October 20, 2021

Elicera Therapeutics presents preclinical proof-of-concept data for its iTANK platform at the European Society of Cell & Gene Therapy Congress

Gothenburg, October 20, 2021 - Elicera Therapeutics AB (publ), a clinical stage cell and gene therapy company that develops immunooncological treatments focusing on CAR T-cells and oncolytic viruses, presented preclinical proof-of-concept data for the company's iTANK-platform at the ESGCT (European Society of Gene & Cell Therapy) Virtual Congress 2021.

Elicera's technology platform - iTANK (immunoTherapies Activated with NAP for efficient Killing) - has been developed to optimize the effect of CAR T-cell therapies by generating a dual mechanism-of-action. In addition to the effect of the CAR T-cells, CD8 + killer T-cells are activated, which gives a double attack on the tumor cells and creates a systemic and long-term immune response against cancer.

CAR T-cell therapies have a proven ability to cure previously difficult-to-treat patients with various forms of blood cancer. However, two main challenges remain in the treatment of solid tumors that, due to a highly hostile tumor microenvironment, exhaust and inhibit the effect of CAR T-cells. In addition, it is difficult to identify a target antigen on solid tumors that is expressed on all tumor cells. This means that some tumor cells can escape being attacked by CAR T-cells and that resistant tumors form. With the iTANK-technology, Elicera hopes to meet these challenges.

"The data presented at the ESGCT Congress provides preclinical proof-of-concept for the iTANK-platform and its ability to enhance the efficacy of CAR T-cells and addresses the problem of antigen heterogeneity. This is very exciting as our technology platform can be used to amplify the effect of all CAR T-cell therapies under development, not just our own", says Jamal El-Mosleh, CEO of Elicera Therapeutics.

The iTANK-platform's mechanism-of-action:

The iTANK technology platform arms CAR T-cells with a transgene that codes for a *Helicobacter Pylori* neutrophil-activating protein (NAP). When the CAR T-cell binds to tumor cells, NAP is released which will activate surrounding cells that further releases cytokines and chemokines. This in turn creates a proinflammatory environment which directly combats the hostile tumor microenvironment in solid tumors and strengthens the function of the CAR T-cells. The proinflammatory environment will also induce a so called "bystander" immune activation, meaning that antigen-presenting-cells will be recruited to the tumor site, where they will pick up the whole set of relevant tumor target antigens that have been released from the CAR T-cell tumor attack. These target antigens will then be presented to CD8+ killer T-cells in the lymph nodes that will subsequently seek out and destroy tumor cells that carry these target antigens.

Summary of proof-of-concept data presented at the ESGCT Congress:

Associate professor and co-founder of Elicera Therapeutics, Di Yu, presented preclinical data at the ESGCT Virtual Congress 2021 showing that:

- NAP is secreted only when CAR T-cells bind to tumor cells.

- NAP induces a bystander immune response to counteract the antigen heterogeneity problem. Several in vivo studies in different mouse models showed that only mice treated with iTANK enforced CAR T-cells showed a reactivity against tumors that lacked the CAR T-cells target antigen resulting in increased tumor response and increased survival in mice compared to treatment with conventional CAR T-cells, not armed with iTANK.

- CAR T-cells armed with the iTANK-platform showed less exhaustion and improved activity in comparison to conventional CAR T-cells.

- Arming CAR-T cells with the iTANK-platform is effective against cancer regardless of the choice of CAR-molecule, tumor type, or mouse model, indicating the platform is universally compatible with other CAR-T technologies.

The preclinical data will also be presented publicly at an HC Andersen Online event October 20th, 2021 11:00 - 11:20 Europe / Copenhagen.

Read more or register for free here:
https://hcandersencapital.dk/event/elicera-pre-clinical-proof-of-concept-data-for-itank/

For further information please contact:
Jamal El-Mosleh, CEO, Elicera Therapeutics AB
Phone: +46 (0) 703 31 90 51
jamal.elmosleh@elicera.com

About Elicera Therapeutics AB
Elicera Therapeutics AB is a clinical phase cell and gene therapy company that develops the next generation of immuno-oncology treatments. The company has four drug candidates in development, two CAR T-cells and two oncolytic viruses, which are based on research conducted by Professor Magnus Essand's research group at Uppsala University. In addition, Elicera has a fully developed technology platform, iTANK, which can be used to optimize the effect of all CAR T-cell therapies under development and activate killer T-cells against cancer. Elicera's share (ELIC) is listed on the Nasdaq First North Growth Market. G&W Fondkommission has been appointed the Company's Certified Adviser. E-mail: ca@gwkapital.se, tel: +468-503 000 50.

For more information, please visit www.elicera.com