

Pre-project – final report

Exploratory Study for Brain Disease Therapy

Summary

The goal of the project was to set up a Nordic consortium that would plan a new approach in studying brain disease therapies and mechanisms. The indication areas was restricted to four major diseases namely stroke, Alzheimer's disease, Parkinson's disease, and brain trauma. For the forming of the consortium, the project leader CEO Juha Yrjänheikki, from Cerebricon Ltd, contacted and met tens of companies, universities, and their lead scientists/business development people.

The main focus was on Finland, Sweden, Norway, and Denmark, but also Estonia was included. After the first interviews and meetings, a consortium consisting of Cerebricon Ltd, University of Kuopio, Karolinska Institute Stockholm, Neuromics Inc Stockholm was formed. The goal was to set up a stroke and/or CNS pain program, in which Cerebricon and University of Kuopio would test certain antisense nucleotide therapies developed by Neuromics and Karolinska Institute. However, this initial consortium was terminated due to the financial problems of Neuromics Sweden.

A new interview and meeting round was facilitated, and based on these new contacts the second consortium was put together. This time the consortium included Cerebricon Ltd, University of Kuopio, Cell Therapeutics Scandinavia Inc, Gothenburg, Sahlgrenska Institute from University of Gothenburg, and University of Bergen. The approach was to focus on Alzheimer's disease mechanisms and therapy, because some of the partners already had other commitments to stroke and Parkinson's disease. As a result of negotiations and planning a study plan has been developed and the consortium is planning to apply actual grant from the Nordiska Industrifond to initiate the actual project. Current situation of the project is that Cerebricon Ltd is willing to transfer the project leader role to Professor Jari Koistinaho from the University of Kuopio, because of the time and resource constraints of the Cerebricon management team.

The whole budget was not used, mainly because the consortium agreement has not been finalized until the final application is made. This was a goal that the consortium did not reach. However, if the actual study will be submitted and accepted, the consortium agreement will be finalized based on the Nordisk Industrifonds draft.

As a summary, the goals of the exploratory project were fulfilled. The consortium was formed based on numerous contacts and meetings. The project plan was developed. And moreover, the Nordic collaboration has been strengthened.

With the aid of the exploratory study and efforts made, Cerebricon and other participants have been able to expand the local collaboration into Nordic and EU-wide collaborations. The study revealed many future possibilities between Finnish, Swedish, Danish, and Norwegian companies and universities. Without the study this would have not been possible. As a result from the discussions and meetings, the participated companies and universities have a better understanding how and with

whom to collaborate in Norden, when concerning brain disease drug development and research. And based on that, all are more competitive and stronger in European and global competition.

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