

# CELPEDIA, the French national reference infrastructure for animal research on rare diseases

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## The most appropriate animal model to accelerate the comprehension of our genome and human diseases

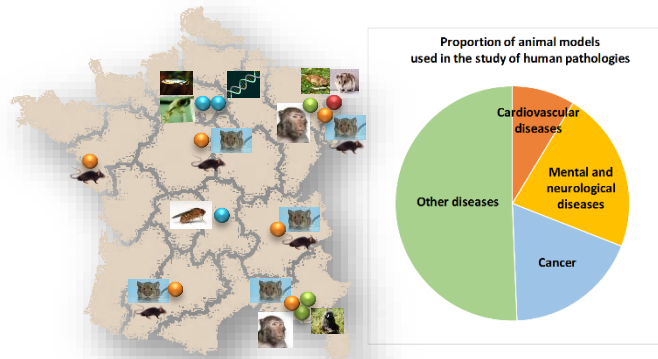
With 13 centers throughout France, CELPHEDIA has developed innovative, standardized and massively parallel technological approaches to:

- accelerate the comprehension of the genome
- generate models of human diseases
- promote therapeutic innovations through the validation of molecular targets

An unique access to 3 major families of model organisms allowing the selection of the most appropriate model to answer the questions of modern biology.

13 distributed centers, involved in 2 French infrastructures  
**tefor** phenomin  
 and in a European infrastructure  
 INFRAFRONTIER  
 3 big families of organism models close to the users

- 3 Non mammals (TEFOR)
- 6 Mouse - Rat (PHENOMIN+3)
- 1 Other rodents
- 2 Non human primates

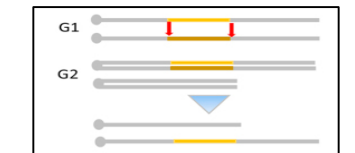


## The rat to model human rare diseases

### MRD7 syndrome

Clinical signs identified from 7 months to 7 years: microcephaly, growth delay, skeletal abnormalities, difficulty with nutrition, language delay, intellectual deficit, anxiety, aggressiveness, autism...

Y. Héroult's team

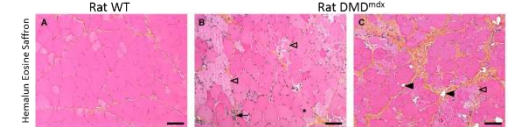


GA MRD7 rats: deletion of a *Dyrk1a* allele by CRISPR/Cas9

### Duchenne myopathy

GA rats are deficient in dystrophin

Femoral biceps muscle collected at 3 and 7 months from WT control and DMD<sup>mdx</sup> rats.



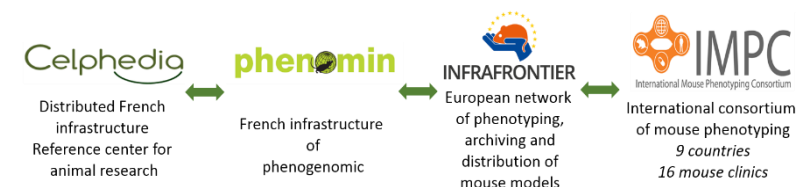
← centers of small regenerating centronucleated fibers; ▲ fibrous necrosis; ★ fibrosis; ▲ adipose tissue

Comparison of pathological and functional characteristics between patients and model animals

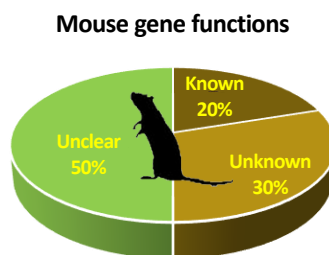
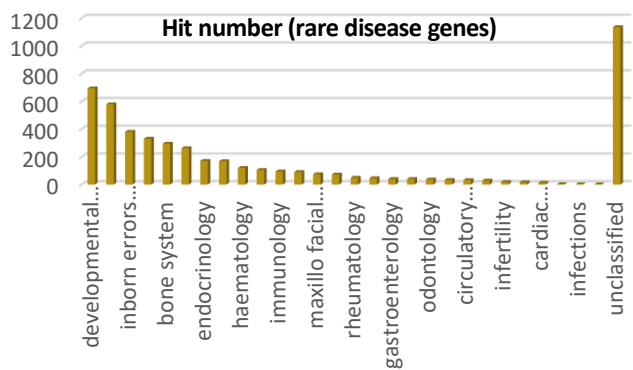
	DMD patient	GHRD dog	DMD pig	HFRD cat	Mdx mouse	Dmd <sup>mdx</sup> rat
<b>Muscle histopathology</b>						
Reverent fibers	1 to 3%	<1%	ND	ND	2%	5%
Nucleus stain	55 to 85%	2%	absent	present	2%	20-30%
Regeneration	ND	10%	ND	present	10%	10%
Calcification	mild	mild to marked	ND	severe	mild	absent
Fibrosis	marked	present	present	diaphragm mainly	late & mostly diaphragm	marked
Sarcoplasmic inclusions	severe	absent	absent	absent	absent	mild
Cardiomyopathy	marked, major cause of death	mild	absent	present	absent or late	marked
<b>Muscle function</b>						
Strength reduction	marked	marked	ND	ND	mild	marked
Locomotion	severely impaired	impaired	impaired	ND	normal	impaired

I. Aneon's team

## Involvement in European and international projects



- To undertake broad based primary phenotyping of about 20,000 mutants
- To determine the function of every gene in the mouse genome



## CELPEDIA, a combination of expertise and skills



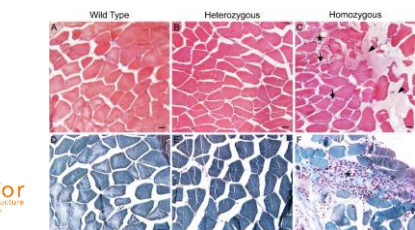
A wide range of expertise, skills and knowledge that is unique in Europe:

- multi-model scientific and technological approaches
- integrated comparative functional analyses
- a better cross-functionality of results from one model organism to another.

## Zebrafish as a model of human rare disease

**Bethlem's myopathy:** an incurable human collagen VI disease. The zebrafish GA line was obtained using TALE nucleases and mimics a human mutation in an essential splice donor site of the *col6a1* gene, causing an in-frame skipping of exon 14.

- Progressive disorganization of the muscle
- Co-dominantly inherited abnormal myofibers
- Enlarged sarcoplasmic reticulum
- Hypoxia-response behavior (locomotion tests)
- Altered mitochondria
- Misaligned sarcomeres
- Development of fibrosis (\* on C & F)



Radev Z, et al. PLoS One. 2015 - F. Sohm's team

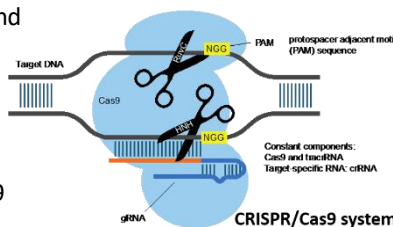


Hematoxylin-eosin-safran (A-C) or Masson's trichrome (D-F) staining.

## Genome modification and creation of models

Design and generation of genetically altered (GA) models like humanized mouse models, human pathology models, immunodeficient mice and rats:

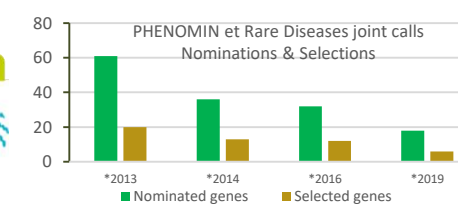
- targeted mutagenesis: constitutive and conditional knock-out, knock-in, conditional mutations, structural variants...
- ES cells in mouse
- pronuclear injection and CRISPR/Cas9 genome editing in mouse and rat



## Mouse models and Rare Diseases

Rare Disease Foundation and PHENOMIN have launched 4 calls for joint research projects since 2013.

<http://www.phenomin.fr/rare-diseases/>



## The mouse to model human rare diseases

**Costello syndrome:** mouse HRAS G12S model reproduces most of the phenotypic characteristics observed in patients

CLINICAL SIGNS	« COSTELLO » PATIENTS	« COSTELLO » MICE
POST-NATAL GROWTH DELAY		?
RHABDOMYOSARCOMA		?
HAIR/FUR ABNORMALITIES		?
SKIN ABNORMALITIES		?
SOCIAL FEATURES (e.g. HYPOGONADISM)		
HEART ABNORMALITIES		
REDUCED MUSCLE STRENGTH		
REDUCED LOCOMOTOR ACTIVITY		
REDUCED COORDINATION		
LEARNING		



300 cases worldwide

T. Sorg's team



**TRHα genetic disease:** mutations in the THRA gene coding the thyroid hormone receptor TRα1 generating various phenotypes



Tylki-Szymanska, A., et al. 2015, J Med Genet.

Generation of GA mice by CRISPR/Cas9 targeting helix 12 of the receptor

human & mouse wt THRA  
 NHRKHNI PHFWPKLLMKVTDLRMI GACHASRFLMKVCEPTELFPFLFLEVFEDQEV  
 Helix 11 Helix 12

human mutations in C-term:  
 E403X NHRKHNI PHFWPKLLMKVTDLRMI GACHASRFLMKVCEPTELFPFLFLEVFEDQEV  
 E403K NHRKHNI PHFWPKLLMKVTDLRMI GACHASRFLMKVCEPTELFPFLFLEVFEDQEV  
 F397Es406X NHRKHNI PHFWPKLLMKVTDLRMI GACHASRFLMKVCEPTELFPFLFLEVFEDQEV  
 F398K NHRKHNI PHFWPKLLMKVTDLRMI GACHASRFLMKVCEPTELFPFLFLEVFEDQEV

F. Flamant's team, UMS3444/US8 SFR BioSciences, Lyon



<http://www.celphedia.eu>