



Mount Damavand in Iran

Successful outlicensing of Damavand Wound

The research company Damavand Wound AB, a spin-off company from Linköping University Hospital, has successfully out-licensed its own treatment method for hard-to-heal wounds to the Huddinge-based biotech company Tripep AB.

The research scientist behind Damavand is Fariba Nayeri, a doctor at the infectious diseases clinic at Linköping University Hospital. She has spent a number of years developing a new wound-healing method based on Hepatocyte Growth Factor (HGF).

This is a new biological therapy that opens up novel ways of treating hard-to-heal wounds, primarily venous ulcers and diabetic ulcers. The method, which has been successfully tested in patients with chronic leg ulcers, is based on the finding that the normally-occurring substance HGF is defective in many hard-to-heal wounds, and thus inactive in the patient.

Active HGF administered to the patient in combination with a suitable antibiotic makes it possible to restore cellular balance,

which promotes the wound-healing process. HGF can be industrially extracted from plasma or manufactured synthetically. Combination treatment with antibiotics is necessary, since bacteria in the wounds can break down HGF. Outlicensing also includes a unique diagnostic method to determine whether the patient's HGF is active.

Tripep is planning to commence a Phase II study next year. This will treat patients suffering from chronic leg ulcers with HGF in combination with a suitable antibiotic. The therapeutic method and the diagnostic method will both be evaluated in the study.

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Cambio prospering in the UK and Denmark

Cambio Healthcare Systems, which employs some 60 people in central Linköping, is undergoing a successful launch on the UK market.

Four hospitals so far have switched to Cambio's care administration system COSMIC. In addition, the final touches were recently put to a deal in which Cambio will continue to improve UK healthcare: 23 private clinics

run by Capio will be equipped with customised versions of the system.

COSMIC has also acquired two new customers in Denmark. The Danish Defence Forces (DDF) have purchased Cambio COSMIC and the statistics module COSMIC Intelligence. The system will be used in field hospitals, in marine units and at healthcare units run by the DDF in Denmark. The Kennedy Institute National Eye

Clinic in Copenhagen has also chosen Cambio as its systems supplier.

Cambio is now one of the biggest suppliers of care administrative systems in Sweden, with almost 40,000 users at Accident & Emergency units, university hospitals, health centres and specialist clinics around the country. Östergötland County Council is one of seven county councils now applying Cambio's systems in the care process.

For further information see www.cambio.se

New investors in Micromuscle

Micromuscle AB in Linköping announced recently that the company has brought a financing round led by Dutch DSM Venturing and the Swedish Industrifonden fund to a successful conclusion.

DSM Venturing is the corporate venture unit of the Dutch multinational Royal DSM, a company that employs about 22,000 people and has a turnover of about SEK 70 billion (USD 10 bn, EUR 7.5 bn). This investment brings DSM's shareholding in Micromuscle to approximately ten per cent. Industrifonden has been a principal shareholder since 2002.

Micromuscle develops electroactive polymers (EAP) for medical applications. Through its investment, DSM wishes to share in the vast potential for EAP in various medical applications. DSM and Micromuscle will be exploring the possibility of joint product development, particularly

within the areas of drug delivery and cardiovascular applications.

These are two top-priority fields in DSM's new business area of biomedical materials. Biomedicine is a fast-growing field and an important part of DSM's strategic growth-creation plan.

Micromuscle is planning to double its personnel within a year and will be building new laboratory premises to facilitate faster growth. The company is now moving into the Mjärdevi Center in Mjärdevi Science Park.

– We welcome DSM Venturing as a new investor. DSM is a major industrial company with a strong position and the ability to contribute know-how in fields such as materials and polymers. We have already experienced added value from our collaboration, and we see their investment as confirmation that we have chosen the right strategy in entering the medical devices market, says Micromuscle CEO Gert Kindgren.

Micromuscle is recruiting

Linköping-based Micromuscle is in an expansive phase as a result of the investment by the materials company DSM. Micromuscle AB is a world leader in the development of electroactive polymers for medical applications. The company is now looking for two new permanent employees: a materials developer with experience of polymers, and a prototype developer for the development and manufacture of prototypes. The company is also looking for demonstrators for its medical device development projects.

For further information please see www.micromuscle.com

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Speakers invited to the seminar included Jeremy Hague (pictured) from Xceleron Ltd in York (a world leader in microdosing technology) and a number of scientists from Linköping University.

Linköping is home to a number of companies and research teams working on microdosing systems and related fields. The current situation is that the drugs industry

Research collaboration on microdosing in Linköping

BioMedley recently arranged a well-attended seminar on the theme »Microdosing – a new method for more effective drug development«. The aim was to draw attention to Linköping's know-how in microdosing and microdialysis and to bring together stakeholders to discuss future ambitions in the field.

– and society at large – is struggling with the problem of spiralling costs for new drug development and consumption. It can take 10 to 15 years to develop a new drug and the process can cost up to SEK 10 billion (approx. USD 1.5 bn or more than 1 billion euros). As this is unsustainable in the long run, there is an urgent need to find ways of developing new drugs more quickly and cheaply. Microdosing can help make the preclinical and clinical trial process more efficient at the same time as it improves safety.

It can reduce the risk to trial participants by allowing extremely low doses of a candidate drug to be administered in the initial stages. Clinical data can also be obtained ear-

lier, thus reducing the need for animal testing. The small amounts – nanograms and micrograms of a drug – also eliminate any pharmacological effects. Instead, the test can yield information about other important properties of the drug and about how the substance is absorbed, distributed and excreted from the human body. This provides a better basis for a decision on what substances can be used for clinical trials in humans.

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Microdosing studies to Linköping

Berzelius Clinical Research Center AB in Linköping is now carrying out its first microdosing study and is preparing further such studies in collaboration with international pharmaceutical companies. This marks a new strategic step in the field of clinical drug development by Linköping's research community.

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Pimm commercialises ideas in a care environment

Pimm is an abbreviation of the Swedish for »product renewal in care«. This is a joint venture involving the County Council, the municipality of Norrköping and Almi Företagspartner Östergötland (tasked with stimulating growth and development for small and medium-sized companies and innovators). Pimm is also one of the sub-projects in the »New Tools of Health« project, which aims to put into practice the innovative ideas of members of staff, helping to improve work and make it easier. Collaboration with the private sector will hopefully mean that the ideas can lead to the development of products with commercial potential.

For further information, see www.pimm.se

County Council spotlights clinical research

Östergötland County Council wants to highlight the importance of research and development in the health services. Interest in clinical research has waned in recent years, and County Council leaders have adopted a number of measures to boost the role of research. R&D work is to be more highly valued, given better conditions and more clearly rewarded. A background in research will be increasingly regarded as a merit in recruitment and when allocating positions. The measures are also designed to stimulate newly-qualified researchers to keep working in research, and to create combined posts or other solutions that provide scope for time devoted to research.

– Today's research is the healthcare of tomorrow, says County Council Director Åke Rosandher. We must work closely with Linköping University and the Faculty of Health Sciences to safeguard research in the county and the region.

University creates new Technology Transfer Office

Linköping University is stepping up its efforts to find commercial applications for research by establishing a Technology Transfer Office. In accordance with international models, the new unit will actively search for ideas and research results with commercial potential in the work of research staff and students. The team will initially consist of patent consultant Arne Jacobson, business lawyer Tobias Fridman, Tina Krantz-Rülcker, an expert on strategic collaborations, and two »idea hunters«, Karl Eldebo and Maria Swartz. The existing Universitetsholding AB will shift its focus to acquiring shareholdings in companies linked to Linköping University.

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Entrepreneurial unit for more small care enterprises

Östergötland County Council is creating an Entrepreneurial Unit to assist county council employees who want to take over their activity and run it as a company with the County Council as their customer. The ambition is to boost the number of alternative forms of operation in Östergötland's health services, both in primary care as well as in certain specialised areas.



Big grants to cancer researchers in Linköping

The Swedish Cancer Society (Cancerfonden) is the principal source of funding for Swedish cancer research. It helps to fight cancer and improves the care of cancer patients by providing financial support to research and care development projects. The society has recently awarded a total of SEK 300 million (over USD 42 million or 32 million euros) in research grants for 2007, of which SEK 8.5 million will go to scientists in Linköping.

Linköping scientists awarded Cancer Society funding include: Stefan Thor (SEK 1.6 million), Charlotta Dabrosin (SEK 1.5 million), Gerhard Andersson (SEK 0.8 million), Barbro Linderholm (SEK 0.6 million), Peter Lundberg (SEK 0.6 million), Karin Roberg (SEK 0.6 million) and Peter Söderkvist (SEK 0.3 million).

Clean room seeks tenants

Thin Film Electronics AB in the Wahlbecks Business Park has a 400 square metre state-of-the-art clean room available, equipped for thin film processing, chemistry and other purposes.

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Target-seeking cytotoxin transporters

Accelerator i Linköping AB, which refines and commercialises research-based innovations, is currently developing a project called ProtR-C. This is a system for target-seeking cytotoxin transporters that will home in on cancer tumours. The aim is to achieve more effective medication while limiting side-effects.

ProtR-C is a carrier that is based on a »well-known« protein, and will carry the cytotoxin cisplatin. The project is concerned with confirming the suitability of the carrier as a transporter of the cytotoxin in treating tumours. Trine Vikinge is responsible for the ProtR-C project.

– Since this involves a very stable protein-based carrier, there is huge potential for connecting it to a target-seeking substance such as an antibody, says Trine. We are currently looking into various means of doing this. Our goal – in principle – is to verify that it is possible to boost the efficacy of cisplatin therapy. This can be done by linking our carrier to a target-seeking substance.

ProtR-C has established links with scientists at the experimental oncology unit at the Karolinska Institute Medical University.

– We are now carrying out immunological and toxicological studies, Trine explains. Introductory in vitro studies have yielded positive indications, but we have a number of important steps left. When we understand the properties of the carrier and its in vitro interactions, we want to show its function in vivo. However, the project is still at an early stage.



A protein (the cylinder) carries cytotoxins to the cancer tumour. The protein is carried by target-seeking antibodies (the »legs«).

The project has received SEK 700,000 (USD 100,000 or EUR 76,000) in support from the Swedish Government Agency for Innovation Systems (Vinnova).

Source: www.acceleratorab.se

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