



Press Release

Immuneel Therapeutics, Hospital Clínic de Barcelona & Institut d'Investigacions Biomèdiques August Pi i Sunyer Announce a Strategic collaboration & a License Agreement.

Immuneel acquires exclusive license to CD19 CAR T Product for the Potential Treatment of B Cell Malignancies for India.

October 13, 2020

BANGALORE, INDIA & BARCELONA, SPAIN – Immuneel Therapeutics Private Limited (Immuneel) today announced that it has entered into a multi-asset collaboration & licensing agreement with Hospital Clínic de Barcelona (HCB) & Institut d'Investigacions Biomèdiques August Pi i Sunyer (IDIBAPS). Under the collaboration which opens up opportunities for co-development of advanced assets to be deployed in Spain & India, Immuneel acquired the exclusive rights to develop & commercialise autologous ARI-0001 – a CD19 Chimeric antigen receptor (CAR) T cell therapy, in India. This agreement puts Immuneel as a front-runner in the pursuit of offering accessible & affordable CAR Ts to patients in India through registration clinical trials & its investments in further process optimization.

Speaking about this milestone collaboration:

Ms. Kiran Mazumdar Shaw (Co-founder, Immuneel) said, “This partnership with HCB & IDIBAPS is pathbreaking & heralds the advent of life saving CAR T therapy for patients in India. Immuneel is committed to providing affordable access to this cutting-edge therapy at state-of-the-art facilities housed at the Mazumdar Shaw Cancer Centre. I would particularly like to call out Dr. Campistol & Dr. Juan Uriach for their willingness to partner with us in our mission to give hope to cancer patients who can benefit from cell therapies.”

HCB/IDIBAPS are public institutions that collaborated with a vision to create ARI-0001 as a product that can be an affordable option to treat patients with B cell malignancies in Spain. Dr. JM. Campistol (CEO, HCB) said, “We are extremely proud about this collaboration with Immuneel. We are convinced about the benefits of our CAR T therapy on patients with Acute lymphoblastic leukemia (ALL). This is the beginning of a fruitful & promising collaboration between our academic research efforts (HCB & IDIBAPS) & Immuneel to improve the treatment of hematological disorders.”

Dr. Elias Campo (Research Director, HCB-IDIBAPS) added, “CAR T based therapies have shown efficacy in the treatment of certain leukemias & lymphomas. With this

partnership we will improve our knowledge on this kind of therapies & more patients will benefit from them.”

Dr. Juan Uriach Torello (Scientific Business Advisor, Immuneel-HCB-IDIBAPS Collaboration) who has played a key advisory role in the partnership added, “This a remarkable display of alignment on affordable cell therapy between an academic hospital & a start-up; & also, a demonstration of hope for Spain & India.”

ARI-0001 is a novel 2nd generation autologous CD19 CAR T, that has been extensively studied in-vitro & in-vivo. Clinical data from a recently concluded Phase 1-2 trial showed ARI-0001 to be a safe & efficacious product, with persistence of CAR T cells & response in patients who had failed previous therapies. ARI-0001 is currently under review for approval as a hospital exemption product by Spanish Drug Agency (AEMPS). “This collaboration & ARI-0001 licensing marks a strong foundation event on which Immuneel will bring its purpose to fruition - to enable really high quality & affordable cell therapy for patients in India. The collaboration seeks to align efforts to globalise affordable high-quality cell therapy strategies developed in India & Spain. We are really excited to be able to accelerate access to transformative therapies with ARI-0001 & build on the excellent data already generated in Spain” said Dr. Arun Anand (COO, Immuneel).

Dr. Siddhartha Mukherjee (Co-founder, Immuneel) further added, “Immuneel is extremely proud to bring this cutting-edge cell therapy to India. These "living drugs", created from genetically modified cells, have saved the lives of hundreds of cancer patients around the world but have been unavailable in India. Unlike standard medicines, these cell therapies have to be produced & delivered with immense care & technical finesse. A clinically tested target like CD19 will enable Immuneel validate its clinical delivery for CAR T cells in India.”

According to Dr. Kush M Parmar (Co-founder, Immuneel), “As Immuneel sets out on its mission to enable access to cellular therapies in India, CD19 CAR T as a first product reflects the thoughtful & stepwise approach being taken. The manufacturing, regulatory, clinical & delivery experience in bringing this validated approach to patients in India will lay the foundation for Immuneel’s leadership role in cellular therapies in the region & positions us well to build a pipeline of next-generation products for many patients in need.”

“The agreement represents a first-rate opportunity to open the use of a product, that has been used only in our HCB, for the patients of a continental-sized country like India, with a very different regulatory environment that can facilitate the validation of improvements that also could help our patients” said Dr. Manel Juan (Head of the Immunology Department of HCB & Head of the Immunogenetics of the autoinflammatory response group at IDIBAPS).

Dr. Álvaro Urbano (Director, HCB - Hemato-oncological Diseases & Head of the IDIBAPS group on Hematopoietic progenitor cell transplantation) points out that, “We are very proud because the effort of a large team of the HCB/IDIBAPS has made it possible that thanks to the ARI001 many patients in India will have access to a CAR T, which they could not otherwise afford. At the same time, it is a great responsibility

to maintain the demands of quality & efficacy, as it is highly complex gene therapy. This will be the focus of the agreement that we have signed with Immuneel.”

Additional terms were not disclosed.

About CD19 CAR T cell therapy

CD19 CAR T therapy is an adoptive autologous antitumor immunotherapy for patients with resistant or refractory CD19 + leukemia or lymphoma. This autologous product consists of a suspension of T-cells obtained from a patient, activated & genetically modified to express a chimeric antigen receptor (CAR) on its surface, in this case CD19. CAR Ts typically consist of a binding domain, a transmembrane domain & co-stimulatory molecules. Three CD19 CAR T products have been approved so far globally.

About Hospital Clínic de Barcelona (HCB)

HCB is a public university hospital with a century-long history. With 4,500 employees, it is one of the leading healthcare centres in Spain & the first in scientific production. The hospital offers quality care, high-level excellence & competitive biomedical research & a high teaching commitment to train professionals. All of this is included in an excellent balanced management with the aim of offering society a humanized cutting-edge medicine.

About Institut d'Investigacions Biomèdiques August Pi i Sunyer (IDIBAPS)

IDIBAPS is a centre for research of excellence that tackles high-prevalence, high-morbidity & high-mortality diseases. Founded in 1996, it is a public consortium whose members are the Catalan Government, the HCB, the University of Barcelona's School of Medicine & the CSIC Biomedical Research Institute in Barcelona. It represents over 1,000 research professionals organised into around one hundred research groups. Its combination of basic & clinical research allows for a more effective transfer of the scientific advances obtained in the laboratory towards patients. With close to 1,100 articles published each year & an impact factor of over 6,000 points, it is Spain's principal biomedical research centre.

About Immuneel Therapeutics (Immuneel)

Immuneel is a pioneering start-up company leading the change in cell & gene therapy & personalized immunotherapy for patients in India. Headquartered in Bangalore, India – a research-led, fully integrated cell & gene therapy company committed to bringing breakthrough cancer treatments to India, affordably & build a portfolio of next generation cell therapies. Additional information about Immuneel is available at www.immuneel.com.

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