

Abera Bioscience secures £ 1.8 Million funding award from UK Vaccine Network for Pandemic Preparedness

Abera Bioscience ("Abera"), a novel vaccine platform company specialized in mucosal vaccine development, is pleased to announce the receipt of a £ 1.8 million funding award from the UK Vaccine Network program. This research program is funded by the Department of Health and Social Care as part of the UK Vaccine Network (UKVN), a UK Aid programme to develop vaccines for diseases with epidemic potential in low and middle-income countries (LMICs).

This non-dilutive funding is awarded to Abera's project, titled "Novel OMV vaccine platform for quick response to Disease X", aimed at enhancing pandemic preparedness.

Abera Bioscience is renowned for its groundbreaking work in developing vaccine candidates utilizing its proprietary BERA platform. This innovative technology enables modified bacterial vesicles, known as Outer Membrane Vesicles (OMV), to be decorated with a wide range of disease-specific antigens through a plug'n'play mechanism. This approach allows for the rapid development of new vaccines and cost-effective production.

Earlier this year Innovate UK, issued a competitive funding call "SBRI: Vaccine development for potential epidemic diseases stage 1". It is a Small Business Research Initiative (SBRI), Official Development Assistance (ODA) competition funded by the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) as part of the UK Vaccine Network. The primary objective of the initiative is to support the advancement of vaccine candidates, technologies, and platforms targeting specific pathogens with epidemic potential, including the hypothetical "Disease X."

Abera is pleased to announce the funding award of approximately £1.8 Million for its project "Novel OMV vaccine platform for quick response to Disease X". This two-year initiative aims to establish a production and storage process for OMV, enabling its use as a platform for developing new nasal vaccines during pandemic situations. The funding will cover expenses related to salaries, development, and production of materials.

Maria Alriksson, CEO of Abera Bioscience, expressed gratitude and pride, saying, *"We are honored that UK Vaccine Network recognizes the potential of our platform and supports its further development to safeguard against Disease X. Our plug'n'play technology enables rapid vaccine development for emerging diseases while ensuring cost-effectiveness. The ability to administer several of our vaccine candidates as nasal sprays provides a unique advantage in combating airborne disease outbreaks, where hindering transmission is of utter importance. Over the next few years, we will enhance OMV production and storage, develop proof-of-concept vaccine candidates for various diseases, and address quality and regulatory aspects to expedite new vaccine creation. We are particularly pleased with the high marks and positive evaluations our technology and team received during the application evaluation, considering the fierce competition within UK research."*

The "SBRI: Vaccine development for potential epidemic diseases stage 1" call is a competitive funding opportunity, with organizations vying for a total of £25 million to advance vaccine

candidates, technologies, and platforms up to phase 1 clinical trials. It is an Official Development Assistance (ODA) competition under the Small Business Research Initiative (SBRI) umbrella, funded by the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) UK Vaccine Network. This initial stage may lead to further funding opportunities in a potential stage two SBRI competition.

Disclaimer: This research is funded by the Department of Health and Social Care using UK Aid funding and is managed by Innovate UK. The views expressed in this publication are those of the author(s) and not necessarily those of the Department of Health and Social Care.

About the UK Vaccine Network:

The Department for Health and Social Care (DHSC) is the UK Government department which is responsible for helping people to live more independent, healthier lives for longer. This investment is part of the UK Vaccine Network (UKVN). UKVN was established to provide funding to support the development of promising vaccines and vaccine technologies that will help combat infectious diseases that have epidemic potential in low and middle-income countries (LMICs). UKVN is an UK Aid investment, which means all projects funded must support research primarily and directly for the benefit of people in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs).

About Abera Bioscience AB

Abera Bioscience AB is a Swedish vaccine platform company founded in 2012 as spin-out from Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam and Stockholm University. Abera has developed proprietary and patented platform technologies that enable efficient development of vaccine candidates with several advantages compared to existing vaccines. Based on its platform technologies, the company has developed several vaccine candidates in pre-clinical development. The lead candidate is an intranasal pneumococcal vaccine targeting all variants of the bacteria, planned to enter Clinical Phase 1 during 2024. The company does also have pre-clinical candidates withing e.g. pandemic preparedness, Chlamydia, Tuberculosis, Covid, ETEC and therapeutic vaccines within the oncology space.



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