

Authera Enters Research Collaboration and Option Agreement with argenx to Develop a Lead Antibody-based Candidate for Treatment of Severe Eye Diseases

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Authera has entered into a research collaboration and option agreement with argenx to identify novel antibody-based modalities that bind an undisclosed therapeutic target for treatment of inflammatory, exudative eye diseases, such as neovascular age-related macular degeneration (nAMD) and diabetic retinopathy. Such diseases disrupt sharp and central vision with a devastating impact on quality of life and ability to perform everyday activities.

As part of the collaboration, Authera and argenx will leverage their combined expertise on antibody development and complex biology to identify binders that will be tailored for intraocular therapeutic effect. The agreement also includes an exclusive license option agreement with pre-negotiated terms. The joint effort is motivated by a package of strong pre-clinical data, including *in vivo* proof of-concept studies combined with an in-depth molecular and cellular understanding of ophthalmological diseases.

The development program is partly funded by the Research Council of Norway (RCN) through an Innovation Project for the Industrial Sector, which is a program that aims to support business-led research and development projects, where innovation is a critical part of the process.

“Authera is pleased to enter a research collaboration with argenx, a global commercial-stage immunology company that shares our vision on how science-driven discoveries can be translated into breakthrough solutions for patients in need. We are excited to collaborate with a team of leading experts in antibody discovery and development with the aim to provide pioneering treatment options for patient groups living with vision impairment.” – CSO, Torleif Tollefsrud Gjølberg.

About Authera

Authera AS is a pre-clinical-stage biotechnology company dedicated to the discovery and development of novel therapeutic biologics. The company's knowledge is based on the understanding of crucial biological processes involving FcRn combined with a high-end and sophisticated technology platform. This platform can educate and fine-tune molecular designs to secure their optimal FcRn mediated cellular transport behavior, which translates into favorable *in vivo* pharmacokinetic parameters in state-of-the-art mouse models. Authera is a spinout from the Laboratory of Adaptive Immunity and Homeostasis at the University of Oslo and Oslo University Hospital, headed by Professor Jan Terje Andersen. Co-founders are Professor emerita Inger Sandlie, CEO Simone Mester and CSO Torleif Tollefsrud Gjølberg. For more information, visit www.authera.bio and follow us on LinkedIn and Twitter.