

Peptomyc completes Seed Funding of €1M

Funds will help company reach preclinical validation for lead candidate in glioblastoma multiforme - an aggressive and life-threatening brain tumor - and in other cancer indications.

Barcelona, April 28th 2016.– Peptomyc, a drug development company specialized in the discovery of new cancer treatments, today announces it has completed a Seed Funding Round of €1M. HealthEquity SCR, a Spanish investment fund, led the round. The fundraising was also supported by a syndicate of business angels and institutional investors.

“We are very happy to have closed this seed round and we are extremely grateful for the support we received from HealthEquity, our institutions Vall d’Hebron Institute of Oncology and ICREA, and our generous Business Angels,” said Laura Soucek, CEO and co-founder of Peptomyc. “With Peptomyc, we are committed to making a difference in the treatment of patients affected by cancer and this seed round is a huge step forward on our path towards the clinic”.

“Peptomyc is a very promising company in the field of cancer treatment. Its strong preclinical results and novel mechanism of action, developed by Dr. Laura Soucek, convinced us of the value of its research,” said Luis Pareras and Albert Ferrer, directors of HealthEquity. “We are very confident in its glioblastoma candidate and we look forward to the next stages of development for this product.”

The funds raised will be used to complete the preclinical studies, moving Peptomyc’s candidate closer to clinical use, and to develop other potential oncological indications for its protein therapeutics.

About Myc’s role in Cancer

Currently, cancer incidence in the world exceeds 14 million cases per year and results in 8 million deaths annually. Moreover, such numbers are forecast to rise by 75% over the next 20 years. At the moment, standard therapies include surgery, radiotherapy, chemotherapy, and, in a restricted subset of cancers, precision medicine. Unfortunately, very often these therapies fail, due to the development of resistance.

Peptomyc has adopted a different strategy to attack cancer cells, based on the inhibition of the oncoprotein Myc, which is found deregulated in the majority of human cancers. Myc holds a non-redundant function in cancer around which tumors cannot evolve, hence targeting Myc is an exceptionally promising therapeutic opportunity.

Although Myc plays a central role in cancer there is currently no Myc inhibitor in the market. Peptomyc designed a new generation of anti-Myc inhibitors based on a molecule called Omomyc. Peptomyc’s goal is now to develop the Omomyc peptide – and improved variants – into clinically viable therapeutics for the treatment of cancer patients.

About Gliomas

Gliomas are the most common primary tumours affecting the adult central nervous system and respond poorly to standard therapy. Myc is causally implicated in most human tumours and the majority of glioblastomas have elevated Myc levels. Dr. Soucek’s group showed that Myc inhibition is a promising strategy for cancer therapy,

validating Myc inhibition as a therapeutic strategy in mouse and human glioma, using a mouse model of spontaneous multifocal invasive astrocytoma and its derived neuroprogenitors, human glioblastoma cell lines, and patient-derived tumours both in vitro and in orthotopic xenografts. Myc inhibition reduces proliferation, increases apoptosis and remarkably, elicits the formation of multinucleated cells that then arrest or die by mitotic catastrophe, revealing a new role for Myc in the treatment of glioma and several other human cancers. Now, Peptomyc aims to use the Omomyc-based peptides as a new pharmacological option for glioblastoma patients.

About Peptomyc

Peptomyc is a company focused on the development of a new generation of cell penetrating peptides (CPPs) targeting the Myc oncoprotein for cancer treatment. The company was founded in December 2014 and it is based on Dr. Soucek's scientific research on Omomyc (the best direct Myc inhibitor known to date) over the last twenty years.

The Peptomyc team is led by Dr. Laura Soucek and Dr. Marie-Eve Beaulieu, scientists with extensive expertise in cancer research, Myc biology and the design, production and purification of peptides. Peptomyc is looking forward to raising a series A from an international syndicate of investors. www.peptomyc.com

About HealthEquity SCR

HealthEquity SCR is a Spanish venture capital firm investing in early-stage companies in the healthcare sector, with a special focus on biotechnology and medical devices. Founded by the Barcelona Medical Association and the financial group Riva y Garcia, HealthEquity is looking for projects to bring successful innovative life science companies to the marketplace and to foster the Catalan and Spanish biotech ecosystem.

www.healthequity.es

About Antares Consulting

Antares Consulting's team has given a global support to Peptomyc's project, both at strategic level and fundraising. Antares Consulting is an international consulting firm of strategy, management, processes, and management of technology projects that become the reference within the fields of health, life sciences, pharmacy, Bio-industries, and long-term care and a leader in the countries where it is present. It has a complete and innovative portfolio for public and private organizations and has worked with more than 651 customers in 24 different countries.

www.antares-consulting.com

About VHIO

Established in 2006, the Vall d'Hebron Institute of Oncology (VHIO) is a leading comprehensive cancer center of excellence where its scientists and research physicians adopt a purely translational research model, working together as multidisciplinary teams to both accelerate and advance personalized and targeted therapies against cancer. Undertaking one of Spain's most dynamic cancer research programs, VHIO is dedicated to delivering on the promise of 'precision' medicine in oncology – turning cancer discovery into more effective treatments and better practice for the care of patients. www.vhio.net