

ABCELY acquires an exclusive operating license from B CELL DESIGN for ABC-101, the first orally active class A therapeutic monoclonal antibody directed against a tumor marker

Abcely is a health biotechnology start-up specializing in the development of a whole new class of therapeutic molecules, **class A immunoglobulins**. These molecules present a tropism of distribution and action in all the mucous membranes of the body (Digestive, respiratory, urogenital tract and related glandular systems such as breast or prostate).

Resulting from the work of **Armelle Cuvillier** and her team at B Cell Design, **ABC-101**, the drug candidate developed by Abcely, is the **first orally active class A monoclonal antibody** directed against a tumor marker validated for several decades in oncology: the Carcinoembryonic Antigen (CEA). CEA was chosen as a target because many digestive and mucosal cancers overexpress this marker during cancerous transformation. An antibody directed against CEA such as ABC-101 could therefore be extremely effective in various digestive cancers, depending on their level of expression of this target. The need of patients for the treatment of these specific pathologies is considerable.

Abcely' priority objectives are to develop ABC-101 up to clinical proof of concept (Phase Ib/IIa) for the treatment of digestive cancers in both prophylactic and curative modes, but also to extend and diversify its product portfolio based on a common technical base with products of the same class, acting through other mechanisms.

Abcely and B Cell Design announce today the establishment of an exclusive license agreement whereby B Cell Design grants Abcely all development, manufacturing, and commercialization rights for its ABC-101 program, aimed at developing new "first-in-class" IgA class antibodies.

This exclusive license agreement provides that B Cell Design will receive development milestone payments and royalties on net sales.

Jean-Marc HERBERT, Chief Executive Officer of Abcely declares: "We are delighted with this license agreement with B Cell Design. This technology, based on a disruptive concept, offers the possibility of developing a brand-new drug, ABC-101, a totally innovative product in the field of oral mucosal cancer treatment, thus offering patients in therapeutic impasse a new solution based on a completely new concept of immunotherapy with characteristics never seen before".

Pierre EFTEKHARI, Chief Executive Officer of B Cell Design declares: "We are measuring the uniqueness of the anti-CEA IgA antibody and we are delighted with this license agreement with Abcely, which has all the skills required to ensure the development of this product and demonstrate the therapeutic interest of this new concept of immunotherapy".

About Abcely: Abcely is a newly created biotechnology company in the Biotech Nantes environment, supported in its local development by Atlanpole, whose mission is to develop new innovative medical and pharmaceutical technologies in the field of the treatment of mucosal cancers. Abcely is involved in all phases of development, from the identification of compounds of biological origin as potential active ingredients to the demonstration of their activity in the human clinic.

About B Cell Design: B Cell Design offers a range of disruptive products and services in the in vitro diagnostic segment. B Cell Design invents and uses technologies developed in collaboration with the CRIBL laboratory of the CNRS, INSERM and the University of Limoges. The transgenic models developed allow the design, manufacture, and industrial production of human chimeric antibodies of a given isotype IgG1 (GammaPrim™ technology), IgA1 (HAMIGATM technology), IgM and IgE (InEps™ technology). By lifting a strong technological barrier, B Cell Design brings new knowledge on a class of IgA antibodies still too little studied, to offer a therapeutic alternative in the clinical treatment of mucosal cancers (digestive, pulmonary, urogenital, etc.), chronic infectious and inflammatory diseases, by offering a unique approach to oral immunotherapies.