

Tacalyx and Leiden University Medical Center join forces to target tumor specific glycans in colorectal cancer

- € 500 K Health~Holland grant for new initiative against colorectal cancer -

Berlin, Germany June 05, 2023, Tacalyx, a privately held biotech company focusing on the development of therapeutics targeting cancer-specific carbohydrate antigens, has entered into a collaboration with Prof. Manfred Wuhrer and his team at the Center for Proteomics and Metabolomics of the Leiden University Medical Center. Prof. Wuhrer is an internationally recognized expert in the field of cancer glycomics with a focus on glycan analytics via mass spectrometry. The project funded with over € 500k by Health~Holland builds on recent work at the Center for Proteomics and Metabolomics that has defined the *O*-glycome of colorectal cancer (<https://www.thno.org/v12p4498.htm>).

Therapeutic antibodies raised against these *O*-glycans have the potential to significantly improve treatment options for indications with high medical need. Within this partnership novel compounds will be generated and validated for their suitability as diagnostics and/or therapeutics.

“The collaboration with Tacalyx brings our work on glycosylation of colorectal cancer to the next level. The Tacalyx team will use the glycan structures identified by us to develop novel diagnostic and therapeutic antibodies. In addition, motivated by the unique insights obtained from our study of the *O*-glycome of colorectal cancer, we plan to broaden our analyses to the *O*-glycomes of other cancer to unleash the potential of glycans as antibody drug targets beyond colorectal cancer” commented Manfred Wuhrer.

“The team of Manfred Wuhrer is the ideal collaboration partner for Tacalyx and we are happy that Health~Holland has recognized this with the approval of the grant. Classic protein targets, that are also expressed on healthy tissues, though to a lower level, show limited efficacy in cancer therapies. Tumor-specific glycans as identified by the LUMC are exclusively expressed on many cancers which expectedly will allow higher doses and longer treatment durations with less side effects. We believe that antibody-based drugs employing these targets have the potential to revolutionize cancer therapy” added Peter Sondermann, CEO of Tacalyx

Tacalyx develops antibody-based therapeutics targeting several cancer-specific carbohydrate structures using various novel developed techniques that make these so far not accessible targets druggable.

About LUMC

As a center of medical innovation the Leiden University Medical Center (LUMC) seeks to play an (inter)nationally recognized prominent role in improving the quality of health care. Our core tasks are research, education, patient care, training and continuing education. LUMC is part of the Dutch Federation of University Medical Centers (NFU), the alliance of the eight university medical centers in the Netherlands.

About Tacalyx

Tacalyx is a private oncology company focused on the discovery and development of Tumor Associated Carbohydrate Antigen (TACA) antibodies to treat cancer. TACAs are formed during malignant



transformation in a microevolutionary process. The expression of TACAs is elevated in many cancer cell types which makes TACAs attractive potential targets for cancer treatment by harnessing and directing the natural immune response. Tacalix is developing its proprietary technology platform to exploit TACAs as novel targets for cancer therapy.

Tacalix is headquartered in Berlin, Germany and is backed by leading European life sciences and technology investors Boehringer Ingelheim Venture Fund (BIVF), Kurma Partners, High-Tech Gründerfonds (HTGF), coparion, Creathor Ventures and Eurazeo Investment Group.

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