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Danish and Dutch research organisations receive a EUROSTARS grant for the development of a highly immunogenic HER2-vaccine against breast cancer by combining their state-of-the-art technologies

Hørsholm, Denmark; Oss, the Netherlands; February 25, 2020 – A consortium of Danish and Dutch research organisations led by AdaptVac ApS has been awarded a EUROSTARS grant for the further development of the AV001 vaccine against breast cancer. The combination of state-of-the-art technologies revealed a highly immunogenic vaccine against human epidermal growth factor receptor 2 (HER2) expressed by cancer cells. With the support of EUROSTARS, we will be able to prove safety and immunogenicity in different *in vivo* models, finalize the production process and prepare for further clinical development. The envisaged vaccine could be an effective tool in the treatment of patients and in the delay of recurrence. The consortium consists of AdaptVac, ExpreS²ion Biotechnologies, and University of Copenhagen (Denmark), and LiteVax BV and the Biomedical Primate Research Centre (the Netherlands).

Breast cancer affects more than 1.3 million worldwide annually, resulting in more than 450,000 deaths. Today, the most common treatment is based on monoclonal antibodies against HER2. Such passive immunization has some clear-cut limitations and therefore we developed a vaccine that activates patient's own immune system to destroy HER+ cancer cells. By combining technologies from AdaptVac, ExpreS²ion Biotechnologies and LiteVax BV, the prototype vaccine generated strong immune responses in different animal models. In this project, we will further prove safety and immunogenicity, finalize the production processes and prepare for clinical development.

“We are particularly pleased by the strength of the consortium, bringing together expertise in vaccines, adjuvants, as well as canine and non-human primate vaccination to predict the performance in patients. This will enable us to demonstrate strong pre-clinical safety and efficacy, and drive the project towards the clinic.” says Dr. Wian de Jongh, AdaptVac's CEO.

About AdaptVac ApS

AdaptVac's technology is a ground-breaking Capsid-Like Particle vaccine platform invented at the University of Copenhagen. The company aims to accelerate the development of highly efficient therapeutic and prophylactic vaccines within high value segments of oncology, infectious diseases and immunological disorders. The company is a joint venture between ExpreS²ion Biotechnologies and the inventor group NextGen Vaccines, utilizing the synergy between ExpreS²ion's recombinant platform and Capsid-based vaccines.

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