

Realist Pharma raises a seed round with the support of Emerillon Capital, with a view to advancing its immuno-oncology programs and initiating clinical trials.

Realist Pharma is a Canadian immuno-oncology company developing products against several cancers.

Montreal, Quebec, – April 11 2016 – Realist Pharma Inc. is pleased to have Emerillon Capital join its current financing round as the first institutional investor in the Company. Specializing in immuno-oncology, Realist intends to bring complementary therapeutics derived from its core REAL-1 and REAL-2 programs to market; these therapeutics are able to elicit an immune response for the first time against validated tumor markers found in a number of important cancers. The company intends to close the current seed round of a few million dollars shortly, with the aim of raising a bigger financing round before the end of 2016.

« We are advancing quickly toward the clinic with the REAL-1 program, that could be considered as a next generation treatment in the CAR-T space, but without complex genetic engineering steps. This would constitute a much cheaper and practical approach to autologous immunotherapy than is currently available », pointed out Dr. Mark de Groot, CEO and Co-founder of Realist Pharma. Mark has worked for 20 years with Dr. Uri Saragovi (Realist's CSO). The two co-founder of Realist were previously co-founders of Mimetogen (also based on Dr. Saragovi's technology), which recently entered into an important exclusive licensing agreement with Allergan. The REAL-2 platform, on the other hand, is characterized by new pharmaceutical compounds that act as therapeutic vaccines, targeting specific tumor associated glycolipids.

Each of the two platforms allow one to target up to 11 tumor markers (e.g., GD2 and GD3), and in the process induce important therapeutic T-cell mediated immune responses. These targets have been found to be overexpressed in neuroblastomas, melanomas, lymphomas, non-small cell lung cancers, breast cancers, gliomas, glioblastomas and other cancers.

« Various approaches have tried unsuccessfully in the past to obtain significant therapeutic immune responses by targeting these tumor markers. In contrast, Dr. Saragovi's glycomimetic approach has yielded very compelling results in a variety of relevant preclinical models using highly aggressive tumors », explains Mark.

Nicola Urbani, Investment Director of Emerillon Capital added: « Realist Pharma is developing novel therapies in the field of immuno-oncology. This is an important field in oncology that has improved treatment outcomes for many patients, and is providing hope for many others. While Emerillon Capital does not usually invest in the development of therapeutics, we have made an exception in the case of Realist Pharma. The trust we have in the management team, the quality of the preclinical results obtained, the speed at which Realist's programs could be in the clinic, as well as the huge unmet medical needs, have persuaded us to invest in an opportunity that is at an earlier stage than the typical investment for Emerillon »

About Realist Pharma

With activities centered on Montreal, Canada, Realist Pharma Inc. is an immuno-oncology company developing therapeutics against a number of important cancers. The company's two programs (REAL-1 and REAL-2) target up to 11 validated tumor targets, which so far proved very difficult to target via immunotherapeutic approaches.

For more information, visit: <http://realistpharma.com>

About Emerillon Capital

Based in Montreal, Emerillon Capital is a venture capital fund dedicated to investing and supporting companies with strong technological expertise that are positioned in sectors with strong growth potential. It aims to accelerate commercial start-ups and support their expansion. Emerillon Capital invests primarily in Canada. By leveraging the network of CM-CIC Investissement, its lead sponsor, Emerillon Capital offers entrepreneurs a gateway to support their development projects in Europe.

For more information, visit www.emerilloncapital.com.

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