Press Release, 2020-June-09

COVID-19 cVLP vaccine demonstrated as effective in mice

Hørsholm, Denmark, June 09, 2020 – AdaptVac, a PREVENT-nCoV consortium member, today announced that its COVID-19 cVLP vaccine induced high levels of virus neutralizing antibodies in an animal model. The vaccine elicited antibodies in mice which effectively prevented live SARS-CoV-2 virus from infecting and killing human cells in an *in vitro* assay.

The result was obtained through the combined efforts of PREVENT-nCoV consortium partners and Aarhus University. ExpreS^{2}ion Biotechnology produced the SARS-CoV-2 Spike protein variant, while AdaptVac displayed the antigen on its capsid Virus-Like Particle. This was followed by vaccination studies in mice at University of Copenhagen, and finally analysis of the raised antibodies' capability to neutralize live SARS-CoV-2 virus in the lab through *in vitro* studies by the groups of Associate Prof. Marjolein Kikkert, Leiden University Medical Centre and Prof. Søren Riis Paludan, Aarhus University.

"These extremely promising results demonstrate the potential of this international consortium to deliver an effective COVID-19 vaccine to the public.", said Wian de Jongh, AdaptVac's CEO.

"It is a milestone that we get such a strong SARS-COV-2 virus neutralizing response in mice. This result keeps us on the path to start the first clinical trials in humans in six months" said Associate Prof. Adam Sander, CSO AdaptVac.

About Leiden University Medical Center (LUMC)
The virology lab at LUMC (www.lumc.nl) has been working on SARS-CoV and MERS-CoV since these emerged in the human population, and they do a combination of basic and more translational research on these viruses. They focus on thoroughly understanding these viruses and their interactions with host cells, and use this knowledge to develop innovative antiviral strategies, including vaccines and antivirals. Analyses of infections in both cell culture as well as mouse models are possible in their BSL-3 facilities, including testing the efficacy of vaccines and antivirals. This expertise and experience will be instrumental for the consortium. For more information: Dr. ir. Marjolein Kikkert, Associate Professor, Telephone: +31 6 123 83090, Email: m.kikkert@lumc.nl

About the COVID-19 Coronavirus outbreak
A novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak was reported in Wuhan, China in late December 2019 and declared a pandemic by WHO on March 11th, 2020. The COVID-19 Coronavirus is a part of the same family as SARS and MERS, and there have been more than 3.4 million confirmed cases and over 230 000 deaths reported as of May 5th, 2020. The latest situation updates are available on the WHO web page: https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019.

About the PREVENT-nCoV consortium
The consortium is funded by an EU Horizon 2020 grant to develop a COVID-19 vaccine. The consortium members are world-leading experts in their respective fields, covering all relevant areas of viral research and vaccine development required for rapid clinical development of a COVID-19 vaccine. This includes pre-clinical and clinically validated experience from working with similar Coronaviruses such as MERS and SARS, ExpreS^{2}ion's *Drosophila* S2 insect cell expression system, and AdaptVac's capsid virus-like particle (cVLP) technology. In addition to ExpreS^{2}ion and AdaptVac, the consortium members are Leiden University Medical Center (LUMC), Institute for Tropical Medicine (ITM) at University of Tübingen, The Department of Immunology and Microbiology (ISIM) at University of Copenhagen, and the Laboratory of Virology at Wageningen University.

For further information about AdaptVac ApS and the consortium, please contact:

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Dr. Wian de Jongh, CEO
Telephone: +45 26394649
E-mail: wdj@adaptvac.com

About AdaptVac

AdaptVac is a joint venture between ExpreS2ion Biotechnologies and NextGen Vaccines, owned by the inventors of the novel proprietary and ground-breaking viral capsid-like virus particle (CLP) platform technology spun out from the University of Copenhagen. The Company aims to accelerate the development of highly efficient therapeutic and prophylactic vaccines within high value segments of oncology, infectious diseases and immunological disorders. Granting of the core patent in the U.S. has expanded AdaptVac's patent protection to include our entire pipeline of vaccines and immunotherapies in development. Please visit: www.AdaptVac.com

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