



Press release

20. February 2020

Hope for Hepatitis B patients

New research project to cure hepatitis B patients under the European Horizon 2020 programme

On 1st January, 2020 a new research project in hepatitis B has started under the European Horizon 2020 programme. The main objective of the TherVacB project is to develop a therapeutic vaccine to cure hepatitis B patients.

More than three percent of the world's population (about 260 million humans) are chronically infected with the hepatitis B virus (HBV). Worldwide 880,000 humans die each year from the sequelae: liver cirrhosis and hepatocellular carcinoma. Currently, there is no cure. The therapeutic vaccine TherVacB aims to cure patients with chronic hepatitis B. A consortium of leading virologists, immunologists and specialized physicians will use a newly designed vaccine as an immunotherapy in a two-year clinical trial starting in 2021. With three vaccine shots, one every four weeks, the vaccine induces neutralizing antibodies and T-cell responses. At first, two protein antigens are injected, followed by an MVA ("modified vaccinia virus Ankara") vector. This vector is designed to express hepatitis B viruses found worldwide. Since Africa suffers from a high infection rate and particular HBV viruses can be found there, part of the clinical trial will be conducted in Tanzania. This shall also help building local capacities for diagnosing and treating hepatitis B.

Project coordinator Prof. Ulrike Protzer on the benefits of the project: "I am highly pleased that for the clinical trials of TherVacB we are able to cooperate with a consortium of Europe's leading virologists, immunologists and hepatologist, guided by Helmholtz Zentrum München. This will be of great benefit for the patients chronically infected with the hepatitis B virus."

ARTTIC has supported the proposal development and is now supporting the project's day-to-day management, communication, dissemination and exploitation activities. "I am very happy about the successful proposal we could develop together with the consortium and we are excited to be partner of this important research project", Dr. Claudia Speiser, Senior Consultant at ARTTIC states. "With our long-standing experience in EU research project management, we will support the TherVacB consortium to deliver and disseminate the targeted results and achieve the expected impact."

TherVacB is supported by H2020 with 10.426.000 Euros. The project runs over five years and will end on 31 December, 2024.

The parties involved

The TherVacB project is coordinated by Helmholtz Zentrum München and unites public research organisations from across Europe: Klinikum Rechts der Isar der Technischen Universität München, Universitätsklinikum Hamburg-Eppendorf, Medizinische Hochschule Hannover, Helmholtz-Zentrum für Infektionsforschung GmbH, Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München, Universität Leipzig, Technische Universität München (Germany); National Institute for Medical Research (Tanzania); Fundacio Clinic per a la Recerca Biomedica (Spain); Azienda Ospedaliero-Universitaria di Parma (Italy); University College London, Barts and the London NHS Trust, Royal Free London NHS Foundation Trust (United Kingdom), supported by Biotechnology related enterprise members CTC North GmbH & Co. KG (Germany) and ARTTIC (France).

About Horizon 2020 Programme

Horizon 2020 is the biggest EU Research and Innovation programme ever with nearly 80 billion Euros of funding available over seven years (2014 to 2020). It promises more breakthroughs, discoveries and world-firsts by taking great ideas from the lab to the market. The project is funded in a specific call about innovative treatments and technologies such as gene or cell therapies. With this specific call the European Union aims to improve the development of advanced methods and devices for targeted and controlled delivery, and to bring these innovative treatments to the patient.

About ARTTIC

ARTTIC assists clients from all business and research sectors, small and large, private and public, to ensure the success of their collaborative research & innovation ventures. During 32 years of success, ARTTIC developed and demonstrated expertise in the set-up and management of to date 400 large-scale ambitious projects of which 96 already successful under H2020 first calls, Clean Sky calls included. Based on its long-standing experience in a range of funding programmes across scientific and technological domains, ARTTIC helps clients to move from strategic plans to effective competitive research and development of innovative solutions, resulting in successful applications and businesses. Founded in Paris in 1987, ARTTIC is now a group of companies with main offices in France (Paris and Toulouse), Belgium (Brussels), Germany (Munich and Berlin), England (Derby) and Israel (Tel Aviv).

Contact

Project Office

Email us: thervacb_management@eurtd.com



This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No 848223.