

Highlight Therapeutics selected for Cancer Research UK project

Madrid, Spain – February 28, 2020: Highlight Therapeutics (“Highlight”), a clinical-stage biopharmaceutical company developing RNA-based therapies against cancer, today notes Cancer Research UK’s announcement of seven new international projects to accelerate lifesaving cancer research. Highlight is delighted to be working in partnership with these renowned academic institutions on one of these projects.

Marisol Quintero, CEO of Highlight, said: “We are delighted to have been selected to work on one of these Accelerator projects with Cancer Research UK and its European partners, Fondazione AIRC and Asociación Española Contra el Cáncer (AECC). Working alongside these prestigious academia demonstrates Highlight’s expertise and understanding of immunotherapy and potential ways in which to unlock its power.”

The Cancer Research UK Accelerator Awards programme, which provides five years of funding for international projects, reflects a longstanding link between the UK and Europe, working together to drive progress for people affected by cancer.

Dr Ignacio Melero at Fundación para la Investigación Médica Aplicada will lead the team behind the LIRT (Local Immunoradiotherapy) program to test the combination of immunotherapy injections and radiotherapy in mice. They hope the radiotherapy will help awaken an immune response against cancer. Co-investigators include University of Manchester, UCL, Complutense University of Madrid, Clinica Universitaria de Navarra, Istituto Nazionale Dei Tumori and University of Palermo.

The main objective of this project is to maximize the local and systemic effects of radiotherapy. The research plan will combine the strengths of preclinical mechanistic data to inform clinical trial design and clinical trials back translating to the laboratory performed by an experienced multidisciplinary team. A range of murine tumor models will test the ability of RT and intralesional IO agents to generate local and systemic anti-tumor immunity. These results will be translated to the clinic to treat patients whose irradiated tumor will be intralesionally injected using Highlight’s BO-112.

Cancer Research UK press release: <https://www.cancerresearchuk.org/about-us/cancer-news/press-release/2020-02-28-new-european-partnerships-to-accelerate-cancer-research>

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Notes to Editors

About Highlight Therapeutics

Highlight, formerly known as Bioncotech Therapeutics S.L, is a private, clinical-stage company dedicated to unlocking the full potential of immuno-oncology. Its lead drug candidate BO-112 is a best-in-class RNA-based therapy which has been demonstrated to initiate a powerful immune response, leveraging a unique multi-target approach to turn ‘cold’ tumors ‘hot’ and therefore visible to the immune system. It has the potential to rescue patients who are resistant to current checkpoint inhibitor therapy, a very large market opportunity. BO-112 is currently being investigated in a range of clinical trials as a monotherapy and in combination with checkpoint inhibitors. In addition to in-house research, Highlight Therapeutics has a number of external collaborators, including Merck & Co and UCLA.