**Project Partner Search Form**

[x]  I offer my expertise to participate as a Partner in a Horizon Europe Project

[ ]  I am planning to coordinate a project and I am looking for Project Partners

**TOPICS OF INTEREST**

HORIZON-HLTH-2024-IND-06: Gaining experience and confidence in New Approach Methodologies (NAM) for regulatory safety and efficacy testing – coordinated training and experience exchange for regulators

**PARTNER INFORMATION**

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| **The DermAb.io team – value proposition** | **Expected outcome** |
| Vast experience in the field of alternative laboratory skin models (as NAMs). These models have been successfully implemented for safety and efficacy of raw materials in topical applications. Dr. Meital Portugal-Cohen, DermAb.io CTO is a member in the EU COST NETSKINMODEL dealing with sophisticated alternative skin models research and leads the translation of these models from the academia to the industry. | European regulators gain state-of-the-art knowledge on different NAMs that are being proposed for the assessment of the safety and efficacy of chemicals and pharmaceuticals. |
| Capability to compare animal data from the literature to alternative skin models data, thus demonstrating some of the animal procedures’ shortcoming. | European regulators understand better the shortcomings of the current tools based on animal procedures for the assessment of chemicals and pharmaceuticals. |
| Already developed tools for safety and efficacy assessment of materials in various alternative skin models. Some of these were as part of FP7 projects for nanomaterials risk analysis (nanoTHER, nanoReTox) and H2020 for delivery systems (PeptiCaps). | European regulators collaborate on a framework on how to assess the safety of chemicals based on NAM-data and how to classify the hazardous properties based on such data. |
| SOPs and protocols for testing materials’ safety and efficacy in alternative skin models that can be implemented also for pharmaceuticals. | European regulators collaborate on a similar framework for assessment of safety and efficacy of pharmaceuticals based on NAM-data.  |
| Experienced in designing non-invasive skin surface sensor devices that can be in the future implemented for the benefit of the citizens. | Citizens benefit from the supply and use of chemicals and pharmaceuticals that have been assessed through NAMs that are better predicting potential effects in humans than the current assessment methods. |
| Capability to perform data mining (using statistics models and machine learning) both in small and large data sets to facilitate future harmonization and standardization of the NAM tools. | Industry has an improved competitive position with the availability of harmonised and standardised NAM-based assessment tools that are faster and more flexible.  |
| Experienced the shift from animal testing to laboratory testing in the cosmetics industry. Therefore, this experience will assist in the effort of moving away from animal to laboratory testing in additional industrial sectors. | European Commission and Member States regulators are responding to the societal demand to move away from animal testing. |

**Description of the Legal Entity**

[ ]  Higher Education [ ]  Research Institution [ ]  Public Administration

[x]  Industry /SME [ ]  NGO [ ]  Other: ***Please specify***

**Description of the (Research) Team**

DermAb.io is a company developing platform technologies for precision medicine that include in-vitro and clinical research. The company is experienced in developing laboratory skin models that mimic external stress such as UV, urban pollution, chemicals and engineered nanoparticles. The DermAb.io company is the leading expert in the application of skin biomarkers for precision medicine, using non-invasive methods. Its well-established scientific network consisting of fertile collaboration with Israeli medical centers (e.g. Hadassah, Ichilov and Haemek Hospitals) and leading universities (Technion, The Hebrew University, University of Michigan in the US, University of Copenhagen in Denmark and the University of Bern in Switzerland).

Relevant skills and contribution to EC projects:

* Laboratory skin models development and testing, e.g. cells, 3D reconstructed skin, ex vivo
* Generating SOPs and protocols for standardization of analysis methods (e.g. ELISA, PCR, enzymatic activity) for:
* Safety and toxicity evaluation for chemicals
* Safety and toxicity evaluation for nanomaterials
* Safety and efficacy evaluation for topical treatments
* Claims substantiation for cosmetics
* Smart delivery systems
	+ Exposure and interaction with various matrices – liquids, gels, pastes, creams, fabrics
* 15 years of experience in EC projects participating and coordination.
* Participation in dissemination activities (e.g. lectures, and workshops)
* Exploitation plan for skincare and dermatology
* New tailor made skin model development
* Implementation of non-invasive clinical assays (e.g. tape stripping, imaging, autofluorescence)

**Expertise of the Team Leader**

Dr. Meital Portugal-Cohen, PhD

Co-founder and CTO of DermAb.io, an Industry expert with two decades experience in skin clinical and pre-clinical applied research. She received her PhD degree in Pharmacology from The Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Israel in 2010. She is experienced in initiating and leading national and bi-national research projects and grants, IP portfolio management, team leading and innovation commercialization as part of her last position as VP Science & Technology in the skincare industry. Has more than 30 scientific publications and patents.

**Potential role in the project**

[x]  Research [ ]  Training

[x]  Dissemination [ ]  Other: ***Please specify***

Already experience as a Coordinator [x]  YES [ ]  NO

 Partner [x]  YES [ ]  NO

 Expert Evaluator [ ]  YES [x]  NO

**CONTACT DETAILS**

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