

Break the glass habit

Thermo
SCIENTIFIC

Genomics
Research
Europe

Thursday, Sept

Technology Networks

Scientific
Communi

Products | Resources | Jobs | Events | Posters | Videos | Webcasts | Blog

Life Science Technology | Drug Discovery & Development | Diagnostics | Cell Biology | Analysis | Informa

ite or literature

Site



Welcome Mark | My Ac

Home Page

News

hive
News



Skuldtech Secures EUR 1 Million to Develop New Diagnostics for Alzheimer's Disease

Published: Wednesday, September 11, 2013
Last Updated: Wednesday, September 11, 2013

SHARE



ANDREW LLOYD & ASSOCIATES
International Technology Markets
Strategy and Communication

Skuldtech and AB Science to renew their collaboration agreement to bring to market a new treatment for Alzheimer's disease.

Skuldtech announces that it has secured EUR 1 million in funding from Bpifrance (French public financing structure) as part of a project on Alzheimer's disease that has received funding of EUR 8.6 million in total. The program is planned to last for four years, with the first results expected in 2018.

Skuldtech has joined forces with AB Science for this program, with the aim of developing a new therapy for the treatment of Alzheimer's disease. As part of the program, Skuldtech will develop a companion diagnostic for AB Science's masitinib molecule and a diagnostic for the validity of cognitive tests and tests to predict the progression of Alzheimer's disease.

Using blood samples taken as part of the Phase III trial of masitinib in Alzheimer's disease, Skuldtech will identify the blood biomarkers that will help make simple, reliable diagnostic tests available as a matter of routine. This will result in treatments that can be tailored to the patient and the ability to monitor sufferers as their disease progresses. The clinical trial of masitinib was launched in Europe and other countries in May 2013. It expects to recruit a total of 400 patients. Blood samples from these patients will contribute to the development of a companion diagnostic by making it possible to identify those individuals most likely to benefit from the treatment.

This approach has already proven successful in the development of a new treatment for pancreatic cancer that combines gemcitabine and masitinib, where Skuldtech identified new biomarkers predicting a favorable response to treatment. The results of this clinical study led to an application to the European Medicines Agency for Marketing Authorization (MA) for masitinib in combination with companion biomarkers.

Using further blood samples, Skuldtech will also develop a diagnostic for the validity of cognitive tests and tests predicting the progression (slow or rapid) of Alzheimer's disease.

This project builds on Skuldtech's recent success in identifying blood biomarkers associated with a cognitive score. The company identified two sets of new blood markers, each associated with two trisomy 21 patient populations with low and high IQs respectively. The results of this study were published in the European Journal of Human Genetics in February 2013 (1). By describing the blood transcriptional profile of each group, Skuldtech identified specific biomarkers corresponding to a level of response in cognitive tests. The company hopes to emulate this result in the Alzheimer's disease program.

Skuldtech is keen to use the funding to capitalize on its broadband sequencing-based technological platform, pairing it with proprietary bioinformatics and biostatistics programs to measure and confirm the stage of progression of Alzheimer's disease.

"This new partnership to work on Alzheimer's disease will strengthen Skuldtech's position in the field of personalized medicine and in the development of companion diagnostics associated with new treatments in phases of clinical trials," said Didier Ritter, CEO, Skuldtech. "As well as bringing new diagnostics to market, we are also open to similar partnerships with other biotech companies or with pharmaceutical laboratories."

Alzheimer's is the most frequently occurring neurodegenerative disease in the world, affecting around 6 per cent of over-65s. In the US, it is the sixth most common cause of mortality in the population.

Scientific News

RNA-Seq Reveals Infection-Related Gene Expression Changes in *Phytophthora capsici*

This study provides a critical step to characterize the mechanisms of pathogenicity and virulence of *P. capsici*.

Vapourtec Pump Key to Organometallic Process

Paper describes a telescoped continuous flow process that produces breast cancer drug Tamoxifen at the rate of one dose every 5 seconds.

Moving Genes have Scientists Seeing Spots

An international team of scientists has perfected a way of watching genes move within a living plant cell.

Broad Institute and Bayer Join Forces

The Broad Institute has entered into a strategic alliance with Bayer Healthcare in the area of oncogenomics and drug discovery.

Cancer Vaccine Begins Phase I Clinical Trials

Cross-disciplinary team brings novel therapeutic cancer vaccine to human clinical trials.

High Levels of RANK Protein Interferes with the Differentiation of Mammary Cells

Levels of this protein increase with age, which could explain the increase in breast cancer risk associated with age.

Stem Cells may do Best with a Little Help from their Friends

"Helper cells" improve survival rate of transplanted stem cells, mouse study finds.

Molecular Marker Predicts Patients Most Likely to Benefit Longest From Two Popular Cancer Drugs

Preliminary study needs further confirmation.



BUCHI R
Academic I



Conne
Collab
Cure

World Stem
Summit 20
December 4-6
San Diego, Cali

FOLLOW US O

in Follow us

LabTu
VIDEOS FOR THE SCIE

ePost