New Start-up: Developing SORCS modulators as therapeutics in neurodegenerative & metabolic disorders

Value Proposition
Researchers at Aarhus University have invented an number of peptides that they believe could treat patients within neurodegenerative and metabolic diseases. The peptides derive from so far unknown interaction partners in both insulin signalling and survival of neurons, thereby offering an exclusive opportunity for development of new drugs for treating disease with limited or no treatment available today. The lead compound, TT.208 offers the potential of treating neurodegenerative diseases without relying on the presence of specific proteins on the surface of the neurons, thereby circumventing a current limitation for treating neurodegenerative diseases such as Huntington and Alzheimer's disease.

Objective
The research group are seeking translational and seed funding and propose a future start-up company, Teitur Bio to commercialise the technology. Currently, the researchers are seeking to build a network with stakeholders (Medical Research Charities, KOLs and potential commercial partners) in neurodegenerative and metabolic diseases. Their aim is to a) validate the future research development plan b) build a Scientific Advisory Board and c) build preliminary relationships with commercial partners in each therapeutic area. The start-up company would license the intellectual property from Aarhus University.

Technology Description
The pipeline consists of six compounds with different targets. SorCS1 has mainly been described in its involvement in regulating blood glucose levels and thereby a candidate drug target in type 2-diabetes. SorCS2 has been described to bind several different proteins, but the one best described is its interaction with brain-derived neurotrophic factor, a neurotrophic factor that is critical in neuronal survival. The interaction partner of SorCS3 is today unknown. Teitur Bio has used this knowledge to develop peptides with agonistic or antagonistic abilities. We can therefore turn on or off pathways critical in several different diseases, including type-2 diabetes and neurodegenerative disease.

Development Phase
Peptides for different indications have been developed. In collaboration with an external CRO, the research team are working on optimizing the peptides for in-vivo studies leading to a pre-clinical work package

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Seeking
• Funding/Investors
• Partner/Research Collaboration

Patent: “SorCS peptides and uses thereof: WO 2017101956 A1

Biotech and Pharma