

ORYZON leads an Eurostars project to promote new epigenetic treatments

Oryzon participates in a consortium with other two European biotech companies

BARCELONA, SPAIN / CAMBRIDGE MA, August 17th 2015. A consortium led by Oryzon Genomics has received once again the Eurostar qualification and funding approval by the Eureka Secretariat. In this case, the project aims to promote epigenetic treatments for oncology and neurodegenerative diseases. The consortium is formed by three of the most active SMEs in the field of epigenetics in Europe including the Spanish Oryzon.

The main objective of this project is to share the previous expertise and technological knowledge on the epigenetics field from the three companies to improve positioning and strengths of their own developments and approach to the requiring patient with new active compounds, which can become first-in-class therapeutic treatments.

The project, which begins October 1 and will run for two and a half years, has a global budget of several million euros, to which Oryzon initially contributes nearly for 40%. The Spanish company expects to receive a grant which could be up to 60% of this investment.

In addition, Oryzon plans to advance the clinical development of its molecule ORY-2001, which has been shown in animal models to be very active and able to protect the memory loss that occurs in diseases such as Alzheimer's and other neurological disorders, like Parkinson's and Huntington's disease. In addition, the company will explore throughout the development of this Eurostars project other possible indications for this LSD1 inhibitor / MAO-B.

President of Oryzon Genomics, Carlos Buesa, referred to ORY-2001, which will be in Clinical Phase I at the end of the year: "it will respond, when reaches the market, to an unmet medical need since at present there are only drugs able to transitorily relieve symptoms of Alzheimer, and this molecule has demonstrated to stop the deterioration of memory in animal models, so far". Buesa said that "it is an honor to receive once again the confidence of the Eureka consortium and Eurostars program" and stressed that this project will help to accelerate research in this area.

Epigenetics is a term used to describe functionally relevant changes to the genome that do not involve a change in the nucleotide sequence. Examples of epigenetic mechanisms include DNA methylation or histone modification, each of which alters how genes are expressed and consequently read or not read without altering the underlying DNA sequence. These epigenetic changes may last through cell divisions for the duration of the cell's life, and may also last for multiple generations even though they do not involve changes in the underlying DNA sequence. Epigenetics is an active field both in cancer and neurodegenerative research. The lysine-specific demethylase 1 (LSD1), which demethylates a histone, is an indispensable epigenetic governor involved in regulation of key cellular processes including proliferation and differentiation.

Eurostars is a program to support intensive R&D SMEs in developing market-oriented transnational projects. Currently, the program involves the participation of 25 members of the Eureka and the EC. Eureka manages the

program through its Secretariat (ESE) and the network of National Coordinators (NPC) from the countries participating and making decisions in the High Level Group (HLG). In Spain, the Ministry of Economy and Competitiveness, through the CDTI, is responsible for managing the program. CDTI has representation in the (NPC) of the participating countries, and contributes to the decisions made at the High Level Group (HLG).

ABOUT ORYZON

Founded in 2000 in Barcelona, Spain, Oryzon (www.oryzon.com) is a privately held, clinical stage biopharmaceutical company considered as the European champion in Epigenetics with one of the strongest portfolio in the field. Its LSD1 program is currently covered by 19 patent families and has rendered one compound in clinical trials and another one to enter clinical trials by the beginning of 2016. In addition, Oryzon has ongoing programs for developing inhibitors against other histone demethylases and histone methyltransferases. The company has also a strong technological platform for biomarker identification and performs biomarker and target validation for a variety of malignant and neurodegenerative diseases. Oryzon's strategy is to develop first in class compounds against novel epigenetic targets through Phase II clinical trials, at which point we decide on a case-by-case basis to either keep the development in-house or to partner or out-license the compound for late stage development and commercialization. In October 2014, ORYZON announced opening of U.S. operations in Cambridge, Massachusetts through its U.S. affiliate, Oryzon Corp.

For more information

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