NEWS

Elkedonia completes its leadership team to advance its first-in-class depression program

> *With the arrival of a Chief Discovery Officer and a Chief Financial Officer, and co-founder Mélanie Rouillier as Chief Operating Officer, Elkedonia now combines in-house leadership across drug discovery, drug development, operations and finance.*

Elkedonia, a preclinical-stage biotech company developing a first-in-class, rapid-acting neuroplastogen for major depressive disorder, including treatment-resistant forms, has completed its leadership team. Anna Quattropani, PhD, has joined as Chief Discovery Officer and Sarah Delbaere as Chief Financial Officer. Co-founder Mélanie Rouillier, who has led operations since the company's creation, becomes Chief Operating Officer.

These appointments complete a leadership team built around the four disciplines a biotech company needs to take a novel mechanism from the bench to the clinic. Anna Quattropani, an expert in medicinal chemistry with 28 years of R&D experience, leads drug discovery. She has optimized and advanced several molecules for CNS indications from discovery into clinical trials.

Co-founder and CEO Delphine Charvin has spent 19 years developing CNS drugs, leading preclinical and clinical programs from discovery to Phase II. Over more than ten years in C-level and company-building roles in CNS biotechs that raised over €150 million, she has created and grown teams from company inception through to acquisition by a major pharmaceutical group.

Mélanie Rouillier, who oversees operations, has managed more than 30 projects in a virtual R&D model, from target validation to IND filing. Sarah Delbaere, who leads finance, has 27 years of experience in pharma and biotech finance. She served as Finance and Administrative Director of Takeda Pharmaceuticals France, and of Advicenne through its IPO on Euronext.

The team takes shape as Elkedonia advances its preclinical program, which targets ELK1, a novel non-synaptic protein. The program is designed to deliver rapid, robust and durable antidepressant efficacy without the hallucinogenic, dissociative or addictive effects associated with ketamine and psychedelics. In parallel, Elkedonia runs a biomarker program to provide early evidence of target engagement. Since May 2025, the company has raised more than €11 million from a syndicate of leading European life sciences investors.

Leadership team

Anna Quattropani, Chief Discovery Officer
Anna Quattropani has more than 25 years of experience in medicinal chemistry and R&D, with a focus on oral CNS small molecules. She is the inventor of several clinical-stage small molecules, including for neurological diseases. At Asceneuron, as Executive Vice President and member of the Executive Committee, she led non-clinical development and medicinal chemistry, yielding the discovery of two clinical-stage O-GlcNAcase inhibitors, one of which was licensed to Ferrer for progressive supranuclear palsy. She was later Chief Discovery Officer at Draupnir Bio and SVP, Head of Chemistry and Non-Clinical Development at Anavo Therapeutics. Earlier in her career, she spent more than 10 years at Serono and Merck Serono holding different roles as project leader and medicinal chemistry team leader. She is the inventor of 55 patents and the author of 23 peer-reviewed publications. She holds a PhD in organic and organometallic chemistry from the University of Geneva.

Mélanie Rouillier, Chief Operating Officer
Co-founder of Elkedonia, Mélanie Rouillier has led the company's operations and project management since its creation. As a PMP-certified project manager, she has more than 15 years of experience in project management and drug development in international settings. Over that time, she has managed more than 30 projects in a virtual R&D model, from target validation to IND filing.

Before Elkedonia, she was Scientific Project Manager at the Argobio startup studio for two years. She also spent ten years coordinating drug discovery projects at Medicines for Malaria Venture, an international public-private partnership, and six years in in vitro pharmacology at Addex Therapeutics. She holds an engineering degree in biotechnology from ESBS Strasbourg. In 2026, she was named EY Entrepreneur of the Year (Scale-up category, Grand Est region) alongside Delphine Charvin.

Sarah Delbaere, Chief Financial Officer
Sarah Delbaere has 27 years of finance experience across start-ups, biotech and pharmaceutical companies. She spent seven years as Finance and Administrative Director of Advicenne, a period that included the company's IPO on Euronext and its financing through capital increases with private investors and the European Investment Bank. Before that, she spent seven years as Finance and Administrative Director of Takeda Pharmaceuticals France, where she took part in two mergers. She then spent two years as Finance Director France–Belgium at Ferring Pharmaceuticals. Since 2023, she has supported biotech start-ups as CFO, covering finance, HR and legal matters and managing both dilutive and non-dilutive financing. She holds a degree in applied economics from the University of Antwerp.

> *"A first-in-class program in depression demands as much rigor in execution as originality in science. With Anna, Mélanie and Sarah, we have the team to take our program toward the clinic, with the discipline our investors and future partners expect."*
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> **Delphine Charvin, PhD**, co-founder and CEO of Elkedonia

About Elkedonia

Elkedonia is developing a first-in-class neuroplastogen for major depressive disorder, a condition affecting 332 million people worldwide, a third of whom do not respond to current treatments. Its approach targets ELK1, a novel non-synaptic protein, and was identified from patient data before being validated in preclinical models. Elkedonia is the first spin-off of the Argobio startup studio and builds on research from Sorbonne Université, CNRS and INSERM. The company won the i-Lab innovation competition in 2026.