

# CALIXAR enters into Cryo-EM collaboration with CBI/IGBMC to unlock structure-based drug design for challenging membrane protein targets

**February; 12th, 2020 –CALIXAR (Lyon, France) and the CBI/IGBMC (Strasbourg, France) announce a strategic Cryo Electron Microscopy (Cryo-EM) partnership**

Under this collaboration, CALIXAR will apply its patented technology and expertise to produce, stabilize and functionally characterize challenging native membrane protein targets of high medical relevance (GPCRs, Ion channels, Transporters etc.). Within this partnership, the CBI (Center of Integrative Biology) / IGBMC (Institute of Genetics and Molecular and Cellular Biology), one of the well-established leaders in the structural biology field, will provide access and expertise to its state-of-the-art facilities in cryo Electron Microscopy (cryo-EM) to provide high-resolution insights into challenging macromolecular complexes including membrane proteins. The facilities include equipments for grid preparation, sample screening, and expertise for preliminary 3D reconstruction and high-resolution structure determination.

“We are delighted to collaborate with the CBI/IGBMC and add their unique Cryo-EM capabilities to our extending portfolio of drug discovery tools. We are convinced that combining our respective technology and know-how will enable structural drug discovery” said Emmanuel DEJEAN, CEO of CALIXAR. According to Anass JAWHARI, CSO of CALIXAR “The CBI/IGBMC will bring to the collaboration its established track record in structure/function analysis of a large panel of macromolecular assemblies at the atomic level. Our joint effort will offer a complete gene-to-structure analysis engine that will benefit to our Pharma/Biotech partners, especially those struggling with difficult to crystallize membrane protein targets”.

“We are thrilled to partner with CALIXAR and to create a strong synergy based on complementary expertise in membrane proteins and high-resolution cryo-EM analysis at CBI/IGBMC, which hosts the French and European Infrastructures for Integrated Structural Biology and provides cutting-edge instrumentation to academic and industrial users” explain Bruno KLAHOLZ, national coordinator of FRISBI and Patrick SCHULTZ, member of the Instruct-ERIC executive committee.

## **About CALIXAR**

CALIXAR discovers and develops new approaches to isolate full-length membrane therapeutic targets with the highest purity levels. The company develops its own pipeline of medically relevant targets and can also utilize its patented technology platform for other companies that need to identify, express, extract and purify membrane proteins (GPCRs, ion channels, receptors, transporters and viral targets). CALIXAR’s approach provides pharmaceutical companies with the opportunity to work with high-quality and reliable targets or antigens, compatible with all applications. This includes developing antibodies and/or discovering primary leads. CALIXAR’s platform also enables new vaccine formulations.

## **About CBI/IGBMC**

The Centre for Integrative Biology (CBI) at the Institute of Genetics and Molecular and Cellular Biology (IGBMC) is a founding member and a core centre of Instruct-ERIC, which is a pan-European distributed research infrastructure in structural biology. The CBI heads the Instruct-Centre France-1 node and hosts the French and European infrastructures for Integrated Structural Biology, FRISBI, Instruct-ERIC and iNext-Discovery. Among other expertises, the Centre masters all aspects related to single particle cryo-EM analysis and cryo-ET, from sample optimization and grid preparation to automated acquisition of large data sets and image analysis including on-the-fly data processing and structural analysis.

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