

Org nr 556966-4955  
March 20, 2026



## **Elicera Therapeutics Announces Swedish Cancer Society's Senior Investigator Award to Chief Development Officer Di Yu**

**Gothenburg, March 20, 2026 – Elicera Therapeutics AB (publ), a clinical stage cell and gene therapy company developing next generation cancer treatments based on oncolytic viruses and CAR T-cell therapies, armed with immune-activating properties via the company's commercially available iTANK platform, is pleased to announce that its Chief Development Officer and co-founder, Di Yu, has been awarded the prestigious Senior Investigator Award from the Swedish Cancer Society (Cancerfonden).**

The award provides a research grant of SEK 3,885,000, distributed over 3 years. This funding supports established cancer researchers in dedicating themselves full-time to advancing high-impact cancer research, aligning perfectly with Di Yu's ongoing work in CAR T-cell therapy development.

Di Yu, who also serves as Head of Technical Operations at Elicera, commented:

"I am honored to have been awarded the Cancerfonden Senior Investigator position — a recognition that strengthens my long-term dedication to advancing CAR-T cell therapy. This support gives me the opportunity to continue building our research program, deepen collaborations, and accelerate our preclinical works toward clinical practices that can make a real difference for patients."

The Senior Investigator Award, granted by Cancerfonden, enables recipients without permanent senior academic positions (such as professor or senior lecturer) to focus exclusively on cancer research for an extended period, with the potential for renewal up to a total of six years (3+3 structure).

This recognition underscores Di Yu's contributions to the field. Elicera Therapeutics congratulates Di Yu on this achievement.

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### **About the CARMA Study**

CARMA is a phase I/IIa clinical study evaluating the safety and efficacy of the CAR T-cell therapy ELC-301 in the treatment of patients with B-cell lymphoma. The study is divided into a dose-escalation phase (phase I) and a dose-expansion phase (phase IIa). Phase I primarily aims to establish the optimal dose and safety profile in up to 12 patients, while phase IIa will further evaluate the efficacy of the maximum tolerated dose in an additional six patients. Phase I is planned to include three cohorts (dosing groups), with three patients in the first and second cohorts, and six patients in the third cohort, who are expected to receive the maximum tolerated dose. The CARMA study is being conducted at Uppsala University Hospital and Karolinska University Hospital in Huddinge.

### **About ELC-301**

ELC-301 is a fourth-generation CAR T-cell therapy targeting the CD20 antigen, armed with the company's iTANK platform to activate a broader and more comprehensive parallel immune response against cancer. CAR T-cells are a form of cell therapy created by genetically modifying a patient's T-cells to express a synthetic receptor (chimeric antigen receptor, CAR). This receptor is specifically designed to target a single tumor antigen—a molecule visible on the surface of cancer cells—and enables the T-cells to locate, bind to, and destroy the cancer cells.

### **About the iTANK-platform**

The iTANK technology platform has been developed for arming and enhancing CAR T-cells to meet two of the major challenges CAR T-cell therapies face in the treatment of solid tumors: a very diverse set of tumor antigen targets and a very hostile tumor microenvironment. The technology is used to incorporate a transgene into CAR T-cells encoding a neutrophil activating bacterial protein (NAP). NAP secreted from the CAR(NAP) T-cells has been shown to be able to enhance the function of CAR T-cells and importantly activating a parallel bystander immune response against the cancer via CD8+ killer T-cells. This is expected to lead to a broad attack against most antigen targets on cancer cells. The iTANK platform is used to enhance the company's own CAR T-cells but can also be universally applied to other CAR T-cell therapies under development. Proof-of-concept data was published in Nature Biomedical Engineering in April 2022. The publication, titled "CAR T cells expressing a bacterial virulence factor triggers potent bystander antitumor responses in solid cancers" (DOI number: 10.1038/s41551-022-00875-5) can be found here: <https://www.nature.com/articles/s41551-022-00875-5>. More information about iTANK platform is available here: <https://www.elicera.com/technology>

### **About Elicera Therapeutics AB**

Elicera Therapeutics AB (publ) has developed the patented gene technology platform iTANK that enables the arming of new and existing CAR T-cell therapies targeting aggressive and relapsing cancer forms. Elicera Therapeutics thereby addresses a well-defined and vast market. The company's CAR T-cell therapies have shown a potent effect toward solid tumors which are recognized as particularly difficult to treat and constitute the majority of cancer cases. The company addresses a global multibillion market in cell therapy through its offering of non-exclusive licensing of the iTANK-platform to companies in the pharmaceutical industry. Elicera Therapeutics has four internal development projects in immune therapy that separately have the potential to generate substantial value through exclusive out-licensing agreements. The company's share is traded on Nasdaq First North Growth Market. For additional information, visit [www.elicera.com](http://www.elicera.com).