



**MAX PLANCK INSTITUTE**  
FOR MULTIDISCIPLINARY SCIENCES

## **NovAliX and Max Planck join forces to advance Cryo-EM driven drug discovery**

- **Collaboration will make vital process of translating scientific research and academic insights into real therapies more efficient and more effective**
- **Will harness and enhance unparalleled expertise in Cryo-EM**
- **Max Planck scientists began operations in January 2024 at NovAliX's Strasbourg research center to tackle oncology and anti-infective projects**

**Strasbourg, France, and Göttingen, Germany - March 5, 2024** - NovAliX, a specialized Contract Research Organization dedicated to enabling drug discovery, today announces its long-term strategic partnership with the Max Planck Institute (MPI) for Multidisciplinary Sciences in Göttingen.

Through this collaboration, NovAliX and the MPI aim to make the vital process of translating scientific research and academic insights into real therapies more efficient.

Prof. Dr. Holger Stark, Managing Director at the MPI for Multidisciplinary Sciences, highlights the potential of this partnership to propel progress and transformative advancements in the field of drug discovery: "The endpoint of fundamental academic research is still considerably distant from the initial stages of drug discovery. Bridging these phases is substantially important; the MPI's and NovAliX's complementary expertise will be essential for fostering successful therapeutic development."

This partnership will enable crucial early-stage collaboration, fusing the potential of the MPI experts' groundbreaking discoveries and NovAliX's award-winning scientists, and streamlining the integration of academic insights into drug development.

Drawing on two decades of experience in the dynamic biopharmaceutical industry, Dr. Denis Zeyer, CEO of NovAliX, underlines the importance of collaborative frameworks between academia and drug discovery: "It is more costly and more risky than ever before to identify and bring new medicines to market. The current model is unsustainable. Bringing academic research deeper into the process can only increase the odds of success for therapeutic opportunities."

Dr. Zeyer also stresses the significance of relationships cultivated over the years: "As a spin-off of academic institutions, NovAliX places immense value on such connections." This is exemplified by its longstanding relationship with Prof. Dr. Stark at the MPI for Multidisciplinary Sciences, as well as by its joint exploration into the field of Cryo-EM.

Contract Research Organizations such as NovAliX have emerged as pivotal players in the drug discovery industry, providing the organizational framework, flexibility, expertise and efficiency required for early-stage pharmaceutical research. This collaboration with the MPI marks their increasing role as active partners in the evolving drug discovery landscape, enabling academic research to help realize therapeutic innovation.

Dr. Ashwin Chari, Head of the Research Group of Structural Biochemistry and Mechanisms at the MPI for Multidisciplinary Sciences, acknowledges the challenges both in the anti-infectives and oncology fields but stresses his optimism about "translating their discoveries into impactful treatments."



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Stephan Jenn, NovAliX President and Co-founder, describes the partnership with the MPI as a remarkable opportunity: “to forge a unique alliance that contributes not just to European, but global, scientific development. Involving the best minds from academia and drug development and discovery can only make for better science, better outcomes and better answers.”

#### **About Cryo-EM**

Cryo-electron microscopy (Cryo-EM) is an imaging technology used to view the structures of biomolecules at atomic resolution. This involves flash-freezing biological samples, imaging them with an electron microscope and then reconstructing the images into a 3D model. Cryo-EM has revolutionized structural biology, especially for large and complex molecules that are hard to crystallize for X-ray crystallography. Cryo-EM has become a crucial tool in understanding molecular biology and aiding drug discovery.

#### **About the Max Planck Institute for Multidisciplinary Sciences**

The Max Planck Institute (MPI) for Multidisciplinary Sciences was founded in January 2022 through the merger of the MPI for Biophysical Chemistry and MPI for Experimental Medicine.

The three-time Nobel Prize winning institute is made up 13 departments, 10 emeritus groups and 25 research groups with their own scientific focuses. With more than 1,000 employees from over 50 nations, around half of whom are scientists, it is the largest institute in the Max Planck Society and unique in its multidisciplinary orientation.

The institute is based in Göttingen, Germany.

[www.mpinat.mpg.de](http://www.mpinat.mpg.de)

#### **About NovAliX**

NovAliX is a fully integrated drug discovery CRO supporting therapeutic programs from target identification to the delivery of preclinical candidates. It enables successful discovery programs through an award-winning team of medicinal chemistry and pharmacology scientists, and a variety of screening and characterization technologies, including an outstanding DNA-encoded library platform and a comprehensive portfolio of biophysical techniques, including an in-house cryo-EM facility. NovAliX's presence in therapeutic areas now spans oncology, inflammation, fibrosis, and infectious and kidney diseases.

For additional information, please visit [www.novalix.com](http://www.novalix.com) or follow us on [LinkedIn](#) and [Twitter](#).

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