

## VitamFero expands its assets with excellent results in prevention of ocular toxoplasmosis

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VitamFero is a biotechnology firm in the Genopole cluster with a secondary facility in Tours (Indre & Loire, France) that develops novel veterinary and human vaccines against parasitic diseases. It announced filing of a new patent to cover the very good results obtained with its vaccine candidate against human ocular toxoplasmosis.

In collaboration with Tours François-Rabelais University's Parasitic Immunology and Vaccinology laboratory, under the direction of Professor Isabelle Dimier-Poisson, and with the Ophthalmology department of a Tours hospital, CHRU Bretonneau, a department under direction of Professor Pierre-Jean Pisella, VitamFero has demonstrated the efficacy of its vaccine candidate VFOtx-251 in preventing ocular consequences of acquired or congenital toxoplasmosis in a mouse model.



Toxoplasmosis is a parasitosis provoked by *Toxoplasma gondii*. In Man, this disease is at the origin of grave ocular disturbances that could lead to uni- or bi-lateral blindness in the patient. The incidence of ocular toxoplasmosis, which varies according to geographic zone, is very elevated in South America. As such, recent studies have demonstrated that, in certain regions of Brazil, the disease's incidence was 20% with one person in 100 presenting with unilateral blindness and one person in 500, with bilateral blindness.

The results obtained show significant reduction in the ocular lesions characteristic of this infection (cataract, uveitis etc.) in mice vaccinated with VFOtx-251 then infected with *Toxoplasma gondii* compared with control, non-vaccinated mice infected with the same parasite. Prevention of ocular toxoplasmosis in Man is the second vaccine application for VFOtx-251 that has already demonstrated excellent efficacy in preventing abortions and malformations in newborn of animal species.

*"The excellent results obtained in our experimental program into ocular toxoplasmosis now confirms prior, differently-demonstrated efficacy of our vaccine VFOtx-251 and so strengthens our product portfolio in human health", explains Dr. Edouard Sèche, Head of Research of VitamFero. "To our knowledge, it is the very first time that an anti-toxoplasmosis vaccine has demonstrated such efficacy in prevention of ocular toxoplasmosis."*

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**About VitamFero.** Created in 2005, the firm **VitamFero** exploits major conjoint inventions and patents of the CNRS, INRA and François-Rabelais University of Tours in anti-parasitic vaccines, a field in which needs remain very largely unmet. Backed by CapDecisif Management and GIJ Ile-de-France, VitamFero rests on a solid, perfectly validated, scientific foundation that is based on development of live vaccines, attenuated by targeted and total deletion of virulence genes.

[www.vitamfero.com](http://www.vitamfero.com)

**About Genopole** The first French biocluster dedicated to genetic research and biotechnologies applied to health and the environment, Genopole gathers together 21 research laboratories, 71 biotechnology firms, 21 technology platforms and university education (Evry-Val-d'Essonne University). Its goal: encourage research development in genomics, post-genomics and associated sciences, and technology transfer to industry; develop high level education in those fields; create and support biotechnology firms. . Genopole is largely financed by public agencies Conseil Régional d'Ile-de-France (30%), Conseil Général de l'Essonne (26,5%) and the French State (15,7%).

[www.genopole.fr](http://www.genopole.fr)