



CaroGen, UConn and Yale Scientists Team up to Accelerate the Development of a Zika Virus Vaccine

November 7, 2016, Farmington, CT — CaroGen Corporation, an emerging immunotherapy company, announced today that it has formed a consortium comprising CaroGen, the University of Connecticut and Yale University School of Medicine scientists to accelerate the development of a Zika vaccine.

“This collaboration would allow CaroGen to accelerate its Zika virus vaccine development program by leveraging the expertise and capabilities of two of the best academic institutions in the country: Yale University School of Medicine and the Center of Excellence for Vaccine Research (CEVR) at the University of Connecticut,” said Dr. Bijan Almassian, CaroGen’s CEO.

Zika is spread mostly by the bite of an infected Aedes mosquito, and children with devastating birth defects have been born to women in Brazil who were infected with Zika during their pregnancies. Zika has become an epidemic throughout South and Central America and its outbreaks have affected the populations of 65 countries. According to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), over 500 cases of “travel-associated” Zika have been confirmed in the United States, 10 of which involved sexual transmission. “The fear of the potential spread of the Zika virus in the continental United States is real,” said Dr. Valerian Nakaar, VP Research and Development at CaroGen.

The consortium is comprised of key experts, including Yale Professor John Rose, a world renowned virologist and chairman and scientific advisor of CaroGen; Dr. Paulo Verardi, Associate Professor of Pathology at UConn and an opinion leader in vaccine research; as well as a team of vaccine development experts at CaroGen. This consortium is an ideal collaboration that will facilitate the rapid development of a much needed Zika vaccine using CaroGen’s innovative virus-like vesicle (VLV) platform technology.

“This is an important example of what can be accomplished when you combine the world-class, multidisciplinary researchers who are part of UConn’s centers of excellence, like CEVR, and the extensive industry experience that exists in startups like CaroGen,” says Dr. Jeff Seemann, UConn’s Vice President for Research. “This consortium has the potential to profoundly impact the health and safety for citizens in Connecticut and around the globe.”

CaroGen Corporation is an emerging immunotherapy company employing a transformative VLV platform technology developed at Yale University School of Medicine and exclusively licensed by CaroGen for the development and commercialization of immunotherapies worldwide. The company is developing a portfolio of immunotherapies with a lead program in chronic hepatitis B viral infection in collaboration with Professor John Rose, from Yale University School of Medicine and Dr. Michael Robek from Albany Medical College. CaroGen is also working on the

development of VLV immunotherapies against *C. difficile* bacterial infection in collaboration with UConn Health researcher, Dr. Kamal Khanna, and a vaccine against colon cancer in collaboration with Drs. Anthony Vella and Kepeng Wang, also from UConn Health. CaroGen has its R&D headquarters in UConn's Technology Incubation Program (TIP) at UConn Health in Farmington.

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