

NIAC Consortium Led by AtG Therapeutics Secures €1.36M Eurostars Grant for Groundbreaking Renal Cancer Research

AtG Therapeutics

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The NIAC (Novel Intracellular Approach for Cancer) consortium, spearheaded by AtG Therapeutics, has secured a €1.36 million Eurostars grant to propel research into innovative therapies for renal cell carcinoma (RCC). This groundbreaking project, titled “*Developing a Novel TA-1 Inhibitor for Renal Cell Carcinoma Treatment: Precision-driven Preclinical Development*,” aims to establish a pioneering TA-1 inhibitor as a transformative treatment option for RCC patients resistant to current therapies.

The TA-1 inhibitor developed by AtG Therapeutics targets an intracellular pathway pivotal for tumor resistance, enhancing treatment efficacy where conventional anti-angiogenic (AA) therapies fail. The consortium's objective is to conduct comprehensive Proof-of-Concept studies that lay the groundwork for IND/CTA filings, advancing the TA-1 inhibitor towards clinical readiness. By synergizing advanced 3D in vitro models and in vivo systems, the NIAC project epitomizes cutting-edge cancer research and translational potential.

A Collaborative Framework of Excellence: NIAC Consortium Members

1. AtG Therapeutics (Spain) – Lead Organization

Emerging as a dynamic spin-off from Spain’s prestigious ICO and IDIBELL institutes, AtG Therapeutics is at the forefront of precision oncology. The company spearheads efforts to develop a first-in-class TA-1 inhibitor, coupled with groundbreaking research into novel tumor adaptation mechanisms. This expertise positions AtG to lead essential preclinical investigations, driving forward the potential for innovative RCC treatments.

2. DOPPL SA (Belgium) – Partner

Renowned for standardizing organoid cultures, DOPPL SA will create and characterize new RCC organoid models for high-throughput compound screens plugged to their automated AI-based image analysis pipelines. These workflows will be implemented to assess the efficacy and toxicity of the TA-1 inhibitor pre-clinically.

3. IVRS AB (Sweden) – Partner

IVRS will pioneer advanced in vivo RCC models and whole-body 3D imaging to

accelerate oncological drug development. By assessing the therapeutic potential of the lead TA-1 inhibitor, IVRS aims to unlock new treatments for tumor progression and metastasis.

4. Department of Urology, Inselspital, Bern University Hospital, and Translational Organoid Resource (TOR) Core, University of Bern (Switzerland)

– Partner

The university's Translational Organoid Resource Core Unit will supply patient-derived RCC organoid models and ex vivo tissue slice models for screening the selected drug candidate compounds. Their expertise in urological cancers will enhance the project's precision-medicine approach and ensure high-fidelity data relevant to clinical outcomes.

Groundbreaking Approaches and Future Impact

The NIAC consortium's approach integrates multi-faceted technologies, including patient-derived organoids and state-of-the-art in vivo testing, to maximize the translational accuracy of preclinical results. This alignment of innovative research and development holds the potential to redefine RCC treatment paradigms by addressing the unmet needs of patients facing late-stage resistance to current therapies.

Quotes from Leaders

“AtG Therapeutics is proud to lead this impactful project, combining our strengths in precision oncology with those of our dedicated partners. This consortium represents a crucial step toward providing new hope for RCC patients facing treatment-resistant disease,” said Gabriela Jiménez COO of AtG Therapeutics.

“The opportunity to innovate alongside top-tier international partners in developing preclinical models for RCC is invaluable. We believe this project can fundamentally accelerate the journey from discovery to patient impact,” remarked Prof. Marianna Kruithof-de Julio and Dr. Sofia Karkampouna from the 4. Department of Urology, Inselspital, Bern University Hospital, and Translational Organoid Resource (TOR) Core, University of Bern (Switzerland).

This collaborative project exemplifies the best of cross-disciplinary innovation, aiming to deliver groundbreaking cancer treatments and foster future progress in precision oncology.

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