**BUSINESS NEWS - 19th January 2022**

**AstraZeneca and Scorpion Therapeutics enter agreement to discover, develop and commercialise novel cancer treatments against 'undruggable' targets**

Axel Hoos, MD, PhD, Chief Executive Officer, Scorpion, said: "We are pleased to enter into this collaboration with AstraZeneca, whose expertise in drug development and commercialisation complements our discovery platform, which leverages cutting-edge advances in cancer biology and medicinal chemistry, including chemical proteomics, structure-based drug design and machine learning. We expect this collaboration will accelerate Scorpion's efforts to deliver the promise of 'Precision Oncology 2.0': optimised, transformational therapies for more patients living with cancer."

**BridgeBio and Amgen to Study BBP-398 in Combination with LUMAKRAS® (sotorasib) in Advanced Solid Tumors with the KRAS G12C Mutation**

"Overactivity of the MAPK pathway is a significant cause of many types of difficult-to-treat cancers and by combining these two agents, we aim to reduce the oncogenic potential of tumor cells," said Frank McCormick, Ph.D., chairman of oncology at BridgeBio. "Building on our collaborations with Bristol Myers Squibb and LianBio, we are excited to be working with Amgen on this new collaboration. By harnessing the power of BBP-398 as a potentially best-in-class SHP2 inhibitor with LUMAKRAS, we are hopeful that we will be able able to provide substantial relief for cancer patients in need. We will continue to pursue additional collaborations that we believe hold promise for patients."

**Lantern Pharma Expands Precision Oncology Collaboration with the NCI - Accelerating Path to First in Human Clinical Trials for LP-184 & LP-284**

"This expanded collaboration with the NCI is further evidence of the power of combining multiomic data with our A.I. platform, RADR®, to accelerate the cost-effective and biomarker guided development of targeted oncology therapies," stated Dr. Kishor Bhatia, Chief Scientific Officer of Lantern Pharma. "We look forward to publishing our first in human Phase 1 results in peer-reviewed publications and bringing our potential cancer therapies to patients through the power of A.I. and data."

**Amgen and Arrakis Therapeutics Announce Multi-Target Collaboration to Identify Novel RNA Degrader Small Molecule Therapeutics**

"We are excited to partner with Amgen's strong research team to pursue a shared goal of creating a new class of medicines that induce degradation of disease-causing RNAs. This collaboration further demonstrates the utility of our proprietary rSM discovery platform for targeting RNA with small molecules and paves the way for creating powerful new treatments for patients," said Michael Gilman, Ph.D., chief executive officer of Arrakis. "Based on our long-term goal to build a broad and industry-leading platform that adapts state-of-the-art drug discovery tools to target RNA biology, we have enabled a range of different applications and collaborations to leverage our science, a strong capital position and the ability to grow our business and our impact to advance RNA-targeted drug programs for diseases unaddressed by today's medicines."

**Neogene Therapeutics Announces Exclusive License with the NCI for a Portfolio of T Cell Receptors (TCR) Targeting KRAS and TP53 Mutations for the Treatment of Cancer**

"TP53 and KRAS are among the most commonly mutated genes in cancer, however, very few therapies specifically targeting these mutations are currently available, and there is a high unmet need for effective treatment options," said Raphaël Rousseau, M.D., Ph.D., Chief Medical Officer of Neogene Therapeutics. "We're excited to have entered into this agreement with the NIH to expand our current development program and address this need through the development of TCR-engineered T cell therapies for patients with tumors that harbor these common mutations."

**BioNTech and Crescendo Biologics Announce Global Collaboration to Develop Multi-specific Precision Immunotherapies**

"Crescendo's platform provides excellent properties for exploiting novel targets and target combinations which we believe has great potential for the development of multi-specific mRNA and engineered cell-based therapies in a variety of disease areas," said Ugur Sahin, M.D., Chief Executive Officer and Co-Founder of BioNTech. "We are excited to begin working with Crescendo to further strengthen and expand our multimodal immunotherapy portfolio and deliver breakthrough precision medicines for patients."

**Moderna and Carisma Establish Collaboration to Develop in vivo Engineered Chimeric Antigen Receptor Monocytes (CAR-M) for Oncology**

"We are excited to begin this collaboration with Carisma to further expand our oncology pipeline with a differentiated in vivo cell-therapy approach," said Stephen Hoge, President of Moderna. "This exemplifies our strategy to partner with companies with deep biological expertise while leveraging Moderna's core mRNA and LNP capabilities to further expand the reach of Moderna's technology."

**Takeda to Acquire Adaptate Biotherapeutics to Develop Novel Gamma Delta (γδ) T Cell Engager Therapies Targeting Solid Tumors**

"Partnering with early-stage innovators to access cutting-edge platforms in the fight against cancer is at the center of our R&D strategy," said Christopher Arendt, Ph.D., Head of Oncology Cell Therapy and Therapeutic Area Unit of Takeda. "Adaptate's γδ T cell engager platform and the team's deep understanding of γδ T cell biology gives us an opportunity to develop a new class of therapeutics that tap into powerful innate immune mechanisms. The planned acquisition will strengthen our immuno-oncology R&D efforts as part of our ongoing pursuit of life-transforming medicines for patients with cancer."

**Gilead Announces Clinical Trial Collaborations With Merck to Evaluate Trodelvy® in Combination With KEYTRUDA® in 1L mNSCLC**

"We're excited to broaden our clinical collaborations with Merck to investigate Trodelvy in combination with KEYTRUDA in another cancer where there is tremendous need for novel combinations to help improve patient outcomes," said Merdad Parsey, MD, PhD, Chief Medical Officer, Gilead Sciences. "This partnership builds on our ambition of providing alternatives to traditional chemotherapy with Trodelvy containing regimens across some of the most difficult-to-treat cancers."

**ArsenalBio Announces Expansion of Collaboration with BMS to Advance T Cell Therapy in Solid Tumors**

"The decision by Bristol Myers Squibb to expand our collaboration and add another program is a testament to the strength of our partnership and the promise of ArsenalBio's proprietary technology," said Ken Drazan, M.D., Co-Founder, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, ArsenalBio. "We look forward to continuing this fruitful relationship and working together to advance next-generation T cell therapies so we can ultimately achieve our mission – help more patients defeat cancer."

**Pfizer collaborates with Beam therapeutics to develop targets for rare genetic disorders as a part of in vivo base editing programs**

Beam Therapeutics, a company developing precision genetic medicines, has received $300 million from Pfizer to expand its in vivo base editing program. As a part of the 4-year research collaboration, Beam Therapeutics will focus on developing 2 targets for rare genetic disorders of the liver, muscle and the central nervous system. John Evans, Chief Executive Officer of Beam, said "This collaboration will provide a unique opportunity to create potentially transformative base editing programs for indications with critical unmet needs, leveraging our proprietary base editing technology and expanding delivery capabilities. We look forward to working together with Pfizer to advance these technologies and potentially expand our impact for people suffering from serious diseases." If any of the targets are picked up by Pfizer, the company has the potential to get a further $1.35 billion.

**Acadia Pharmaceuticals and Stoke Therapeutics reach a research pact to develop drugs for rare neurodevelopmental disorders**

The two companies announced at the J.P. Morgan Healthcare Conference that they have entered a research collaboration to develop RNA-based medicines for SYNGAP1 syndrome, Rett syndrome (*MECP2*), and an undisclosed neurodevelopmental target of mutual interest. Stoke will receive $60 million upfront to lead the research and pre-clinical activities whereas Acadia will focus on the clinical development and commercialization of the drugs. According to Steve Davis, Chief Executive Officer of Acadia Pharmaceuticals, "Combining Stoke's capabilities with Acadia's extensive expertise in neuroscience drug development and commercialization enables us to push harder and faster in exploring some of the new frontiers in rare central nervous system disorders."

**AstraZeneca and BenevolentAI boost up their AI-drive drug discovery collaboration, now expanding to heart failure and Lupus**

Following a successful collaboration of 3 years since 2019 to identify multiple novel targets in chronic kidney disease (CKD) and idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis (IPF), the two companies have decided to expand further to other disorders. The Chief Science Officer at BenevolentAI, Anne Phelan, said, "Our collaboration with AstraZeneca represents the future of drug discovery. It brings together traditional biology with innovative AI-driven technologies to integrate and analyse vast amounts of scientific data from diverse sources." BenevolentAI will receive upfront payment, research funding to start off the three year expansion followed by milestone payments and future royalties.