



Théa announces the creation of Sepul Bio, a business unit dedicated to the late-stage development of two cutting-edge ophthalmic products in inherited retinal diseases (IRDs) based on RNA therapy recently acquired from ProQR: Sepofarsen and Ultevorsen.

Clermont-Ferrand, France, May 2, 2024 - Théa, the leading European eye care group, is pleased to announce the creation of Sepul Bio, a business unit dedicated to the development of inherited retinal diseases (IRDs) based on RNA therapy. Operated by experts in the field, Sepul Bio is in charge of the late-stage development of two cutting-edge ophthalmic products recently acquired from ProQR, Sepofarsen and Ultevorsen, and will work with Théa's teams to support all aspects of the project.

Sepofarsen aims to combat Leber congenital amaurosis 10 (LCA10), a rare genetic disease causing severe visual impairment, and Ultevorsen is designed to stop vision loss in people with a mutation in exon 13 of the USH2A gene and suffering from retinitis pigmentosa.

This new venture underlines Théa's firm commitment to advancing therapeutic products for eye disorders, particularly where medical needs are still unmet.

"We are delighted to announce the creation of Sepul Bio, a business unit specializing in IRDs. Théa's long established experience combined with the specialized expertise of the team that forms the Sepul Bio unit will undoubtedly accelerate the development of transformative ophthalmic solutions long awaited by patients suffering from orphan diseases", said Jean-Frédéric Chibret, President of Théa.

Céline Olmière, Head of Théa Open Innovation, the sister company of Théa in charge of the early-stage projects for the Group, and this new Théa business unit, continues: *"The Sepul Bio team is already heavily involved in both projects and is committed to providing a drug to these patients who desperately need a treatment to help them with their debilitating disease. The level of competence and energy around the two projects not only from Sepul Bio and Théa, but also from the international IRD community, provides tremendous impetus for us to pursue the development of the project successfully. Sepul Bio is led by Zuhul Butuner (CMO) and Mike Schwartz (COO), two senior executives that have the knowledge and expertise in developing these assets".*

Théa celebrates its 30th anniversary in 2024, and with an impressive 30 innovations since its foundation, this is yet another demonstration of Théa's unwavering focus on innovation on behalf of healthcare professionals and all patients.

About Sepul Bio

As a dedicated business unit of Théa, Sepul Bio is at the forefront of advancing transformative RNA therapies for inherited retinal diseases, with a particular emphasis on the further development of two cutting-edge ophthalmic products—Sepofarsen and Ultevorsen. Sepofarsen targets Leber congenital amaurosis 10 (LCA10), a rare genetic ailment causing severe visual impairment, while Ultevorsen is designed to halt vision loss in individuals with a mutation in exon 13 of the USH2A gene suffering from retinitis pigmentosa.



Our projects are driven by the vision of a future where patients with inherited eye diseases have treatment options for their eye condition. Through ongoing research and rigorous development, Sepul Bio hopes to bring new therapies to patients. www.sepulbio.com

About Théa

Théa is the leading independent European pharmaceutical company specialized in the research, development, and commercialization of eye care products. Based in Clermont-Ferrand, France, this family-owned and run company comprises about 2000 collaborators and has expanded by opening more than 35 affiliates and offices in Europe, North Africa, North and South America, and the Middle East. Its products are available in 75 countries. In 2023, Théa's turnover reached \$986.6 million.

<https://www.laboratoires-thea.com/en>

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