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Success Story of Polymun Scientific

EU FP Project : HIV Virosomes

Project Title: Development of a New Vaccine Against HIV: Virosomes Incorporating HIV proteins

Call details:

Priority : LSH
Submission date : April 2004
Reference : LSH-2003-2.3.0-1

Project type:


Integrated Project
Network of Excellence
● Specific Targeted Research Project

Project Abstract:

A safe and effective vaccine is the only way to stop the spread of HIV, especially in developing countries. Despite enormous efforts of numerous groups no convincing protective vaccine against HIV-1 has been generated so far. The aim of **HIV Virosomes** is to test an alternative approach in HIV vaccine development: to test virus like particles composed of primary HIV proteins or recombinant proteins with native conformation, which are incorporated into liposomes of the size of virions and with a lipid composition similar to the virus membrane. The objective is to develop this concept from the laboratory to proof-of concept studies in non-human primates.

Website: http://ec.europa.eu/research/health/poverty-diseases/projects/90_en.htm

Consortium composition : 4 partners from 3 countries

 Polymun Scientific Immunobiologische Forschung GmbH	AT	University of Aarhus	DK
	University of Natural Resources and Applied Life Sciences	AT	EMBL, Grenoble Outstation
		Biomedical Primate Research Center	NL

Polymun in VIH Virosomes

Polymun applied to the program as it opened up the opportunity to form and provide the financial basis of a co-operation between experts in virology, immunology, liposomology, medical basic science, bio-technological know-how, GMP compliance and preclinical competence with the aim to streamline the development of the proposed vaccine from the laboratory into preclinical proof of concept trials in primates. Polymun is coordinating the project and is therefore interacting directly with the EC on behalf of all participating partners. The responsible staff from the EC, with Dr. M. Romaris being the principal scientific officer, is very cooperative and makes a smooth cooperation with the EC possible. Polymun's scientific activity within HIV Virosomes will involve ways to incorporate HIV-1 proteins into liposomes thereby stabilising their native conformation. Resulting virosomes carrying HIV proteins will be utilised as prophylactic and therapeutic vaccine against HIV-1 infection. Since this vaccine is cheap to produce, stable and might be administered in a needle free format, this approach ideally meets the specific needs of developing countries.

Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) were taken care of by a consortium agreement.

SMEs go LifeSciences partner (FFG) assisted Polymun by providing basic information on the preparation of proposals and management and conduct of EC funded projects. The SGLS partner also helped with dissemination about information on the project.

SMEs go LifeSciences partner :

FFG - www.ffg.at
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Polymun Scientific Immunobiologische Forschung GmbH is a privately owned Austrian biopharmaceutical company focused on contract development and manufacture of biopharmaceuticals, using both mammalian and microbial cell technology, as well as creating liposomal formats of drugs for contract partners. Revenues are invested in the proprietary product pipeline and the further development of technology platforms. A fine example are Polymun's broadly neutralizing HIV-1 antibodies produced in CHO cells. Another example is the recombinant human trypsin produced in yeast. The R&D projects and technologies are open for co-development and licensing. Polymun employs a team of about 40 dynamic and highly qualified scientists, technologists and support staff. Polymun operates in accordance with current GLP, GMP and GCP guidelines and holds an Austrian production license for pharmaceuticals (§63 Austrian Pharmaceutical Law) thus meeting the EU requirements for drug manufacturing.

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