

The Phadia 2500+ supports growth the growth of Biogroup's ALLERGY activities, centralised for France at one of its central laboratory in Île-de-France, in Saint-Denis. Optimisation of technical time, throughput adapted to high tests volume, but also flexibility with a catalogue offering more than 600 allergens. a glance at the strengths of a technology that still offers growth perspectives and an efficient synergy between the group and Thermo Fisher Scientific for the training of biologists, technicians and reception staff. **Laurent Souied**, medical biologist, director of the Bio Lam LCD central laboratory in Saint-Denis, and **Lisette Attia**, medical biologist responsible for autoimmunity and allergy at the central laboratory, take stock.

## THERMO FISHER SCIENTIFIC PHADIA 2500+: A partnership with Biogroup to benefit allergy patients



**Can you describe Biogroup to us and how your allergy activities are organised?**

**LS:** Biogroup is a major player in medical biology, the top private laboratory in France. Thanks to its proximity to Paris and good logistical support, our allergy activities have been consolidated at one centre, the Saint-Denis central laboratory. This platform serves as a subcontractor for a thousand laboratories in France. We carry out specialised and semi-specialised tests. In the last six months of 2022, we processed approximately 85,000 tubes for approximately 230,000 allergy tests.

**LA:** We offer 225 allergens from Thermo Fisher's ImmunoCAP™ catalogue and run an average of 1,000 to 1,200 tubes per day. The samples arrive every morning between 7 and 9 a.m. from all over France, after being collected from the technical platforms of each laboratory at the end of the day and on Saturdays and being transported overnight. Sorting and treatment on the allergy bench mean 90% of tests are delivered on D0, corresponding to D1 for laboratories that are further away. The remaining 10% of tests are those carried out for Bio Lam LCD or other

laboratories in Île-de-France, which arrive two or three times a day and are processed the same day the sample is collected. The results are automatically integrated into the report, harmonised for all pre- and post-analytical laboratories, without re-recording, with the barcodes used by the laboratories to save time and increase productivity.

**Why did you choose Thermo Fisher, specifically a Phadia 2500+, for your allergy activities? What criteria contributed to your decision?**

**LS:** The main criterion was the ability to handle the tests volume of our activities across France. The central laboratory had a Phadia 250 instrument from Thermo Fisher a few years ago; we doubled it and even installed three machines. We switched to the Phadia 1000, which is not widely distributed in France. However, as more facilities were consolidated and acquired, our activities continued to increase, and all national activities were outsourced to this single technical platform. We then briefly switched to a competing supplier and installed four machines. We were not satisfied with the throughput of this solution. The decision was then made to return to Thermo Fisher with the Phadia 2500+, which allowed us to cover our activities and still have growth potential. Thermo Fisher also offers an extensive catalogue of tests, which allowed us to add 25 tests to our panel.

**LA:** We were familiar with the analytical qualities of Thermo Fisher, highlighted by numerous publications and were also persuaded by the low number of processing steps and direct loading. We do not batch samples by their test requirements for example by allergen; the 225 tests are all directly accessible, so we never fall behind in our results, which is one of our strong commitments. At the pre-analytical level, the ImmunoCAP tests show no interference with biotin or antihistamines, which allows them to be performed at any time after an allergic reaction. Finally, the teams' familiarity with Thermo Fisher technology was a positive, even if we were not familiar with the Phadia 2500+.

**How did implementation and accreditation go?**

**LA:** The Phadia 2500+ arrived in February 2022. The installation went very well. We were already users of the Phadia 250



and 1000, so there was less training. The only new element was the tube-loading module. The users and reference technician received highly specialised training. Since installation, we have come to appreciate the relationship with the after-sales service, which is very responsive and has taken the initiative to train technicians on internal problem-solving. As for accreditation, we were supported by Thermo Fisher for method validation, and there were no problems. We were 100% accredited as soon as the lab opened.

**What were the measurable benefits?**

**LA:** We entirely cover our current activities and still have room for growth, which was our goal. The gains are also noticeable in terms of technician time: only one technician is required and can perform other tasks simultaneously. The Phadia 2500+ is highly automated, with advance settings, morning maintenance, and automatic washing if necessary. Lastly, we are very satisfied with the addition of the new test references, which has reduced our outsourcing of tests without delaying the reporting of results on DO, which remains a Biogroup commitment for the most common allergens.

**Besides the Phadia 2500+, what do you like about your partnership with Thermo Fisher?**

**LA:** We are working on running training sessions for biologists at other sites as webinars. We believe biologists are important points of reference in the field for patients seeking information and general practitioners. Advising biologists is essential for this complex speciality, and we want our training to be at the forefront of the latest advances in the field. This is an essential commitment of Biogroup, and the partnership with Thermo Fisher is very strong. It meets our quality requirements with the involvement of recognised international specialists and interaction with Biogroup biologists. Therefore, the training courses are outstanding in scientific quality and go beyond simply highlighting a technical solution. All our teams, from reception to technical staff, can benefit from it. We are very satisfied with our contact with as well as all the commercial technical and scientific persons.

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