

The European Patent Office grants MolMed a new patent on its gene therapy platform

Milan (Italy), 13 January 2014 – MolMed S.p.A. (MLM.MI) announces receipt of the official notification from the European Patent Office of the decision to grant a patent covering stable constitutive packaging cell lines for lentiviral vectors. The patent will formally be granted on the 12th of February 2014 when it will be published in the European Patent Bulletin.

This new European patent (EP2480678) will be part of a proprietary patent family which comprises 13 patent applications covering constitutive stable packaging cell lines for lentiviral vectors filed in the most important pharmaceutical markets, including the United States, Japan, Canada, Australia and China. The patent will provide protection until 2031 and will give right to market exclusivity in 40 European countries, including European Union member states, Eastern Europe countries, Switzerland and Turkey.

MolMed further strengthens its patent portfolio on cell and gene therapy consisting of ten patent families, which includes 106 granted patents and 35 pending applications, covering genes for the treatment of genetic diseases and tumours, methods and technologies for hematopoietic stem cells and T cells manipulation, viral vectors production systems and packaging cell lines for the production of retroviral vectors and for stable and semi-stable production of lentiviral vectors.

Claudio Bordignon, Chairman and CEO of MolMed, commented: *“This new European patent, which covers stable packaging cell lines for lentiviral vectors, strengthens MolMed leadership in the rapidly growing market of gene and cell therapies. Stable packaging systems represent a critical step for the development of this field by significantly reducing development costs and by improving the quality of vectors for new applications of gene therapy and tumour immune-gene-therapy, thus making these therapeutic options available for large patient populations. Together with our know-how on the manipulation of T cells - which enabled us to bring our TK cell therapy to a Phase III clinical trial - this new packaging technology will allow MolMed to enlarge its growth perspectives in gene therapy and to expand towards high-incidence pathologies, including oncology indications”.*

About packaging cell lines

Packaging cell lines are an essential element in gene therapies: they are responsible for the production of viral vectors required for "carrying" the healthy gene into the patients' cells, thus representing one of the most sophisticated key component of advanced therapies.

The development of constitutive stable systems is currently one of the main focuses of the scientific and industrial community engaged in advanced therapies, aimed at reducing time and cost of development and production of such therapies. In particular, this technology is a critical step in making production of large quantities of vector feasible, thus broadening the outlook of gene therapies to include treatment of largely diffused diseases.

Up to now, very few constitutive stable packaging cell lines have been developed for lentiviral vectors, and none have been used in the production of gene therapies for patients.

FROM GENES TO THERAPY

MOLMED S.p.A.

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About MolMed's activity area: "GMP Solutions"

MolMed has key expertise in cell and gene therapy: its service area, "GMP Solutions", provides tailor-made services for cell and gene therapy projects, offering top-level expertise to develop, conduct and validate studies, from preclinical to Phase III trials, devising innovative testing procedures and addressing the unique test specifications required for novel cell-based therapeutics. MolMed's development, manufacturing and clinical expertise in ex vivo cell and gene therapy includes scale-up and cGMP (current Good Manufacturing Practices) production of clinical-grade viral vectors, and manufacturing of patient-specific genetically engineered cells.

This press release is written in compliance with public disclosure obligations established by CONSOB (Italian securities & exchange commission) resolution no. 11971 of 14 May 1999, as subsequently amended.

About MolMed

MolMed S.p.A. is a biotechnology company focused on research, development and clinical validation of novel anticancer therapies. MolMed's pipeline includes two antitumour therapeutics in clinical development: TK, a cell-based therapy enabling bone marrow transplants from partially compatible donors, in absence of post-transplant immune-suppression, in Phase III in high-risk acute leukaemia; NGR-hTNF, a novel vascular targeting agent, in Phase III in malignant pleural mesothelioma and in Phase II in six more indications: colorectal, lung (small-cell and non-small-cell), liver and ovarian cancer, and soft tissue sarcomas. MolMed also offers top-level expertise in cell and gene therapy to third parties to develop, conduct and validate projects from preclinical to Phase III trials, including scale-up and cGMP production of clinical-grade viral vectors, and manufacturing of patient-specific genetically engineered cells. MolMed is headquartered at the San Raffaele Biomedical Science Park in Milan, Italy. The Company's shares are listed on the main market (MTA) of the Milan Stock Exchange. (Ticker Reuters: MLMD.MI)

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