

TargED Biopharmaceuticals establishes Scientific Advisory Board supporting the development of Microlyse in Acute Ischemic Stroke

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TargED Biopharmaceuticals, a biotech spin-off of the University Medical Center Utrecht, announced today the installation of a Scientific Advisory Board (SAB) to advance the development of its lead compound Microlyse for the treatment of Acute Ischemic Stroke which includes leading independent scientists and clinicians. The 5 members are Prof. Johannes Boltze (UK), Prof. Alastair Buchan (UK), Prof. Emeritus Werner Hacke (GE), Prof. Jeffrey Saver (USA) and Prof. Bart van der Worp (NL). Microlyse development in Acute Ischemic Stroke is pursued in parallel to the treatment of patients suffering from acquired thrombotic thrombocytopenic purpura (TTP).

“We are honored to have these remarkable and accomplished scientific leaders joining TargED’s Scientific Advisory Board in Acute Ischemic Stroke” said Kristof Vercruyse, CEO of TargED. “Our mission is to develop a single thrombolytic drug that enables accelerated thrombolysis in all forms of thrombosis, irrespective of the clot composition. By establishing this separate SAB for Acute Ischemic Stroke, combining preclinical and clinical expertise, we believe to have a powerful tool in hands to ensure an optimal Clinical Development Strategy in Acute Ischemic Stroke. All our members have made significant contributions to neurologic research and together they bring a wealth of knowledge and experience as we work to further develop Microlyse”.

Prof. Johannes Boltze is a physician and neurobiologist by training and serves as a Full Professor of Neuroscience at the University of Warwick in Coventry, UK. His research is primarily focused on neurovascular disorders such as stroke and vascular dementia. Dr. Boltze’s group is particularly interested in translational aspects, being crucial for successful transition from basic science to clinical application. To this end, they develop and use disease models that realistically reflect a patient’s situation including the presence of comorbidities. Dr. Boltze serves on the editorial board of leading journals such as Stroke.

Prof. Alastair Buchan is a British neurologist and researcher in stroke medicine. As Professor of Stroke Medicine at the University of Oxford, he heads the Laboratory of Cerebral Ischemia whose aim it is to identify novel neuroprotective strategies that may be used for the treatment or prevention of an acute stroke. These treatments are needed to protect the brain during reperfusion treatment of acute ischemic stroke following either thrombolysis or endovascular thrombectomy. Prof. Buchan co-authored >400 publications in renowned scientific journals with over 30.000 citations.

Prof. Werner Hacke MD PhD DSc (hon) is Senior Professor of Neurology at the University of Heidelberg, Germany. He graduated from the RWTH Aachen Medical School and received his neurology training at RWTH Aachen and the University of Berne. He was Professor and chair of Neurology in Heidelberg for 27 years. Prof. Hacke was actively involved in the development of both intra-arterial and intravenous thrombolytic therapy and has pioneered hypothermia and decompressive surgery in malignant MCA-infarction. He was the founding President of the European Stroke Organization and is a Past President of the World Stroke Organization. His work has been cited more than 200,000 times and his h-index is over 150.

Prof. Jeffrey Saver is SA Vice-Chair and Professor of Neurology at UCLA, a Fellow of the Stroke Council of the American Heart Association, a Fellow of the American Academy of Neurology and a Fellow of the American Neurological Association. He has published more than 750 original research and review articles, more than 40 book chapters, and three edited volumes. His research focuses on stroke prevention, acute stroke treatment, stroke diagnosis, and cognitive and behavioral consequences of stroke. He has led various clinical trials in the field of stroke over the last decades.

Prof. Bart van der Worp is a neurologist with a special interest in cerebrovascular diseases and Professor of acute neurology at the University Medical Center in Utrecht, the Netherlands. He has been (co-)Chief Investigator of nine randomized clinical stroke trials. Prof. Van der Worp is former president of the European Stroke Organisation (ESO) and active member of the Dutch CONTRAST consortium, which aims to identify and test new treatments for patients with acute ischemic stroke or intracerebral hemorrhage.

About TargED Biopharmaceuticals

TargED Biopharmaceuticals B.V. is a biotechnology company that develops first-in-class biological drugs to improve treatment of thrombosis. TargED stands for Targeted Enzyme Delivery. Their biological drugs are unique by using small antibodies (“VhH”) to deliver enzymes to sites of thrombosis, enabling ‘targeted’ thrombolysis. The lead compound is Microlyse, which is currently under development for thrombotic thrombocytopenic purpura (TTP) and Acute Ischemic Stroke (AIS). The objective is to accelerate thrombolysis in all forms of thrombosis, irrespective of the thrombus composition.

TargED, a spin-off of the University Medical Center Utrecht, was founded in July 2020 by Associate Professor at the Department of Clinical Chemistry and Haematology, Coen Maas, PhD, an expert in thrombosis and hemostasis, Steven de Maat, PhD, an expert in recombinant protein development and optimization, Marc van Moorsel, researcher with focus on Acute Ischemic Stroke and Kristof Vercruysse, with more than 20 years of experience in bringing biopharmaceutical compounds from pre-clinical proof of concept to market, most notably, Caplacizumab for Thrombotic Thrombocytopenic Purpura at Ablynx between 2007 and 2013.

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