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A special issue dedicated to the 2021 meeting of the French Society for Nanomedicine

The field of nanomedicine has reached a milestone since the approval of Patisiran, the first ever-approved siRNA drug designed to treat transthyretin (TTR) amyloidosis. The great success of Corminaty and Spikevax messenger RNA (mRNA)-based vaccines against COVID-19 has really brought to light how potent nanomedicine could be. Today, stakeholders are getting more confident in the benefits of nanomedicine for diagnosis, treatment, vaccination, and research related to different types of diseases. For the years to come, it is becoming clear that we need a multidisciplinary approach to achieve a rational design of nanomedicine. Impelling the meeting and discussions of academic and private actors from different disciplines is one of the goals of the French Society for Nanomedicine (SFNano).

SFNano (https://www.sfnano.fr/) is a French non-lucrative association of learned society, which was officially launched at the general assembly of the Nanomedicine European Technology Platform (ETPN, https://etp-nanomedicine.eu/) in 2013. SFNano aims at promoting the progress and dissemination of knowledge in the field of nanomedicine, and to encourage exchanges between players in the field in the academic and industrial sectors, in France and beyond with European neighbors. SFNano organizes regular workshops, summer or winter schools on specific topics, but also holds annually its meeting in December.

After a break of 2 years due to pandemic situation, it was with great excitement and enthusiasm to be back together at the SFNano 2021 meeting held in Angers in western France from December 6th to 8th 2021. It was opened by the president of SFNano at that time, Dr Jean-Luc Coll (IAB, Grenoble, ORCID: 0000-0002-2453-3552), and a keynote presentation from Dr. Daniel Scherman on "*Nucleic acid nanomedicines*", a major theme in the field of Nanomedicine and a more than ever contemporary topic the year when several mRNA-based vaccines rapidly emerged onto the market to fight against the worldwide COVID pandemic. The SFNano 2021 meeting gathered more than 250 participants and covered the main and more recent advances in nanomedicine, including nanomedicine and cancer, nanochemistry and biomaterials, nanomedicine and gene therapy, nanomedicine and imaging, and drug release. Since a major goal of SFNano is to promote young scientists in the field of nanomedicine, one specific session was dedicated to the youngest researchers, namely PhD students, who had the chance to present their PhD project in 3 minutes and to win a specific award. Several awards have been delivered at the end of the meeting for best posters and oral communications. The 2021 PhD award was also granted to Dr. Laurianne Simon for her work on the "*Synthesis and modifications of amphiphilic polyoxazoline, polymer characterization, conception of nanoformulations for topical delivery, in vitro and in vivo evaluation*" performed at ICGM under the supervision of Prof. Sylvie Bégu and Dr. Vincent Lapinte.

This special issue will cover some of the topics addressed during the SFNano 2021 meeting. Nine of these 18 articles are accessible on the new open access companion journal of the *International Journal of Pharmaceutics*.

We wish you a pleasant reading and hope to see you in the next editions of the SFNano meetings!

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