



## **CRISPR Therapeutics Founding Scientist, Emmanuelle Charpentier Awarded 2015 Breakthrough Prize in Life Sciences**

Basel, Switzerland – November 10 – CRISPR Therapeutics, a biopharmaceutical company focused on the gene-editing technology CRISPR-Cas9, today announced that Dr Emmanuelle Charpentier, a co-founder and advisor to the Company, has been awarded the [2015 Breakthrough Prize in Life Sciences](#). Dr Charpentier, head of the Regulation in Infection Biology department at the Helmholtz-Zentrum für Infektionsforschung (Helmholtz Centre for Infection Research) in Braunschweig, Germany, was honored for her pioneering work in the development of the [CRISPR-Cas9](#) genome-editing tool.

CRISPR-Cas9 is an innovative gene-editing technology that can be used to edit the genomes of organisms directly with surgical precision. It can be used to specifically target a diseased gene and either delete or correct it. [Dr Charpentier](#) co-invented the CRISPR-Cas9 technology while working at Umea University in Sweden.

“CRISPR-Cas9 has the potential to become an incredibly powerful tool for efficient and accurate genome editing. I believe that CRISPR Therapeutics, a company that I helped found and to which I licensed my rights to the CRISPR-Cas9 foundational intellectual property, is well positioned to be in the forefront of clinical development based on this technology,” commented Dr Charpentier.

[Dr Rodger Novak](#), chief executive officer of CRISPR Therapeutics added, “CRISPR-Cas9 is a transformative new technology that will have a significant impact on drug development and will open up the potential to cure serious human genetic diseases. We are thrilled to be working closely with one of the leading CRISPR-Cas9 researchers and co-inventor of the technology and extend our congratulations to Emmanuelle on her well-deserved recognition for the discovery.”

### **ABOUT THE BREAKTHROUGH PRIZE IN LIFE SCIENCES**

The Breakthrough Prize is funded by internet entrepreneurs: Mark Zuckerberg and Priscilla Chan of Facebook; Sergey Brin of Google; entrepreneur and venture capitalist Yuri Milner; and Anne Wojcicki, co-founder of 23andMe. The \$3 million Prize recognizes researchers, such as Dr Charpentier who are advancing research that extends human life and cures deadly diseases. The Breakthrough Prize in Life Sciences Foundation is a not-for-profit corporation dedicated to advancing research, celebrating scientists and generating excitement about the pursuit of science as a career. For more information, please visit <http://breakthroughprize.org>.

### **ABOUT CRISPR THERAPEUTICS**

CRISPR Therapeutics is a Swiss biopharmaceutical company created to translate CRISPR-Cas9, an innovative gene-editing technology, into transformative medicines for serious human genetic diseases. CRISPR Therapeutics has rights to develop therapeutics based on an exclusive license to the foundational CRISPR-Cas9 intellectual property. The Company’s vision is to cure serious human diseases at the molecular level using CRISPR-Cas9. For more information, please visit [www.crisprtx.com](http://www.crisprtx.com).

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