



## **MolMed announces publication of a paper on the antitumour activity of its cancer therapeutic vaccination approach in the *Journal of Clinical Investigation***

Milan, Italy – September 20<sup>th</sup>, 2007 – MolMed S.p.A., a biotech company focused on novel anticancer therapies, announced the publication in the October 1<sup>st</sup> issue of the *Journal of Clinical Investigation* of an article: “**Lymphocytes genetically modified to express tumor antigens target DCs (dendritic cells) in vivo and induce antitumor immunity**”, related to the antitumour activity - demonstrated in a murine model - of the cancer therapeutic vaccination approach on which its M3TK anti-melanoma vaccine is based.

The article, having as corresponding author MolMed's President and CEO Claudio Bordignon, gives insight into the preclinical background of this cell-based cancer therapeutic vaccination, which relies on a unique mechanism of *in vivo* delivery of tumour antigens to dendritic cells, thus mimicking the physiological antigen presentation process. Claudio Bordignon commented: “This approach was recognised to brilliantly overcome some of the burdens commonly hampering the development of effective therapeutic vaccination approaches, linked to eliciting a T-cell mediated immune response in a full and long-lasting manner”.

The M3TK cancer therapeutic vaccination project is a joint work of MolMed and a team of clinical investigators of the San Raffaele Scientific institute and Hospital led by Vincenzo Russo, first author of the article, who stated: “The mechanism of protective immunity elucidated in this work matches the kind of positive responses we are obtaining in melanoma patients, although clinical results are of course very preliminary”. M3TK is currently undergoing clinical validation in a Phase I/II trial in metastatic melanoma, conducted at the San Raffaele Hospital and at another clinical centre in Milan, the *Istituto Nazionale per lo Studio e la Cura dei Tumori*.

### **About M3TK therapeutic cancer vaccine**

M3TK therapy is based on the use of patient's own T lymphocytes, genetically engineered *ex vivo* to express the tumour antigen MAGE-3 and acting as antigen carriers for efficient loading of dendritic cells *in vivo*. This vaccination strategy induces protective immunity and long-term memory, correlated with clinical benefit observed in melanoma patients. Beside melanoma, M3TK has a therapeutic potential in other solid tumours expressing MAGE-3, namely lung, head-and-neck, and oesophageal cancer. MolMed's strategic partner Takara Bio Inc. (Japan) is developing M3TK for the Asian markets.

### **About MolMed**

MolMed S.p.A is a biotechnology company focused on R&D and production of novel anticancer therapies, and has two other anticancer agents in clinical development: ARENEGYR, a novel VTA, in Phase II in several indications including colorectal cancer; and TK, a cell-based therapy enabling safe haematopoietic stem cell transplantation (HSCT) from partially compatible bone marrow donors, that completed Phase I/II. MolMed's clinical pipeline is backed by a broad portfolio of therapeutic candidates. MolMed is headquartered at the San Raffaele Biomedical Science Park in Milan, Italy.

### **About San Raffaele**

San Raffaele of Monte Tabor Foundation, founded in 1971 by Luigi Maria Verzé, is a non-profit private Foundation and includes: the San Raffaele Scientific University Institute of Milan, one of the biggest hospitals in Italy, with more than 3.600 employees and 1.392 beds; the San Raffaele Biotechnology Department (DiBit), created in 1992, one of the most important basic research centres in Europe and the largest scientific biotech private Park in Italy. On the experience of the San Raffaele hospital, in 1996 The Vita-Salute University was founded, characterised by the integration of education with basic research and clinical activities.

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