



Press release
Wednesday, April 4, 2018

Prof. Yves Lévy
Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Inserm

Gilles Wainrib
co-founder of OWKIN

**Artificial Intelligence to serve health research:
Inserm and Owkin sign a framework partnership
agreement**

Paris, Wednesday, April 4, 2018

Press information

Artificial Intelligence to serve health research: Inserm and Owkin join forces

Accelerate artificial intelligence research to benefit health: such is the shared objective underpinning the agreement signed by Inserm and the start-up Owkin, specialized in machine learning applied to biological and medical research. The tools developed by Owkin, combined with the mass of health data either produced or used by Inserm, will lead to the development of disruptive innovations unprecedented in the field of medical and clinical research.

At a time when Emmanuel Macron intends to position France as an artificial intelligence giant, Cédric Villani has just presented his report highlighting four priority fields, including Health: Inserm and OWKIN are fully committed to this ambition. The research agreement that binds together the two partners today will allow Inserm researchers to benefit from SOCRATES artificial intelligence software developed by Owkin.

The Owkin SOCRATES platform is aimed at academic or hospital researchers, as well as pharmaceutical industry researchers, to help them discover and develop new drugs. It uses machine learning technologies to analyze medical imaging libraries, genomic molecular data and clinical data sets in order to discover complex biomarker models associated with diseases or variable responses to treatments.

"Joining forces with Inserm will allow us to pool our efforts towards a shared objective. The partnership is a sign of our determination to drive research forward with a view to gaining a better understanding of diseases and making new discoveries. Our goal is to use artificial intelligence to analyze existing data and uncover new research avenues, broadening access to AI technologies for researchers, in the hope that this will result in new treatment strategies," explains Gilles Wainrib, co-founder and Scientific Director at Owkin.

According to Yves Levy, Chairman and CEO of Inserm: *"This partnership with Owkin is emblematic of how academic research and the very best French talent should join forces to generate knowledge of the highest quality. There is no doubt that AI will lead to significant benefits for research, medical practice and the national healthcare system as a whole, underpinned by a rigorous scientific approach and solid ethics. Our role as a public research institute is to do all we can to make sure this happens quickly and smoothly."*

More broadly, Inserm deploys a national strategy aimed at **firmly establishing the leadership of French biomedical research in the field of artificial intelligence**, via:

- The mobilization of the **best teams currently involved in AI development** (almost 300 research teams), data production and analysis or cohort follow-up.
- A key contribution to the use of data from the **Health Data Hub** announced by the French President on March 29 following the submission of the Villani report. This infrastructure will draw on the *Système National des Données de Santé* (SNDS - French National Health Data System), extended to clinical and biological research data.
- The setting-up of **a new infrastructure** for the collection and analysis of medical genomics data in the context of the French Plan for Genomic Medicine
- The reinforcement of its **policy of public and private partnerships** with national research organizations and industry in the fields of artificial intelligence: mathematics, algorithms, modeling, software

Inserm's strengths in the field of AI:

- its scientific excellence, scientific integrity and innovation capacities, within a rigorous scientific environment
- its understanding of the biological and medical issues to be addressed
- its knowledge of the data associated with these issues
- its mastery of regulatory and ethical aspects
- its key role in the production and use of major data in the fields of biology and health



Yves Lévy, the Chairman and CEO of Inserm, and Gilles Wainrib, the co-founder of the start-up Owkin, at the signing of the framework agreement between Inserm and Owkin (press conference of April 4, 2018)

To find out more about artificial intelligence in the field of health:

Big data in health

The technical, human and ethical challenges to be addressed: a report that can be consulted on the Inserm website

<https://www.inserm.fr/information-en-sante/dossiers-information/big-data-en-sante>

The evolution of AI since the 1990s:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4UINCQ36eeY>

Recherche à suivre: a fun series about research from the 1990s. Humankind is a champion among mammals, with some 10 billion neurons, but does intelligence simply come down to the number of neurons? This animated film compares a computer with a brain to help us understand how the human brain works. It retraces the history of the design of computers to lead us into the vast world of neurosciences.

About Owkin

OWKIN is a predictive analysis start-up that uses transfer learning to accelerate drug discovery and development. Owkin's proprietary platform, Owkin Socrates, uses machine learning technologies to analyze medical imaging libraries, molecular data and data sets from patients, in order to discover complex biomarker models linked to diseases and associated with variable responses to treatments. Owkin works in partnership with leading pharmaceutical companies such as Amgen, Roche and Actelion. The company also develops scientific collaboration programs with partners such as Inserm, the Institut Curie and the Centre Léon Bérard cancer center.

For more information, visit: www.owkin.com.

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About Inserm

Created in 1964, Inserm is a French public scientific and technological institute under the dual aegis of the Ministries of Health and Research. Dedicated to research in the fields of biology, medicine and human health, it focuses on the entire care pathway from research laboratory to the patient's bedside. On the international stage, it is the partner of leading institutions committed to addressing challenges and driving scientific progress in these fields. With a budget of 1 billion euros, Inserm supports almost 300 laboratories across France. Altogether, its teams include some 15,000 researchers, engineers, technicians, managers, university hospital practitioners and postdoctoral researchers.

For more information, visit www.inserm.fr

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