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Akiram Therapeutics announces agreement with leading university hospital on AKIR001 manufacturing for cancer therapy



Akiram Therapeutics, a Swedish biotech company specializing in targeted radiotherapy, has entered into an agreement with a leading Swedish university hospital for the manufacturing of ^{177}Lu -AKIR001, a radiopharmaceutical designed for treating patients with solid tumors. This agreement marks an important step towards the Phase I first-in-human study, which is planned to start in 2024.

Akiram Therapeutics has developed a new type of targeted radioimmunotherapy, ^{177}Lu -AKIR001. The therapy holds the potential to become a first-in-class treatment in multiple cancer types, including anaplastic and iodine-refractory thyroid cancer, head and neck squamous cell carcinoma, and non-small cell lung cancer. The drug is composed of a target recognition molecule, to which therapeutic radioactivity is coupled for effect on tumor cells.

This agreement marks the collaboration between Akiram Therapeutics and Karolinska University Hospital, one of Sweden's premier medical institutions. Karolinska will supply Akiram with services related to the current Good Manufacturing Practice (cGMP) production of the radiopharmaceutical product ^{177}Lu -AKIR001 for human use, along with other related services. The hospital will also establish the radiolabeling of the product and ensure that it is ready for administration to patients with cancer in an upcoming study.

“With this agreement and the GMP production of the affinity carrier in place, we have everything needed to apply for a first-in-human clinical study in 2024. We are very excited and strongly motivated to progress this important project in close collaboration with our clinical colleagues at Karolinska University Hospital,” says Marika Nestor, CEO and co-founder of Akiram Therapeutics.

About Akiram’s drug candidate

¹⁷⁷Lu-AKIR001 was developed using antibody phage display selections followed by affinity maturation towards the cancer marker CD44v6 and is combined with the radiation component lutetium (¹⁷⁷Lu). Results from preclinical studies support the validity of ¹⁷⁷Lu-AKIR001 as a promising, novel antibody-based radiopharmaceutical targeting cancers with high expression of CD44v6.

For more information, please contact:

Marika Nestor, CEO

Email: marika.nestor@akiramtherapeutics.com

Phone: +46 702 34 18 81

About Akiram Therapeutics

Akiram Therapeutics is a Swedish biotech company focused on the development of targeted radioimmunotherapy for cancer, which is based on a proprietary antibody targeting the cancer marker CD44v6 combined with a radiation component. The therapy has generated strong preclinical results in cancer models in conditions that currently lack effective treatments. With the potential for its drug candidate to be classified as an orphan drug and recognized as first-in-class, the company is dedicated to advancing research in this field, including indications in head and neck cancer, AML (Acute Myeloid Leukemia), lung cancer, and aggressive thyroid cancer. Headquartered in Uppsala, Sweden, Akiram Therapeutics is staffed with experts in radiation science research, cancer precision medicine, and drug development. To learn more, please visit [Akiram’s website](#) and follow Akiram on [LinkedIn](#).