

Évry (Genopole), France, 24 November 2016

Jean-Marc Grognet succeeds Pierre Tambourin as head of Genopole

Jean-Marc Grognet was confirmed as the new chief executive of Genopole at the general assembly of the *Groupement d'intérêt public* (GIP) Genopole. He will replace Pierre Tambourin, CEO since 1998.

Jean-Marc Grognet was formerly the head of the Institute of Biomedical Imaging (I²BM), and furthermore directed "Technologies for Health", a transversal program of the French Alternative Energies and Atomic Energy Commission (CEA).

Now 60 years old, Mr. Grognet is a graduate of the Paris-Descartes University's school of pharmacy (1980) and the Sorbonne Graduate Business School (1984). He also holds a PhD in molecular pharmacology and an HDR (accreditation to supervise research), both obtained from Paris-Descartes University in 1984 and 1998 respectively.



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A career with the CEA

Mr. Grognet has worked at the CEA for most of his career. From 1985 to 2000, he led the Laboratory of Drug Metabolism Research and the Clinical Pharmacology Group within the CEA's health and life sciences division. Thereafter, he joined the CEA's technological research division, for which he was the scientific and research director between 2002 and 2007 as a specialist in biotechnologies.

In 2008, he joined the General Directorate for Competitiveness, Industry and Services of the French Ministry for the Economy, Finance and Industry as the assistant director for the "industries for health, chemistry and new materials" sector.

In 2011, Mr. Grognet returned to the CEA to head the Institute of Biology and Technology Saclay within the Health and Life Sciences Division. He then became the director of valorization in 2014 before being named as head of I²BM in 2016.

Mr. Grognet has authored more than a hundred publications and communications, thus earning a seat in the French National Academy of Pharmacy.

In 1991, he contributed his particular expertise in nano and biotechnologies to the creation of the start-up SPI Bio, now a part of Bertin Pharma. He has been the president of the Interministerial Group for Chemical Products since 2012 and a member of the Educational Council of the National Institute for Nuclear Sciences and Techniques since 2013.

Continuing his path

Building upon his knowledge of biotechnologies, research and industry, Jean-Marc Grognet hopes to empower Genopole and its Horizon 2025 Plan. *"I feel that I'm a good fit for the Genopole development plans conceived by my predecessor and hope to give new impetus to those plans by increasing the volume of companies and people at the biocluster, and enabling a veritable internationalization for it"*, he declared. The three-pronged orientation of the biocluster: research, industry and biomedicine, was part of Mr. Grognet's motivation to join Genopole, which he sees as a natural next step after his training and experience at the CEA.

A new dynamic

For Pierre Tambourin, the head of Genopole since its creation in 1998, the arrival of the new CEO could not be better timed. Mr Grognet will bring a new dynamic to the biocluster, building upon the fundamentals behind its success:

"A multidisciplinary, multi-skilled team, a collection of tools to aid and accompany business creation and development, the reliable support of the founding members (mainly the Ministry for Research, the Ile-de-France Region, and the Essonne Departmental Council) and the enablement of research and higher learning have all contributed to the creation of an effective biocluster, the first in France to be conceived on the American model. The future holds new challenges, such as the inclusion of the South Ile-de-France Medical Center within Genopole, the Genomic Medicine France 2025 plan and personalized medicine, the integration of new business development tools such as the accelerator among others, and the necessary internationalization of the biocluster, which is looking to become a world leader before 2025. With the arrival of Jean-Marc Grognet and his pertinent experience and expertise garnered at the CEA, Genopole will be well positioned to respond successfully to these challenges."

Jean-Marc Grognet will assume his functions at Genopole on 1 February 2017.

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About Genopole

Genopole is France's leading biopark for research in genetics and biotechnologies for healthcare and the environment. Genopole unites 82 biotech companies, 19 research laboratories and 25 technical platforms, and is furthermore home to university training programs (University of Évry-Val-d'Essonne). Its objectives are to create and support biotech companies and the transfer of technologies to the industrial sector, favor the development of research in genomics, post-genomics and associated sciences, and promote higher education programs for those domains. Genopole is funded mainly by the French Government (16.5%), the Ile-de-France Regional Council (37%) and the Essonne Departmental Council (28%).

www.genopole.fr