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## **Biofortis and ProDigest announce an agreement for a global collaboration in the field of gastrointestinal research**

GHENT, Belgium and Saint-Herblain, France Oct. 23, 2020 – ProDigest, specialists in intestinal research and Biofortis, Mérieux NutriSciences' Contract Research Organization serving innovation in nutrition, health, and microbiota studies, enter into a global agreement to strengthen and enlarge their international services. Their joint expertise in the field of gastrointestinal transit, bioavailability, metabolism, immune modulation and efficacy of food compounds, functional ingredients and pharmaceuticals offers broader and more efficient support to customers in their development of drugs, pre- and probiotics and food ingredients.

Combining the know-how in preclinical testing developed by ProDigest and the expertise in clinical trials and microbiome analysis of Biofortis, we can now manage global projects evaluating novel bioactive candidates for their functionality, safety, effectiveness, impact on the gut microbiome and mechanism of action.

Etienne Casal, Senior Vice-president Europe of Mérieux NutriSciences and Benoit Fouchaq, Managing Director of Biofortis, commented: "we are pleased to collaborate with our colleagues at ProDigest to facilitate and accelerate the development of the future drugs and products in the field of gastrointestinal research. This collaboration will also stimulate innovation by sharing R&D projects."

Massimo Marzorati, CEO of ProDigest, added: "we are excited about this opportunity. The research area around the human gut is rapidly evolving as witnessed by the requests we receive from our clients around the world. The collaboration with Biofortis will create an innovative supply chain in which *in vitro* and *in vivo* data will be merged to provide a unique insight on the efficacy and functionality of new actives in the food and pharma market."

### **About Biofortis**

*Based in Europe, USA and Asia, Biofortis combines an experienced and GCP-trained staff with a strong network of scientists and key opinion leaders in various study fields*

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*such as cardiovascular, metabolic, exercise physiology, cognitive function, satiety and weight management. In addition, and with the Next Generation Sequencing (NGS) platform and bioinformatics solutions, Biofortis can characterize the different microbiomes and evaluate the safety and the efficacy of new candidate or new products.*

More information available at <https://biofortis.merieuxnutrisciences.com/>

## **About ProDigest**

*ProDigest is a CRO focused on preclinical gastrointestinal research. At the centre of each project is the SHIME® technology platform, the Simulator of the Human Intestinal Microbial Ecosystem. This unique in vitro gastrointestinal simulator accurately recreates physiology and microbiology of the whole gastrointestinal tract of humans and animals under healthy and diseased condition.*

More information available at [www.prodigest.eu](http://www.prodigest.eu).

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