



Humabs Receives Grant to Fund Discovery and Characterization of Human Monoclonal Antibodies against Deadly Intestinal Bacteria in Young Children

Substantial Grant received from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation

Work to focus on finding treatments against intestinal bacteria most frequently associated with severe neonatal gastroenteritis

Bellinzona (Switzerland), May 16th, 2017 -- Humabs BioMed SA, a leading Swiss antibody therapeutics company, today announced the receipt of a grant from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. Humabs will use the funding to discover, characterize and select human IgA monoclonal antibodies against three intestinal bacteria that are frequently associated with severe neonatal gastroenteritis. These bacteria are: *Campylobacter jejuni*, Enteropathogenic *E. coli* (EPEC) and Enteroaggregative *E. coli* (EAEC). The diarrhea resulting from gastrointestinal infections with bacteria such as those mentioned above is the second leading cause of death worldwide in infants.

Mucosal secretions represent the first line of defense to protect the host against invasion of viral and bacterial pathogens. Secretory IgA (S-IgA) are important components of mucosal fluids, in colostrum as well as in milk and represents a first line of defense in protecting the intestinal epithelium from enteric pathogens.

“We are proud to be part of this visionary project with the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. This funding will enable Humabs to find treatments to tackle a major cause of global childhood mortality,” said Filippo Riva, CEO of Humabs BioMed. *“By the end of the two years grant period, we expect to have selected a panel of S-IgA antibodies to be developed as a product for oral delivery to prevent severe diarrhea in neonates,”* said Davide Corti, CSO of Humabs BioMed.

Humabs will use the grant money to identify lead antibodies originated from immune donors for each of the selected pathogens and interrogated using Humabs' proprietary CellClone technology. These antibodies derived from a donor's IgG and IgA memory B cells will then be transferred for recombinant production and further developed through in vivo efficacy studies.

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About Humabs BioMed SA

Humabs BioMed, a private biotechnology company based in Switzerland, is focused on discovering and developing fully human monoclonal antibodies to treat serious infections. Humabs' proprietary discovery technology – CellClone – platforms enable the isolation of antibodies that have passed natural selection by the human immune system in response to disease and can generally be developed rapidly without extensive lead optimization. Humabs has a portfolio of more than a dozen immunotherapy product candidates. The Company has partnered several of its programs with MedImmune and Novartis, and two of these programs are now in clinical development by the partners. The Company is internally developing antibodies directed against hepatitis B virus and respiratory syncytial virus and metapneumovirus



HUMABS BioMed

(RSV/MPV). These programs are currently in preclinical development. In collaboration with various public health agencies, Humabs is also developing a portfolio of immunotherapies against major public health threats, including MERS-CoV, Dengue, Ebola, Rabies and Zika viruses.

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