

### **GenOdyssee obtains a US patent for an interferon alpha**

The French company GenOdyssee has been granted a US patent (10/691,653) on its interferon alpha GEA007.1 for application in the treatment of hepatitis C. The US patent follows on from the grant of a European patent in 2006 and means that this natural variant of interferon alpha is now protected in a total of 17 countries. A related patent is pending in Japan and another application has been filed in the United States for GenOdyssee's second interferon alpha, GEA009.2, targeting indications in oncology. Like GEA007.1, GEA009.2 is a natural variant of a therapeutic protein (interferon alpha, in this case) identified using GenOdyssee proprietary technologies for obtaining new generation proteins with improved efficacy and/or toxicity profiles. GEA007.1 is currently in the preclinical phase, where it has demonstrated prolonged and improved antiviral efficacy in human hepatocytes infected in vitro with the hepatitis C virus (HCV). In vitro, the interferon enables total elimination of the HCV genotype 1 - both the most widespread genotype and the most resistant to the current benchmark treatment with interferons alpha 2a and 2b. In the next 18 months or so, GenOdyssee plans to start clinical trials in patients infected with HCV genotype 1. The company is also preparing a round of financing to fund this new development phase, since its objective is to take the drug candidate to the proof-of-concept stage and then outlicense it to a pharmaceutical partner for co-development.