

Legal500

Paris • Industry focus • Healthcare and life sciences

HBC Avocats: Tier 2 Leading Firm

Legal 500 Editorial commentary

Praised for its ‘remarkable knowledge’ of the biotech industry, HBC Avocats acts for a diverse client roster of life sciences-focused venture capital firms, biotech companies, as well as clients active within the agricultural biotech space. Practice co-lead Jonathan Burnham is well known for his expansive knowledge of global licensing and collaboration agreements, and sublicense agreements. Co-head Erwan Cossé has broad experience in the full range of corporate matters within the health care and life sciences sector, often advising on investment agreements.

Testimonials

Collated independently by Legal 500 research team

- ❖ *What stands out is the great professionalism of the team, which understands the client's issues, does not hesitate to delve into key issues in the drafting of contracts, anticipates problems, and proposes solutions that should protect the client in the event of disagreement, or even litigation, with the other contracting party.”*
- ❖ *“Jonathan Burnham is my go-to person to discuss tricky situations with ongoing licence or collaboration contracts.”*
- ❖ *“Small, highly expert team specialising in contractual matters in the pharmaceutical and life sciences fields. Very good understanding of scientific issues and intellectual property. Very effective collaboration.”*
- ❖ *“HBC Avocats is excellent in the field of business advice for biotechnology companies. The entire team is particularly experienced in this field and I can only recommend it. I have in mind several situations where the firm has been very creative and has helped to unblock complicated situations. Finally, the availability and commitment of the team is excellent.”*
- ❖ *“Remarkable knowledge of the world of biotechnology. The team is a force for bringing forward proposals for the structuring of partnership agreements and contracts. I highly recommend it.”*
- ❖ *“The service provided is of high quality: the great strength of HBC Avocats is its specialisation in the pharmaceutical field, and the team's career history in this field (not only in law firms, but also in companies in the industry).”*
- ❖ *“Jonathan Burnham is both rigorous and quick in his analyses, but also creative in identifying possible solutions. He has a track record in startups and large companies in the field of life sciences, and therefore an inside opinion on the positions of each party. Fabrice Herbin is precise and quick in his analyses, and he has great drafting skills. He comes up with strong suggestions in negotiation positions (we can feel his experience in the field).”*
- ❖ *“Fabrice Herbin is very experienced in clinical development and manufacturing issues in the biotech and pharmaceutical fields. Doesn't give up and forces you to ask yourself the right questions. Jonathan Burnham always gives good advice, and approaches subjects from a strategic angle when necessary.”*

Key clients

- Adcytherix
- Emergence Therapeutics
- Eukariys
- Global Antibiotic Research and Development Partnership
- Inotrem
- Memo Therapeutics
- Onward Therapeutics
- Pierre Fabre
- Umlaut.bio

Work highlights

Advised Emergence Therapeutics, a French and German biotech company focused on the development of antibody-drug conjugate cancer drugs, on French law matters in connection with structuring and negotiating its sale to the US pharmaceutical company Eli Lilly.

Advised Adcytherix, a French biotech company focused on the development of novel antibody-drug conjugates (ADCs) to treat high unmet need diseases such as cancer, on structuring its incorporation, and on negotiating and drafting the investment agreements for its 30 M€ equity seed round backed by a syndicate of leading life science investors including Pontifax, Pureos Bioventures, RA Capital Management and Dawn Biopharma (a platform controlled by KKR).

Advised GARDP (Global Antibiotic Research and Development Partnership), a Swiss not-for-profit organization dedicated to developing and promoting access to new treatments for drug-resistant infections, on structuring, drafting and negotiating a collaboration agreement with the biopharmaceutical company Bugworks Research Inc. Under the collaboration agreement, GARDP and Bugworks will co-develop an innovative Bugworks compound with activity against multidrug-resistant bacteria, including bacteria identified by the WHO as critical priority pathogens for which few treatment options exist, and GARDP will provide up to US\$ 20 million in technical and financial support for the development of the compound. In return, GARDP obtained manufacturing and commercialization rights in 146 countries, almost all of which are low- or middle-income countries.

Lawyers: Leading partners



The strongest partners in their field, leading on market-leading deals and endorsed by peers and clients alike.