

## **Glycostem participates in a 4-year Horizon 2020 ITN-Marie curie training network specifically focused on the manufacturing of tumour reactive NK cells (MATURE-NK)**

**OSS, Netherlands** — December 2018; Glycostem Therapeutics B.V. (Glycostem), a clinical stage company focusing on the immuno oncology applications of safe, off-the-shelf and cost-effective NK- and CAR-NK-cells, announces participation in MATURE-NK with 12 other European academic institutions and companies, funded with 3.51 million Euro by the EU Horizon 2020.

Over the next 4 years Glycostem in, as part of the consortium led by Prof Ulrike Köhl from Leipzig, work on developing novel methods to manufacture tumour reactive NK cells. The consortium consists of nine academic centres covering basic and translational research, as well as 3 leading biotech companies (Innate Pharma, Miltenyi and Glycostem) and Fraunhofer IZI as a world leading research institute. The objective is to educate top level selected PhD candidates not only in science, but also have a strong focus on business and management activities as well as basic and advanced knowledge in strategies around intellectual property.

Jan Spanholtz, PhD, Glycostem's CSO, says, "I like this highly inspiring network activities, stimulating development of new collaborations. As a company we have access to the best educated scientists and contribute to their PhD training with business and IP courses, allowing them to generate a hot profile for excellent career opportunities in biotech business."

Prof. Ulrike Köhl, PhD, MD, at University clinical centre Leipzig and Hannover Medical School as well as director of Fraunhofer IZI in Leipzig, states: "I am very excited, that we have the chance to continue educating highly talented PhD candidates in the field of NK cell immunotherapy. I am proud to have the top academic NK cell researchers and most important NK cell related biotech companies of Europe in one consortium, which generates a great momentum to develop new NK cell products for the coming years, to help cancer patients."

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## **About Glycostem**

Netherlands-based Glycostem Therapeutics BV, a clinical stage biotech company focused on developing off-the shelf allogeneic cellular immunotherapy using Natural Killer (NK) cells to treat several types of cancer. NK-cells are the body's first line of defence because of the innate ability of NK-cells to rapidly and accurately identify and destroy cells under stress, such as cancer or virally-infected cells.

Glycostem's lead product, oNKord®, is produced in a closed system in Glycostem's state-of-the-art production facility in the Netherlands, from which the product can be distributed globally. The platform technology includes ex vivo expansion of a high number of pure and highly activated NK-cells for clinical applications. oNKord® successfully concluded phase I clinical trial (elderly and fragile AML patients), providing solid safety data and strong indication of clinical activity, including response on MRD. Glycostem expects to obtain GMP certification by the end of 2018 and is planning to enter pivotal clinical trial in Q1 2019.

Thanks to the six patent families, longstanding technical expertise and resources, as well as 'Orphan Drug Designation', Glycostem has secured a leadership position in the global NK-cell market."

## **Horizon 2020 ITN Marie Curie – Mature-NK**

This project will provide future-oriented translational research training designed to bridge the gap between basic research and applied development of new cell-based therapeutic products by the biotech industry and their clinical use for incurable diseases. This will be done on the example of activated/genetically manipulated natural killer (NK) cells, which are classified as Advanced Therapy Medicinal Products ("ATMPs"), and their use in treatment of cancer refractory to classical therapies. For this we combine experts in NK cell biology supported by bioinformatics, clinical groups pioneering NK cell therapies and biotech companies with NK cell-based portfolios. A student exchange will ensure training in basic, clinical and private sectors. Network-wide training modules organized in summer/winter schools include immunotechnology, business management and intellectual property rights. This will train competences important to translate research findings to personalized medicine. In research we build on information from clinical trials of NK cell-based therapies. We will

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improve anti-tumor reactivity of NK cells including selection of NK subsets and modulation of NK receptor/ligand interactions. First, this will comprise i) improved donor/recipient combination and NK subsets and ii) modification of NK cells by chimeric antigen receptors ("CAR") and bispecific antibody reagents to cross-link NK cells to tumor targets. Second, it will fortify NK cell reactivity by i) blocking ligand interactions of inhibitory receptors ("checkpoint inhibitors") and ii) defining unknown ligands of activating NK receptors on tumor cells. Third, procedures and NK products in their best combination will be developed by i) evaluation in humanized mouse models, ii) building a GMP-compliant manufacturing process and iii) design of a clinical trial protocol. The project should provide for manufacturing of NK cell-based therapeutic products and their evaluation in clinical trials.

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