

CHRISTIE'S
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ONLY WATCH 2017

CHRISTIE'S THE AUCTIONEER OF CHOICE
FOR THE 7TH EDITION OF THE BIENNIAL CHARITY AUCTION OF
UNIQUE TIMEPIECES
TO BENEFIT RESEARCH ON MUSCULAR DYSTROPHY
TO TAKE PLACE IN GENEVA ON 11 NOVEMBER 2017

GENEVA – Together, Association Monégasque contre les Myopathies (AMM) and Christie's announces that they will host the 2017 **Only Watch** charity auction on Saturday 11 November 2017 at the Four Seasons – Hôtel des Bergues in Geneva.

Under the patronage of H.S.H. Prince Albert II of Monaco, and at the initiative of Luc Pettavino, President of Association Monégasque contre les Myopathies (AMM), **Only Watch** is the world's foremost charity auction entirely devoted to research on Duchenne muscular dystrophy. Since 2005, more than 25 million euros have been raised to finance fundamental and applied research in this field.

Only Watch is the most prestigious charity auction of the luxury watch industry, bringing together the most renowned houses as well as independent brands, expressing, through exceptional timepieces, their applied creativity and willingness to help and support a very worthy cause. In 2017, the 7th edition of the charity auction will place an emphasis on unique experiences and collaborations offered by some of the brands, alongside their incredible watches.

Ahead of the auction in November, around 40 pieces will be going on a promotional world tour, including stops in Europe, including the Principality of Monaco, during the Monaco Yacht Show, in Asia, the Middle East, and the United States.

All the proceeds of the auction will be donated to scientific and medical research on neuromuscular diseases in general and on Duchenne muscular dystrophy in particular. Thanks to so many loyal partners, who graciously bring their know-how and support towards **Only Watch**, AMM is able to transfer all auction proceeds to fund further research matters.

Thomas Perazzi, Head of Christie's Geneva Watch Department and Auctioneer of the Only Watch charity sales says: "Christie's international watch department has the enormous pleasure of working closely with the Association Monégasque contre les Myopathies on the 7th edition of **Only Watch**. Since Christie's foundation in 1766, the company has been involved in a large variety of charity auctions and with 250 years of experience and knowledge Christie's and its global team will give its entire support to this important cause. On a personal note, I

am delighted to be part of **Only Watch**, a project that I have closely followed since the beginning.”

Luc Pettavino, President of the Monaco Association against Muscular Dystrophy and Founder-Organizer of Only Watch says: “**Only Watch** is a fantastic project where true altruism prevails. It is sincerely exceptional to see the ongoing converging goodwill of men and women, sustain and strengthen the hope of a therapeutic cure for Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy through the expression of applied creativity in high horology. And fantastic partners who work pro bono for this charity auction. We are very privileged to welcome on board Christie’s for this 2017 edition and work with experts who conduct the greatest and most celebrated auctions through the centuries providing a popular showcase for the unique and the beautiful. In 2017, like for the last six editions, let’s make Only Watch a collective success.”

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ABOUT CHRISTIE’S

Christie’s is a name and place that speaks of extraordinary art, unparalleled service and expertise, as well as international glamour. Founded in 1766 by James Christie, Christie’s has since conducted the greatest and most celebrated auctions through the centuries providing a popular showcase for the unique and the beautiful. Christie’s offers around 350 auctions annually in over 80 categories, including all areas of fine and decorative arts, jewellery, photographs, collectibles, wine, and more. Prices range from \$200 to over \$100 million. Christie’s also has a long and successful history conducting private sales for its clients in all categories, with emphasis on Post-War & Contemporary, Impressionist & Modern, Old Masters and Jewellery.

ABOUT ONLY WATCH

Since 2005, brands from luxury groups and independent craftsmen have enthusiastically collaborated with Only Watch for a common goal: financing research against Duchenne muscular Dystrophy. At the initiative of Luc Pettavino, President of Association Monégasque contre les Myopathies, this synergy is supported since day one by HSH Prince Albert II of Monaco and driven by the sincere commitment shown by all CEOs of the watch industry, their teams, and many partners, truly concerned by helping this noble cause. In six editions, Only Watch has enabled Association Monégasque contre les Myopathies to collect more than 25 million euros and has contributed to significant advances in research over the last 12h years.

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Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy (DMD)

Association Monégasque contre les Myopathies (AMM)

A severe disease that causes muscular degeneration of motor abilities and progressively weakens respiratory, cardiac and digestive muscles.

The AMM's mission has been to create and consolidate the strong relationships between the different international research centers with expertise in the DMD field. In other words, turning competitors - even rivals - into collaborators in pursuit of the same cause. It is for this purpose that the Monaco round tables and the ICE programme (International Collaborative Effort for DMD) were created with the aim to evaluate the advances in preclinical research on DMD and supporting their transition into clinical trials.

"By the end of this first stage, two therapeutic strategies had been established," explained Luis Garcia, Research Director at the University of Versailles and the Monaco Scientific Centre (CSM - Centre Scientifique de Monaco). "We decided to support gene therapy and messenger RNA repair technology through antisense oligonucleotides (AONs)*, without excluding the possibility of supporting other more fundamental, emerging projects as time went by."*

With regards to repairing messenger RNA, the AMM significantly financed the development of a new class of antisense molecules, Tricyclo-DNA, invented by Professor Christian Leumann at the University of Berne. The development of this new generation of medicine involved several laboratories mainly based in Switzerland and France as well as in Sweden and the United Kingdom. The preclinical trial results, published in Nature Medicine, show the spectacular results of the treatment in a laboratory mouse carrying the illness. After several weeks of treatment, the missing protein was found to be present throughout the muscles and cardiac, respiratory and ambulatory related functions were restored. This work would not have been achieved without the creation of Synthena, a start-up at the University of Bern, the only entity capable of producing sufficient quantity of the molecules that are not yet commercially available.

For Luis Garcia *"the next key phase will be the transfer of preclinical work to the patient, through new clinical trials of the molecules derived from Tricyclo-DNA. They have already proven their effectiveness in cells from patients and in different mice that have been tested. However certain safety issues still need to be addressed, particularly the 'host-medication' relationship which can vary from one species to another. In this respect, we have created a new start-up at the University of Versailles (SQY Therapeutics), which has been equipped to meet those needs in collaboration with Synthena. In addition, before undertaking long-term and costly regulatory toxicology studies required to apply for clinical trials, we have chosen to further refine our lead compounds in order to minimize potential problems of toxicity in Man. This effort was not in vain and it allowed us to design a new molecule safer and more effective"*.

All this research is 100% financed by Association Monégasque contre les Myopathies, thanks to ONLY WATCH. At the same time, the AMM continues to support the gene therapy research of Professor Robert Kotin, a world-renowned specialist in the field of gene vector production, and the LIA-BAHN (International Associated Laboratory - Biotherapies applied to Neuromuscular Disabilities), a partnership between the University of Versailles and the Monaco Scientific Centre.

* mRNA, or messenger RNA, is a copy of a gene's DNA. It is transcribed in the nucleus then passes into the cytoplasm where it is translated into a protein.

An antisense oligonucleotide is a small sequence of DNA or RNA, generally produced in a laboratory, designed to link up with a natural messenger RNA (we talk of hybridization).

Tricyclo-DNA: a synthetic equivalent of DNA designed for the synthesis of antisense oligonucleotides (AON). AON-tricyclo-DNA offers greater affinity for their RNA targets and are better able to resist nucleic acid degrading enzymes.