

## Press release

### Nine medical innovations with disruptive potential:

### Start-ups presented their ideas at the “Munich Demo Day” of the BioTech Bootcamp Bio<sup>M</sup> and SmiLe



All participants of the BioTech Bootcamp 2023 with the Bio<sup>M</sup> and SmiLe teams © Bio<sup>M</sup>

**Martinsried, 8 December 2023 -** As part of this year's BioTech Bootcamp of Bio<sup>M</sup> Biotech Cluster Development GmbH and the life science business incubator "SmiLe Incubator" from Lund, Sweden, the international, eight-week training program for prospective founders and young companies climaxed in the Munich “Demo Week”. Nine teams, aiming to develop and commercialize their biotech business idea, showed in the IZB on the Munich-Martinsried campus what they had learned in the past eight weeks and presented their start-up ideas to a public audience on the final "Demo Day". GENICITY won the prize, awarded by sponsor Merck: a visit to their Merck M Lab™ Collaboration Center in France. The winner of the Roche Audience Award was the team RevoBITs who can look forward to participating exclusively at the Founder’s Festival Bits & Pretzels HealthTech 2024.

The BioTech Bootcamp is an eight-week hybrid training program that provides European start-up teams with the opportunity to validate and develop their business ideas in the field of therapeutics development with the help of life science experts.

This week, the BioTech Bootcamp climaxed in the on-site week held at Bio<sup>M</sup> in Martinsried and the “Munich Demo Day” in the Innovation Centre at the Campus Martinsried. Teams from Germany, Sweden, Czech Republic and Ireland presented their business ideas to the Bio<sup>M</sup> network. Two teams that were particularly compelling with their presentations were **GENICITY Ltd.** and **RevoBITs**.

**GENICITY** brings cell therapy within reach. GENICITY is an allogeneic cell gene therapy platform dedicated to making cancer a chronic disease by offering safe, affordable and off-the-shelf allogeneic cell therapies. GENICITY offers a unique universal T cell platform that is unable to recognize or kill any type of cancer, and this platform can be directed and activated using any anti-CD3 bispecific antibody to target and eliminate any type of cancer. Combination of the platform with an anti-CD3 bispecific antibody enhances its effectiveness, survival rates, and duration of response.

The teams of GENICITY can look forward to receiving the prize offered by sponsor Merck and is invited to visit the **Merck M Lab™ Collaboration Center** in Molsheim, France. The center offers biopharmaceutical manufacturers the opportunity to work closely with Merck scientists and engineers to solve the toughest challenges and accelerate the development of new therapies.

"We are overwhelmed to have been awarded this unique opportunity by Merck. This is a chance for us to accelerate our product development and overcome challenges that still need to be overcome," says founder and project lead **Dr. Muneer Sawaied** of GENICITY. "In Molsheim, we will have the opportunity to leverage Merck's incredible industry and expert knowledge.

The Roche Audience Award went to the team of **RevoBITs** from the Friedrich-Alexander-University Erlangen-Nuremberg. RevoBITs develops the first smart bio-printer to enable medical research and the pharmaceutical industry to develop and reproducibly produce meaningful human tissue models. By combining multi-material printing, seamless temperature control and sensor-based characterization methods, the printer provides the technological basis to replace animal testing in drug development and to provide tissue for transplantation medicine in the long term.

The team can look forward to receiving an invitation from sponsor Roche to give a presentation at the Bits & Pretzels HealthTech 2024 start-up festival. This will give the future start-up the opportunity to make contact with Roche and the European innovation community to further develop solutions for its idea.

**Stefan Schrüfer** of RevoBITs: "We are very happy that our business idea was awarded the Roche Audience Award. We have learned so much from the Bootcamp mentors and coaches in recent weeks. It was a fantastic opportunity to meet other European entrepreneurs, experts of the pharmaceutical industry and potential investors. The award crowns our journey through these incredibly instructive weeks."

Expert lectures, individual coaching and mentoring give Bootcamp participants access to entrepreneurial expertise and a unique insight into the biotech industry. In this way the entrepreneurs are prepared at an early stage to meet investors, pharmaceutical companies, and other industry players. They gain the knowledge, skills, and contacts necessary to transform a breakthrough biotech idea into a successful, scalable company.

Upon completion of the program, participants have the opportunity to be screened for acceptance into more advanced programs at SmiLe or at Bio<sup>M</sup> to bring their business ideas to market.

"There is excellent biotechnology research at our universities. We want to support young researchers in further developing their ideas and translating them into marketable services and products. That is why we are very proud of the customized bootcamp program for future biotech entrepreneurs that we have developed together with Bio<sup>M</sup>. We are particularly delighted to collaborate with Merck, Roche and the European Commission who contribute important industrial expertise, exciting prizes and valuable content to the bootcamp as sponsors," says **Dr. Barbara Klein, Bootcamp Manager of SmiLe**.

"We are very happy to be able to run the BioTech Bootcamp together with SmiLe. Based on our complementary expertise, we have developed a unique curriculum. In addition to providing access to the networks of two European biotech hotspots, we hope to have equipped the participating teams by numerous mentors, experts and coaches with the necessary tools to build successful start-ups," says **Dr. Stephanie Bartelsen-Wehnelt, Start-up & Development Program Lead at Bio<sup>M</sup> Biotech Cluster Development GmbH**. "Of course, we are happy to continue supporting all teams and wish them much success and all the best for the future!"

### **The teams of the BioTech Bootcamp 2023 and their ideas:**

#### **AmyCure Bio – blocking amyloids for Parkinson's treatment.**

AmyCure Bio aims to create intranasal drugs that stop Parkinson's disease progression. A key factor in the disease is a pathological aggregation of protein alpha-synuclein ( $\alpha$ Syn) into amyloid fibrils. AmyCure has designed peptide inhibitors (FEPI) that prevent  $\alpha$ Syn aggregation by blocking the fibril ends. FEPIs can thus stop the formation of  $\alpha$ Syn amyloids in cells due to their specificity to  $\alpha$ Syn fibril ends, surpassing other best-reported inhibitors. For this purpose, the FEPI structure was optimized for better intranasal administration.

#### **Emulsi Biotech – natural platforms for drug formulation and delivery.**

Emulsi Biotech AB provides innovative and sustainable solutions to produce complex bioactive compound delivery systems from plant-based materials. The focus is on utilizing natural and ecological methods to meet the demands of the cosmetics, food, and pharmaceutical industries. Emulsi's goal is to promote a healthier, more environmentally friendly and more conscious approach to product development.

#### **ENDOLEASE – an innovative high precision drug delivery system.**

ENDOLEASE-systems is developing an innovative system for super selective drug release to improve effectivity and safety of pharmacotherapy of multiple diseases. The prototype of endovascularly implantable, biodegradable ENDOLEASE system combines modern, combined bioprinting technologies and can be automatically and rapidly loaded with a combination of therapeutic agents.

#### **Factorize.bio – learning the language of undruggable disease proteins.**

Factorize.bio is an AI-first biotechnology company dedicated to making the rational design of active drugs a reality. With an integrated, AI-first design platform that simulates drug activity - the impact on disease-causing protein function – Factorize-bio accelerates and de-risks small molecule drug discovery. Based on biophysically-informed protein language models of the protein sequence-structure-function relationship, algorithms can identify where and how small molecule compounds need to bind to a disease protein to have the desired therapeutic activity.

**RaidoGene – Seeing is believing visualizing cell and gene therapies.**

RaidoGene offers a patented imaging technology that allows non-invasive tracking of advanced therapy medicinal products (ATMPs), including cell, viral or gene therapies, during therapy. The platform technology consists of two main components: a gene encoding a membrane protein (DTPA-R reporter) associated with the ATMP and a radioligand. The radioligand binds exclusively to the reporter gene, and the radioactivity retained on the ATMP can be quantified using positron emission tomography (PET).

**Reactive Oxygen Therapeutics (ROT) – prodrugs utilizing oxidative stress in the fight against autoimmune diseases and cancer.**

Reactive Oxygen Therapeutics (ROT) is dedicated to the treatment of diseases triggered or accompanied by oxidative stress (OS), such as autoimmune diseases and cancer. ROT's innovative approach is based on a novel small molecule prodrug strategy built around OS-inducing molecular catalysts. These prodrugs are meticulously designed to be activated exclusively in cells already experiencing oxidative stress, thereby addressing the patient's condition without causing harm to healthy tissues. The modular design of these prodrugs opens the potential to create a diverse portfolio of therapeutic agents, capable of targeting a wide range of health conditions.

**RiboRUS – mapping ribonucleotides genome-wide.**

RiboRUS is developing a novel method for genome-wide mapping of ribonucleotides at single-nucleotide resolution. The method, hyden-seq, can be used to identify unique ribonucleotide patterns, e.g. for differentiation of healthy cells to cancerous cells and metastasis. Foreseen applications of the Hyden-seq method include the validation of inhibitor candidates for DNA damage repair both in vitro and in vivo, diagnostic biomarkers for cancer cells, and prognostic tools to identify and select patients who are most likely to respond to treatment. The method involves three main steps (preparation sample, genomic analysis, interpretation of data) utilizing equipment typically available at larger pharmaceutical companies and CROs.

The BioTech Bootcamp program is free for the founding teams. It currently takes place every year and is supported this year by the European Commission, Merck and Roche.

Further information at [www.smileincubator.life/biotech-bootcamp/](http://www.smileincubator.life/biotech-bootcamp/)

**Bio<sup>M</sup> Biotech Cluster Development GmbH**

For 25 years, Bio<sup>M</sup> has been the networking organization for the biotechnology industry in Munich and Bavaria, acting on behalf of the Bavarian Ministry of Economic Affairs. Bio<sup>M</sup> supports the Bavarian biotechnology and pharmaceutical industry with an extensive network in establishing new business contacts. The cluster management offers interested parties from Germany and abroad central access and a wide range of information about the industry. Especially for prospective company founders, Bio<sup>M</sup> offers comprehensive advice and specialized coaching, training and mentoring programs. In addition,

Bio<sup>M</sup> will open its incubator *MAxL* (Munich Accelerator Life Sciences & Medicine) for pre-seed projects and early-stage start-ups in the biotech and healthtech sector. Since 2011, Bio<sup>M</sup> has been coordinating the m<sup>4</sup> Award pre-seed competition in the field of biomedicine, which is funded by the Bavarian Ministry of Economic Affairs with a total of 2.5 million euros. In total, Bio<sup>M</sup> has supported over 250 start-ups. Bio<sup>M</sup> also organizes a wide range of training courses, events and network meetings.

More information: [www.bio-m.org](http://www.bio-m.org)

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