



PRESS RELEASE

BioVision AG spins off new enterprise with peptide vaccine portfolio

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BioVision announces the spin-off of a drug portfolio for causative treatment of allergic diseases – This drug portfolio may lead the way to a new concept for vaccination applicable also to other indications.

Today the CEO of the Hannover, Germany based company BioVision AG, Dr. Sven Rohmann, announced the foundation of a new company, the ImVision GmbH, to develop therapies to cure allergic diseases. ImVision GmbH will be an independent company. The lead compound of the company will target cat allergy. The start of first clinical trials is anticipated already for next year.

“The basis of ImVision is a new immunization concept based on improved antigen presentation within the immune system. The vaccines are engineered protein molecules (Modulary-Antigen-Transporter molecules = MAT) constructed from three functionally different modules that allow the development of a therapeutic product portfolio”, says Professor Horst Rose, COO of the new enterprise. Pre-clinical data generated in co-operation with the *Swiss Institute of Allergy and Asthma Research (SIAF)*, a research institution associated with the *University of Zürich, Switzerland*, suggest a long term beneficial effect on allergic diseases such as hay fever, asthma and possibly on atopic eczema.

“The mission of ImVision is to provide proof in man as quickly and thoroughly as possible”, says Dr. Thomas Kündig, the head of the clinical programme. “The potential of ImVision results from the development of a portfolio of new pharmaceutical products based on the MAT concept suitable also for other indications, as for example particular infectious diseases”.

The prevalence of allergic disorders has risen steadily over the past several decades. About one in every five adults and children suffer from allergies. The allergic rhinitis market has grown dramatically since the early 1990s. Between 2000 and 2003, annual sales of the major classes of prescription therapeutics used for the symptomatic treatment of this disease reached worldwide nearly US\$5.9 billion.

Professor Reto Cramer, head of the Molecular Allergology Division at the SIAF in Davos (Switzerland) and main Inventor of MAT says: “I am pleased to see that we now have the

chance to prove the new concept in clinical trials in order to help patients suffering from allergies.”

Dr. Thomas Wagner from BioRegioN is also pleased about the new enterprise enabling product development from biotech research. He counselled the ImVisioN Team during the course of formation.

About BioVisioN AG

BioVisioN AG specializes in the identification of disease-relevant peptides and proteins using its proprietary Peptidomics® technologies in order to discover new diagnostic markers, or biomarkers and therapeutic leads and targets. Apart from research collaborations, BioVisioN provides access to its technology also in fee-for-service contracts as a Biological Research Organisation.

About SIAF

The SIAF founded in 1988 performs applied basic research in the field of allergies and asthma. The research is focused on discovery, production, structural and immunological characterization of allergenic molecules and on the study of the basic immunological mechanisms of allergic inflammations. The SIAF collaborates with clinics in Davos, Zurich and other international institutions and allows in collaboration with the University of Zurich the academic education in the area of allergy research.

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