

SelectImmune Collaborates with Lonza to Develop an Immunotherapeutic Drug Candidate

- The agreement provides access to vector construction and non-GMP expression of a novel immunotherapy protein drug candidate
- Access to early material for pre-clinical testing will provide input for manufacturing process development necessary as the drug progresses towards clinical testing

Quote from Ann Gidner, CEO, SelectImmune Pharma:

“The discovery of NlpD is important and provides new possible strategies to treat infections with immunotherapy. Lonza is a well-known international player, and we look forward to developing the best possible process to have a robust drug candidate in our pipeline.”

Quote from Yvette Stallwood, Head of Applied Protein Services, Lonza:

“De-risking early on can maximize chances of success further down the development and manufacturing pathway. We offer flexible support based on our customers’ unique therapeutic goals and timelines while improving the safety and manufacturability of therapeutics. Our early development services have been supporting companies of various sizes in advancing their drug candidates from late-stage discovery into the clinic for over 10 years. The collaboration with SelectImmune illustrates the value in establishing the foundation on which to build an optimized clinical development program.”

Lund, Sweden and Basel, Switzerland, 21 June 2021 – SelectImmune Pharma, a pharmaceutical company developing novel immunotherapeutics and alternatives to antibiotics, and Lonza, a global CDMO partner to the biotech and biopharma industry, have announced today a collaboration to develop processes for NlpD, a novel immunotherapy protein.

Antibiotic resistance represents a major threat to public health. The existing pool of antibiotics and our ability to protect patients from bacterial infections is threatened by the rise of antibiotic resistance. Instead of targeting the pathogenic bacteria, the patient’s immune system can be boosted to balance the immune response and enhance the beneficial gene expression. This new concept shifts the balance in favor of beneficial symbiotic bacteria and away from pathogenic infections.

NlpD is a protein originating in beneficial bacteria present in the human microbiome and has been found to inhibit infection and inflammation in animal models¹. This RNA polymerase II (Pol II) inhibitor can be purified in large quantities.

Advancing a drug candidate from late-stage discovery into the clinic represents one of the most critical development steps. Process de-risking and assessing developability and manufacturability early on helps maximize the chances of success further down the development and manufacturing pathway. Under the terms of the agreement, SelectImmune will leverage Lonza's early development services, which include non-GMP expression and laboratory-scale process development, to lay the groundwork for future pre-clinical studies of NlpD. The early development activities will be carried out at Lonza's Cambridge (UK) site.

By supporting the early selection, engineering and optimization of NlpD, this collaboration will bring value to SelectImmune's therapeutic protein candidate while establishing the potential for future clinical manufacturing.

About Lonza Applied Protein Services

Lonza Applied Protein Services offers a comprehensive suite of *in silico* and *in vitro* early development services to assist pharmaceutical and biotech companies in de-risking and optimizing their late candidate selection and lead candidate development process. The group, based in Cambridge (UK), also provides early, phase-appropriate non-GMP material supply via Lonza's Light Path™ Discovery platform

For more information, please visit <https://pharma.lonza.com/offerings/discovery-services>.

About Lonza

Lonza is the preferred global partner to the pharmaceutical, biotech and nutrition markets. We work to prevent illness and enable a healthier world by supporting our customers to deliver new and innovative medicines that help treat a wide range of diseases. We achieve this by combining technological insight with world-class manufacturing, scientific expertise and process excellence. These enable our customers to commercialize their discoveries and innovations in the healthcare sector.

Founded in 1897 in the Swiss Alps, today Lonza operates across five continents. With approximately 14,000 full-time employees, we are built from high-performing teams and of individual talent who make a meaningful difference to our own business, as well as to the communities in which we operate. The company generated sales of CHF 4.5 billion in 2020 with a CORE EBITDA of CHF 1.4 billion. Find out more at www.lonza.com.

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About SelectImmune Pharma

SelectImmune Pharma is a pharmaceutical company whose shares are traded on the Spotlight Stock Market. The company's goal is to develop new immunotherapies, which act as immune enhancers and offer alternatives to antibiotics.

Bacterial infections affect large parts of the population and are becoming increasingly difficult to treat due to increasing antibiotic resistance. SelectImmune Pharma develops immunotherapies that can supplement or replace antibiotics. Urinary tract infections (UTI) are one of the world's most common infectious diseases, affecting about 150 million people each year. The need for alternative treatments for bacterial infections is currently very great as are potential markets.

¹ [J Clin Invest. 2021;131\(4\):e140333](#).

Lonza Contact Details

Victoria Morgan

Head of External Communications

Lonza Group Ltd

Tel +41 61 316 2283

victoria.morgan@lonza.com

Dr. Martina Ribar Hesticová

Trade Media Lead

Lonza Group Ltd

Tel +41 61 316 8982

martina.ribarhesticova@lonza.com

Dirk Oehlers

Investor Relations

Lonza Group Ltd

Tel +41 61 316 8540

dirk.oehlers@lonza.com

SelectImmune Pharma Contact Details

Catharina Svanborg

Chairman of the Board

SelectImmune Pharma

Tel +46 709 42 65 49

catharina.svanborg@med.lu.se

Ann Gidner

CEO

SelectImmune Pharma

Tel +46 768 17 14 14

ann.gidner@selectimmune.com

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