HCS) using muscle* » rejoices Pauline Poydenot, Directress R&D at CYTOO.

« *MyoScreenΦ™ is primarily designed to screen bioactives on behalf of third parties at CYTOO but can also be transferred to our clients. In addition, we have started to exploit this unique tool for our own benefit with the initiation of 2 internal drug discovery programs: one for the treatment of Duchenne muscular dystrophy and the other for the prevention of muscle wasting. This will further enhance the scientific advances of our scientists* » specifies Luc Selig, CEO of CYTOO.

MyoScreenΦ™ was developed thanks to the support of BPIFrance as part of the project ETICS.

About CYTOO

Created in 2008, CYTOO is a biotechnology company specialized in the development of physiologically-relevant cellular models and assays for High Content Screening (HCS). The company has developed its own models of human striated muscle (MyoScreenΦ™) and skin (EpiScreen™, FibroScreen™) available to the pharmaceutical, dermato-cosmetic, nutraceutical, food processing and animal health sectors for screening of biologically active compounds. Independently, the enterprise has engaged in its own drug discovery business committed to treating muscle wasting and Duchenne muscular dystrophy. CYTOO has offices in Grenoble, Paris and the United States.

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