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Interview

Rachel Maers
from Jeito
Capital on
premium
investment
opportunities
in Europe.



Green new world

Synthetic Biology

Biosimilar expansion

How European producers can expand their lead in the field

Novel Foods

Protein from two more insect species approved by EU authorities

Bioprocessing

Biomanufacturers prepare to push sustainable production

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Windfall for Hemab

FINANCING Hemab Therapeutics ApS is not one to set small goals: The biotech company, which develops therapeutics for serious, underserved bleeding and thrombosis disorders, has stated it aims to develop five clinical assets by 2025. Now, the company has taken a big step towards that goal by raising the impressive sum of US\$135m (~€128m) in a Series B financing. With the funds, Hemab will complete its ongoing Phase I/II clinical study of lead candidate HMB-001 in Glanzmann Thrombasthenia, in which the first patient has been dosed in January, and start and complete a Phase I/II clinical evaluation for HMB-VWF in von Willebrand disease.

Hemab also plans to initiate pivotal studies and advance its pipeline further. "Hemab is fundamentally reimagining the treatment paradigm for underserved bleeding and thrombotic disorders. This financing will allow us to progress our clinical programs for the first prophylactic treatments for Glanzmann Thrombasthenia and von Willebrand Disease, delivering functional cures for patients in need," said Benny Sorensen, CEO of Hemab.

The oversubscribed Series B financing was led by Access Biotechnology with participation from new investors Deep Track Capital, Avoro Ventures, Invus,

Rock Springs Capital, and Maj Invest Equity. Current investors including HealthCap, Novo Holdings, and RA Capital Management also invested. "We're grateful for this robust syndicate of investors who support our approach of leveraging validated advanced technologies and deep insights into the biology of clotting to overcome decades of scientific stagnation," said Benny Sorensen, CEO and president of Hemab. The company had already raised US\$55m in a Series A led by RA Capital Management, Novo Holdings and HealthCap in July 2021. ■



Hemab CEO Benny Sorensen

Sequel for research programme

ONCOLOGY Finnish pharma company Orion Corporation AB and Alligator Bioscience, a clinical-stage biotechnology company developing tumour-directed immuno-oncology antibody drugs, have expanded their existing immuno-oncology research collaboration: They have initiated a second program targeting a bispecific antibody with potential applications in solid tumours. Using Alligator's proprietary bispecific platform, each company will provide validated monospecific binders for one tar-

get. Under the initial agreement signed in 2021, Alligator employs its proprietary phage display libraries and RUBY™ bispecific platform to develop immuno-oncology product candidates based on design criteria identified by Orion. Alligator remains eligible for development, approval and sales milestone payments of up to €469m across the three potential programmes, in addition to royalties if Orion exercises its options to continue development and commercialisation of the resulting product candidates. ■

NEWS

AI-driven therapy

Evaxion Biotech A/S has received FDA fast-track designation for its peptide-based cancer immunotherapy EVX-01 in combination with Merck's PD-1 inhibitor Keytruda. The company can now proceed with its Phase IIb clinical trial, where the personalised cancer vaccine is given to patients with metastatic melanoma.

Biomarker partners

Swedish medtech company Capitainer AB launched a research collaboration with AstraZeneca plc. The aim is to use Capitainer's novel self-sampling product delivering cell-free blood to develop protocols for biomarkers relevant to AstraZeneca's clinical drug programmes.

Targeted financing

Akiram Therapeutics AB has raised SEK68m (€6m) to start clinical studies of its targeted radioimmunotherapy for anaplastic thyroid cancer. The share issue was led by Sciety and the network Sciety Venture Partners, and was joined by Linc AB. The proceeds will go towards the GMP production of the drug candidate and initiating a Phase I clinical study.

CRO takeover

Contract research organisation TFS HealthScience AB expanded its expertise in ophthalmology by acquiring Swiss Appletree CI Group. The takeover will bring the CRO closer to becoming a market leader in the ophthalmology field, TFS hopes.