

ExpreS²ion announces grant award for the development of new platforms for universal mucosal vaccines

Hørsholm, Denmark, March 3, 2023 – ExpreS²ion Biotech Holding AB’s affiliate ExpreS²ion Biotechnologies ApS (“ExpreS²ion”) announces that the MucoVax consortium has been awarded an Innovation Fund Denmark (IFD) Grand Solutions grant for the development of new platforms for universal mucosal vaccines in a 5-year research project in a collaboration between ExpreS²ion and University of Copenhagen. The award funding covers 71% of the research project and amounts to 29 MDKK (approx. 43 MSEK), of which ExpreS²ion directly is funded with 9.6 MDKK (approx. 14 MSEK). The IFD investment funds 67% of ExpreS²ion’s share of the research project budget.

The aim of the grant is to support the MucoVax consortium in the development of new platforms for universal mucosal vaccines, including performing animal models to test *in vivo* novel influenza vaccines delivered intranasally. The ambitious aim is to combine ExpreS²ion’s unique ExpreS²™ protein production system with the fundamental knowledge in immunology and microbiology of the University of Copenhagen including novel and advanced vaccine platforms.

The MucoVax consortium members are world-leading experts in their respective fields, covering all relevant areas of viral research and vaccine development required for preclinical development of a universal mucosal influenza vaccine. This includes pre-clinical and clinically validated experience from working with malaria pathogens and the SARS-CoV2 coronavirus, applying ExpreS²ion’s *Drosophila* S2 insect cell expression system, and unique know-how in exploration of adjuvants and virus-like particle (VLP) technologies.

CEO Bent Frandsen comments

“The MucoVax project is a new collaboration with University of Copenhagen that fits perfectly with our vaccine development capabilities in the infectious diseases field. There is an important medical need for universal mucosal vaccines, and we appreciate the Grand Solutions grant to work closely between ExpreS²ion and University of Copenhagen in this field.”

About the MucoVax research project

The MucoVax project seeks to combine the advanced protein expression capabilities of ExpreS²ion with the advanced vaccine approaches and animal models of the University of Copenhagen to develop a high-production, recombinant general vaccine platform exploiting molecularly adjuvanted nanoparticles *in casu* aiming at the development of a vaccine capable of inducing protective antibody and cellular immune responses against influenza virus, a highly contagious lung infection of considerable pandemic concern.

About University of Copenhagen and the MucoVax consortium members

From the Department of Immunology and Microbiology at the University of Copenhagen, participating professors Søren Buus, Jan Pravsgaard Christensen, and Allan Randrup Thomsen, contribute with expertise and experimental experience in vaccinology, immunology, infectious immunology, virology, animal models of infectious diseases, and advanced analysis of human and experimental animal immune responses. Several spin-out companies have emanated from these participants, and patented vaccine technologies are currently in clinical trials.

Certified Adviser

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About ExpreS²ion

ExpreS²ion Biotechnologies ApS is a fully owned Danish subsidiary of ExpreS²ion Biotech Holding AB with company register number 559033-3729. ExpreS²ion has developed a unique technology platform, ExpreS², for fast and efficient non-clinical development and production of complex proteins for new vaccines and diagnostics. ExpreS² is regulatorily validated for clinical supply. The platform includes functionally modified glycosylation variants for enhanced immunogenicity and pharmacokinetics. Since 2010, the Company has produced more than 500 proteins and virus-like particles (VLPs) in collaboration with leading research institutions and companies. ExpreS²ion develops novel VLP based vaccines in association with AdaptVac ApS, of which ExpreS²ion owns 34%. For additional information, please visit www.expres2ionbio.com.