Sanofi Pasteur and Statens Serum Institute Team Up against Tuberculosis

Sanofi Pasteur, the vaccines division of the sanofi-aventis Group, has signed a collaborative research and license agreement with the Statens Serum Institut of Denmark (SSI) for the development and marketing of a new vaccine against tuberculosis (TB), a disease that causes the death of two million people, worldwide, each year.

Under the terms of the agreement, SSI has granted Sanofi Pasteur a license to its technology with regard to the use of certain fusion proteins in the development of a tuberculosis vaccine. The license from SSI includes access to the Intercell IC31® adjuvant. If the development is successful, Sanofi Pasteur would manufacture the vaccine commercially.

SSI TB vaccine candidates are recombinant protein sub-units, including one currently in a Phase I clinical trial. Results from a previous study showed the SSI TB vaccine technology to provide a positive immune response. Sanofi Pasteur intends to build on the successes of the SSI vaccine program.

Mr Wayne Pisano, President and Chief Executive Officer said, “This agreement is a milestone for Sanofi Pasteur, which is also working to develop a vaccine against another one of the biggest global infectious disease killers, malaria. The current medical arsenal is inadequate for fighting tuberculosis. Improved vaccines are desperately needed if we are to succeed in controlling this disease. Sanofi Pasteur and SSI are joining forces to develop a vaccine that may have a major impact on global health by preventing a disease that currently infects one person in the world every second.”

According to SSI’s CEO, Nils Strandberg Pedersen, M.D., this agreement is a very important step in the fight against tuberculosis and for SSI. “SSI is one of the world’s leading producers of BCG and has for more than a century worked within the field of prevention and control of TB. We are excited to team up our research with one of the world’s largest vaccine manufacturers. The combination of both parties’ leading vaccine expertise will really be able to make a difference in the development of a novel TB vaccine for the benefit of the world’s poorest people.”

The only TB vaccine (BCG-attenuated Bacille Calmette Guérin) used in the world today was developed over 80 years ago. A TB vaccine is especially important in areas of the world where TB is highly prevalent and the chances of an infant or young child becoming exposed to an infectious case are
high. Although BCG is effective in protecting infants against childhood forms of the disease, a more effective vaccine is needed for protection of adolescents and adults against pulmonary tuberculosis.

Professor Paul-Henri Lambert of the Centre of Vaccinology, University of Geneva, and Chairman of the TBVAC consortium steering committee, agrees that to effectively control TB, a new or improved vaccine must be developed as an alternative to or a complement of BCG.

Dr Lambert explained, “The development of an improved TB vaccine has been a challenging goal for decades, but significant scientific advances have been made over the past 15 years that bring us closer than ever before to achieving this goal. Results obtained with recombinant protein TB vaccine candidates in preclinical studies are promising, and I am very optimistic about this approach leading to a new TB vaccine.”

**About Sanofi Pasteur**
Sanofi Pasteur, the vaccines division of sanofi-aventis Group, is the largest company in the world devoted entirely to human vaccines. Sanofi Pasteur offers the broadest range of vaccines in the world, providing protection against 20 bacterial and viral diseases. The company distributes more than a billion doses of vaccine each year, making it possible to vaccinate more than 500 million people across the globe.

**About Statens Serum Institut**
Statens Serum Institut is a public enterprise operating as a market-oriented production and service enterprise. Statens Serum Institut is an enterprise under the Danish Ministry of Health and Prevention, and the Institute’s duties are partly integrated in the national Danish health services. Statens Serum Institut prevents and controls infectious diseases, biological threats and congenital disorders.

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