



## ***Seventure Keeps up Pace of Its International Microbiome Investments, Closing Four Deals Spanning Seed to Series C***

**Paris, France – 20 February 2019** - Seventure Partners, one of Europe’s leaders in financing innovation and a world-leader in life science microbiome investment, has closed four new investments across four countries over the past few months. The investments span the spectrum of venture investing, from seed to series C.

- Leading a €2.5m seed investment in Paris-based NeurIMM Therapeutics
- £12m series A in Cambridge, UK-based [Microbiotica](#)
- Seed round in San Francisco-based [Siolta Therapeutics](#)
- €79m series C investment in Copenhagen-based [Galecto](#)

Underlining its willingness to work with world-leading experts to ensure that the full potential of the microbiome is commercialised, Seventure has backed in NeurIMM, a spin out from Portuguese academic institutions, and located in Paris. NeurIMM was founded in 2018 based on ground-breaking research by Dr Henrique Veiga-Fernandes, a principal investigator in the Immunophysiology Lab at the Champalimaud Centre for the Unknown. Dr Veiga-Fernandes was recently named as one of the highly prestigious [2018 Paul G. Allen Frontiers Group 10 Distinguished Investigators](#) for his pioneering studies on how the peripheral nervous system and the immune system interact throughout the body to influence health. NeurIMM has been formed to develop drugs in the fascinating context of innate lymphoid cells (ILCs) for multiple indications.

Microbiotica and Siolta, both founded in 2016, are also building on world-leading microbiome science. A spin out from the UK’s Wellcome Trust Sanger Institute, based on discoveries made by its co-founder Dr Trevor Lawley, Microbiotica has developed a unique capability to culture, characterise and phenotype the majority of a patient’s gut bacteria, enabling the precise association of bacteria to function at clinical trial scale. Microbiotica announced that Seventure had joined its extended series A, providing investment to support the foundation for the development of Microbiotica’s own pipeline of microbiome-derived therapeutics and biomarkers.

Siolta Therapeutics’ origins are based on the research of Dr Susan Lynch and Dr Nikole Kimes from the University of California at San Francisco. Siolta’s mission is to develop microbiome-based live biotherapeutics, as well as companion diagnostics, aimed at the prevention and treatment of atopic diseases, beginning with allergic asthma, based on longitudinal microbiome association studies. Seventure’s investment will be used to fund an ongoing phase 1b clinical trial in children.

Galecto is focused on developing novel drugs for the treatment of fibrosis, inflammation, and other serious human diseases, by targeting galectins (galactoside binding lectins), a group of proteins shown to be involved in many disease processes. Since its founding in 2011, Galecto’s team of scientists and experts has proven that galectin-3 is an attractive drug target and that galectin-3 inhibitors are

effective in reducing fibrosis in several different organs in preclinical models. Galecto will use the proceeds of its series C round to fund Phase 2/3 trial of inhaled TD139 in idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis (IPF) and advancement of oral and ocular pipeline candidates into clinical studies.

“The potential of the microbiome to contribute to new treatments for disease and improvements in health is immense, and we are at an exponential growth stage of our scientific understanding in this field” said Isabelle de Cremoux, CEO and Managing Partner, Seventure Partners, adding “We were the first venture firm to launch a fund focused on this area – Health for Life Capital™ – and we expect the pace of investing to continue in order to fund pioneering science and commercial developments in the microbiome space.”

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## **Notes to Editors**

### **About Seventure Partners**

With around €700m in assets under management as of the end of 2017, Seventure Partners is a leading venture capital firm in Europe. Since 1997, Seventure Partners has been investing in innovative businesses with high growth potential in two fields: Life sciences across Europe, Israel, Asia and North America and Digital technologies in France and Germany.

In life sciences, the four areas of focus include biotechnology and pharmaceuticals, digital/connected health and medtech, industrial biotechnology, and last but not least: the MICROBIOME, nutrition, foodtech and personalized medicine. Investments can range between €500k and €10m per round, or up to €20m per company, from early to late stage.

Seventure Partners successfully launched Health for Life Capital™ which has invested in life sciences worldwide since 2014, with a core focus on the microbiome revolution and its applications in human health and nutrition. The €160m fund has attracted strategic investments from prestigious organizations including Danone, Tereos, Tornier, Lesaffre, Bel and Novartis, as well as entrepreneurs and financial institutions.

In March 2018, Seventure Partners launched AVF, a new fund dedicated to invest in innovative solutions for animal nutrition, feed and health. Adisseo is one of the first strategic partners of the fund.

For more details: [www.seventure.fr/en](http://www.seventure.fr/en) Twitter: [@seventurep](https://twitter.com/seventurep)

### **About Health or Life Capital™**

Seventure Partners launched Health for Life Capital™, the first venture capital fund focused mainly on investments in the microbiome and nutrition space. Europe is the primary focus of the fund, but it also invests in North America, Asia and Israel. The €160m fund attracted strategic investments from prestigious organisations including Danone, Novartis, Tereos, Tornier, Lesaffre and Bel, as well as financial institutions and entrepreneurs. Health for Life Capital™ is managed by Seventure’s Life sciences team.

### **About The Microbiome**

The microbiome, which consists in all the micro-organisms that reside in and on the human body, is an exciting and fast-developing new field at the interface of pharmaceuticals and nutrition, offering abundant opportunities for developing new medicines. The composition and functionality of the bacterial ecosystem forming a large part of the microbiome, in the gut and elsewhere, has been

linked to various health conditions, among which acne, psoriasis and allergies, gastrointestinal ailments, crohn disease, obesity, diabete, autism, depression or cancer. There are approximately 10 times more bacteria than human cells in the body, and over a hundred times more bacterial genes than human ones. The multitude of biological processes and indications affected by the bacterial ecosystem within the human microbiome, makes its balance critical to health. Understanding and maintaining an adequate balance of species within this complex ecosystem is an important goal for future medical progress, especially in the area of preventing and treating chronic diseases.

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