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DRUG DEVELOPMENT

# Neuro-Sys Highlighted Molecules from Sea Sponges to Fight Neurodegenerative Diseases

By Neuro-Sys SAS Mgmt | December 11, 2018 | News | [www.neuro-sys.com](http://www.neuro-sys.com)

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*Sea sponges: a new source of natural products that may contain active substances that can be used to treat neurodegenerative diseases, notably Alzheimer's disease.*

**GARDANNE, France – December 11, 2018** – Neuro-Sys, a new innovative company specialized in the research and advancement for finding new treatments for neurodegenerative diseases, is currently exploring what could possibly be a breakthrough in the future treatment of neurodegenerative diseases – sea sponges. Research has shown that sponges secrete active molecules that allow them to survive in a hostile environment surrounded by predators. These same sponges contain unknown active substances that could potentially be used to treat neurodegenerative diseases such as Alzheimer's and Parkinson's disease.

Until recently few species of sea sponges have been exploited and those that have, are currently used in the cosmetics industry. In an industrial context the only part of the sponge that is used is the skeleton. Therefore, as there is no known use for rest of the sponge, it is discarded as waste.

Thanks to its ultra-modern eco-extraction platform and analytical expertise, Neuro-Sys has developed original green-extraction processes that isolate the active substances produced by sponges. Building on its expertise in neuroscience, the company has developed high throughput platforms of cellular models of neurodegenerative diseases that allow it to evaluate the neuroprotective and/or neurotrophic potential of any type of compound or active substance.

In 2017, a collaborative project by the name of Neuramaris, funded as a part of the Neptune project allowed Neuro-Sys in collaboration with its partners (IMBE, Institut Méditerranéen de Biodiversité et d'Ecologie marine et continentale and CYPREOS, international producer of sea sponges) to demonstrate the neuroprotective effects of a specific sponge extract on an Alzheimer's disease model. These very encouraging results now allow Neuro-Sys and its partners to launch the second phase of this project: the evaluation of several other sponge species in order to confirm the potential of this new reservoir of bioactive molecules. With strict respect for the environment and biodiversity, its partners will develop aquaculture systems to provide a renewable resource, without depleting the seabed in species of interest. This project, which has been the subject of a call for funding from the European Community as part of Horizon 2020, aims to develop products for the treatment of various neurodegenerative diseases.

In France, as elsewhere in the world, neurodegenerative diseases challenge the most developed health systems and research policy. In France, Alzheimer's disease now affects more than 900,000 people and there are more than 225,000 new cases per year. In 2015, Parkinson's disease, another neurodegenerative disease, affected about 160,000 people in France alone and there are about 25,000 new cases diagnosed each year.

*Neuro-Sys has entered the fundraising phase to finance its R&D and accelerate the commercialization of its innovative extracts.*

## About Neuro-Sys

Neuro-Sys is a French pharmacology company that relies on the knowledge and experience of pharmacists and pharmacologists specialized in the research and development of molecules used to treat neurodegenerative diseases and more specifically Alzheimer's disease, Parkinson's diseases and Amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS).

Neuro-Sys is initially specialized in the screening of neuro active molecules and mode of action research.

With its experts, Neuro-Sys is a privileged partner for the pharmaceutical industry and biotechnology companies developing neuroprotective and neurorehabilitation molecules.

In addition to its CRO activity, Neuro-Sys carries out its own R&D activities and develops specific pharmacological programs based on remedies from traditional pharmacopoeias and unconventional natural products. Neuro-Sys has already filled patents related to the synergistic effect of several natural origin molecules.

For further information about Neuro-Sys, please consult the Company's website at: [www.neuro-sys.com](http://www.neuro-sys.com).

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