

# Bavarian Biotech News

November 2020



*Innovation*

*Tradition  
meets*

*Bavaria*

SPOTLIGHT COVID-19

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Dear reader,

although COVID-19 still has a firm grip on us, a breaking news from last week gives hope that the pandemic could end in the foreseeable future. BioNTech (Mainz, Germany) and its partner Pfizer, announced progress in developing a vaccine against COVID-19. But until the vaccine is available to a broad population after approval, and also beyond, it is important to carry on researching effective therapeutics against COVID-19 as well as faster and safer diagnostics. Bavaria's companies and research institutions are also working full speed on the development of such innovative products. And did you know that BioNTech runs two subsidiaries in Greater Munich area with special tasks in small molecule and antibody development?

Read more about the Bavarian Biotech scene in the current issue of our Bavarian Biotech News.

Stay confident and healthy!

Your Bio<sup>M</sup> team

## Siemens Healthineers launches Corona rapid test

**The Erlangen-based medical technology group Siemens Healthineers is launching a rapid antigen test for the detection of SARS-CoV-2. According to its own statements, the result should be available within 15 minutes.**

Corona antigen rapid tests are based on the detection of SARS-CoV-2 proteins - in contrast to PCR tests which detect RNA, the genetic material of the virus. Siemens Healthineers is now launching such a rapid antigen test. According to the Siemens subsidiary, the CE-marked test, which was developed and tested by a partner, showed in a clinical study a 96.72% sensitivity and 99.22% specificity. [Read more...](#)



© Siemens Healthineers

The rapid antigen test from Siemens Healthineers in Erlangen

## IcanoMAB – with antibodies against COVID-19

**IcanoMAB, a privately held biotech company based in Polling, Bavaria, announced its successful establishment and financing.**

IcanoMAB is focused on the development of novel antibodies for the treatment of cancer, immune system related diseases and COVID-19. The company is conducting research into effective antibody therapies against COVID-19 and its potentially fatal outcome.

[Read more...](#)



## Bio<sup>M</sup> supports ScanBalt Declaration on the use of health data

**"Towards a European Common Dataspace in Health in the Time of COVID-19 and beyond"**

The ScanBalt Forum brought together European research clusters to share their experiences with digital solutions for dealing with the COVID-19 pandemic. The declaration of ScanBalt describes existing deficits in the European data space and proposes concrete solutions. Bio<sup>M</sup> was involved in the preparation of the declaration and supports it accordingly. [Read more...](#)



## Bio<sup>M</sup> COVID-19 platform

- use the network
- stay informed
- find partners

Currently more than 90 offers & requests online

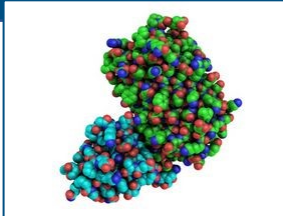
Use the network during the crisis for current information and the search for cooperation partners on our COVID-19 platform.

The Bio<sup>M</sup> team continues to address individual questions directly concerning how to cope with the special challenges posed by the pandemic.

[www.bio-m.org/en/covid19](http://www.bio-m.org/en/covid19)

## Proteintech acquires ChromoTek

Proteintech (USA) acquired the Martinsried company ChromoTek, a leading manufacturer of so-called nanobodies. The combined companies intend to better address the growing research market and the challenges of customers.

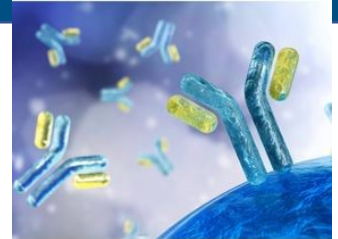


ChromoTek was founded in 2008 as a spin-off from the Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München (LMU) and develops and markets innovative reagents based on nanobodies of Camelids. Their small size allows them to recognize even hard-to-reach epitopes. In addition, they are particularly stable due to their special physicochemical properties. ChromoTek stated to remain as a company within the Proteintech Group and even to grow at the Martinsried site.

[Read more...](#)

## CatalYm raises €50 million

CatalYm GmbH, based in Martinsried near Munich, has concluded a Series B financing of 50 million euros.



The biopharmaceutical start-up focusing on novel cancer immunotherapies intends to use the funds for the clinical development of its GDF-15 antibody against cancer, which was invented at University of Würzburg. This is scheduled to start at the end of 2020. CatalYm is developing innovative immunotherapies using monoclonal antibodies that modify the microenvironment of tumors in such a way that immune cells can better enter the microenvironment of "cold" (= immune resistant) tumors. The treatment could overcome major limitations of existing immunotherapies and improve the survival and quality of life of cancer patients.

[Read more...](#)

## Minaris expands manufacturing capacities in Germany and Japan

Minaris Regenerative Medicine, a global contract development and manufacturing organization (CDMO) for cell and gene therapies, will invest USD 64.5 million to significantly expand its facilities in Europe and Asia.

A new state of the art facility will be built in the proximity of the existing site in Ottobrunn near Munich, Germany with a total investment of 40.7 million USD. The new facility will operate according to GMP standards and be dedicated to clinical and commercial manufacturing as well as development services for cell and gene therapies. A new facility will also be established adjacent to the existing facility in Yokohama, Japan allowing for an additional 4,000 sqm which will double the capacity for commercial manufacturing of regenerative medicine.



## New cancer center in Bavaria

Federal Research Minister Anja Karliczek has announced the four new locations in the National Center for Tumor Diseases. This includes a Bavarian consortium from Würzburg with partners from Erlangen, Regensburg and Augsburg.

A central component of cancer research in Germany is the National Center for Tumor Diseases (NCT). The NCT sees the close link between excellent research and the best possible care for the well-being of patients as particularly relevant. Scientists and doctors work together under one roof at each of the locations. This shortens the way from the laboratory to the hospital bed. All sides should benefit from this.



© University of Würzburg



## MorphoSys partners with Cherry Biolabs

**MorphoSys and the Würzburg-based start-up Cherry Biolabs signed a license agreement on the use of Cherry Biolabs' hemibody technology.**

Under the agreement, MorphoSys receives the rights to use Cherry Biolabs' multi-specific hemibody technology for six exclusive cancer targets to generate novel T-cell engaging medicines with higher precision and better safety profiles. Cherry Biolabs won the [m<sup>4</sup> Award](#), managed by Bio<sup>M</sup>, in 2013 and is a spin off from the Julius-Maximilians-University of Würzburg. [Read more...](#)



## EUR 10.7 million for Tubulis from Munich

**Tubulis has closed a Series A financing round of EUR 10.7 million.**

The Munich-based start-up intends to use the funds to accelerate the development of antibody-drug conjugates (ADCs) and to continue to grow as a company. Tubulis was spun out in 2019 from the Leibniz Research Institute in Berlin (FMP) and the Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München (LMU) with the aim of expanding the therapeutic potential of ADCs for cancer and other disease indications. The young company has already been recognized with several start-up awards including the [m<sup>4</sup> Award](#) in 2017. [Read more...](#)



## EIT Health Virtual Bootcamp Tour - Roadstop at Bio<sup>M</sup>

**On November 11 and 12, 2020, Bio<sup>M</sup> invited EIT Health Bootcamp teams in the field of medical biotechnology or digital health to stop by and get to know the life science startup ecosystem in Bavaria & the German Health Care System.**

The teams got peer-to-peer-feedback, participated in one-on-one meetings and carried out a pitch contest. Twelve European teams from Spain, France, Sweden, Germany, the Czech Republic, the Netherlands, UK and Denmark took part. With their excellent pitches, the teams made it very hard for the jury to decide. In the end, 5 teams won tickets to [BioEntrepreneurship Summit](#) 2021.



EIT Health is supported by the EIT, a body of the European Union

## Munich delivers three of the best business plans in the Science4Life Venture Cup 2020

**The Science4Life Venture Cup 2020 has awarded the winners of the business plan phase. Three teams from Munich convinced the jury: Deoxy came third, CellUnite and Dermagnostix were among the best 10.**

With the coronavirus pandemic, the importance of innovations from the life sciences has grown enormously. It shows more than ever how important it is to promote new ventures. Science4Life supports founders in the life sciences, chemistry and energy sectors and reports a record number of 86 business plans submitted this year.

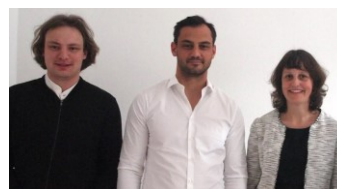
**DEOXY** from Munich made it to 3<sup>rd</sup> place. The start-up is working on a fully automated system for the quantitative analysis of gene expression of single cells in tissue or blood samples. This enables reliable data to be collected for diagnostics and the development of new therapeutic approaches.

**CellUnite** came in 6-10<sup>th</sup> place with a personalized cell therapy for everyone and **Dermagnostix** with a molecular diagnostic point-of-care device for the safe and immediate diagnosis of skin diseases.



Team Deoxy: Dr. Heinrich Grabmayr (left) und Dr. Johannes B. Woehrstein

©Science4Life



Team CellUnite: Uli Köhler, Prof. Armin Keshmiri, Stefanie Brandl (from left)

© CellUnite GmbH



Team Dermagnostix: Prof. Eyerich, Dr. Dormanns, Dr. Garzorz-Stark, Prof. Eyerich, Prof. Theis (from left)

©Dermagnostix

## ClusterXchange platform- get in touch with partners all over Europe



The objective of ClusterXchange is to support transnational cooperation between clusters and their members, to promote mutual learning and thus to increase the competitiveness of European SMEs. The ClusterXchange platform has gone online and is ready for use. Eligible SMEs now have the possibility to get in touch with partners all over Europe for a short-term exchange.

Contents of the exchange:

- On-the-job training
- Mutual exchange of experience and information on the obstacles and challenges in a pre-defined area
- Improving market access
- Support for networking and exchange of knowledge and experience



Co-funded by the COSME programme of the European Union

Information and registration:

[ClusterXchange platform](#)

## Life Science Open Space Online Week 23 - 27 Nov 2020



Life Science Open Space Online Week is an event and collaborative platform, open to projects, ideas

and opportunities that aim to apply knowledge, technology and abilities to solve problems related to our health and quality of life. It is a virtual meeting place to establish cooperation and achieve tangible results in areas related to life sciences.

**Are you a doctor, scientist, entrepreneur, manager, investor, life science expert or student?**

Life Science Open Space is the place for You!

Thematic paths:

- Personalized Medicine
- Digital Health
- COVID-19
- Bioeconomy
- Life Science StartUp Scene
- Healthy Food
- Life Science Business Development
- Career in Life Science

**Save the date!** Horst Domdey's Key-Note: 24 November 10:00 a.m. "Bavaria's innovative tools for life sciences"

<https://lifescience-open-space-online-week.b2match.io/>

## Greater Bay Area (GBA) Healthcare Seminar Series - Information and experience reports on entering the Chinese market

The second volume of the GBA Healthcare Seminar Series, co-organized by Bio<sup>M</sup>, BioRN and Medical Valley, took place simultaneously online as well as in Heidelberg, Germany and Guangzhou, China. Around 50 participants (~35 online from Germany) have taken part in the event. Among them representatives of major German and European biomedicine companies and organizations such as Roche, European Vaccine Initiative, and European Institute of Technology and Healthcare. Numerous SME and startups were also among the participants. Participants and keynote speakers provided important insights about specifics of healthcare industry in China.



Event photo (Huangpu, Guangzhou, China)

The seminar concept at a glance

- Success Stories: Foreign companies that entered the Chinese market successfully - challenges they faced - lessons they learn - solutions they found - next plans
- Case Studies: companies planning to enter the Chinese market presenting their business model. Healthcare industry experts in China present market and competition analysis, business model, financing and supportive measure possibilities, regulatory affairs aspects and much more for each case study.
- Exchange with Experts: The seminars are designed as online & offline events, with the opportunity to interact with companies as well as experts in China (e.g. business developers, distributors, regulatory affairs specialists, government officials).

**The next Seminar is planned for January 2021, stay informed:** <https://www.bio-m.org/en/events/nc.html>

## Cell, gene and tissue therapies: What can Bavaria?

In Bavaria and throughout Germany, Advanced Therapy Medicinal Products (ATMP) are gaining in importance in hospitals. These include cell, gene and tissue therapeutics that can provide long-term help to many seriously ill patients with just a single application – for example, by correcting a genetic defect, fighting a serious cancer or regenerating severely damaged tissue.

Bavaria is well positioned as far as medical facilities for the application of therapeutics are concerned. A further goal is to successfully combat various diseases with new treatment approaches such as ATMP. In order to make the innovative methods of cell therapy available to even larger groups of patients, an optimal interaction between clinics, science and companies is necessary. In our annual report you can find a [review article](#) about specific advances in immunotherapy (CAR-T and beyond) in Bavaria.

### The Bavarian ATMP ecosystem

**MINARIS** REGENERATIVE MEDICINE

**FREELINE**

**ViGeneron**

**InGeneron**

**GILEAD**

**eticur** GESUNDHEITSVORSORGE FÜR'S BABY

**Bristol-Myers Squibb**

**NOVARTIS**

**PerCELLuM** Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München, Klinikum der Universität München, Technische Universität München, Klinikum Rechts der Isar, Helmholtz Zentrum München  
Cluster for personalised cellular therapy in Munich

**Clusters4Future**

**medigene**

**curasan** Regenerative Medizin

**SIRION BIOTECH**

**T-CURX** Personalized Cancer Immunotherapy

**bluebirdbio** recode for life™

**ethris**

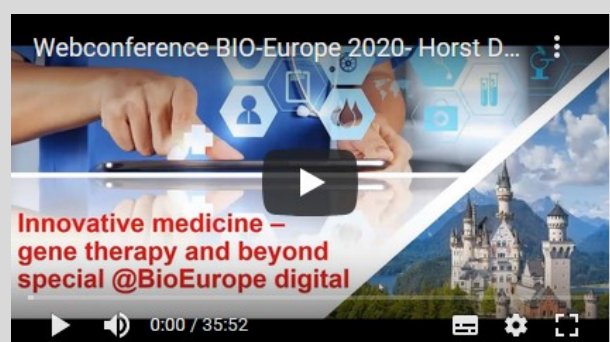
**CLUSTER BIOTECHNOLOGY BAVARIA**

## "Innovative medicines - gene therapy and beyond" on BIO-EUROPE 2020

In a special session, organized by Bio<sup>M</sup> and Invest in Bavaria, several Bavarian companies from gene therapy to immunotherapy, RNA therapeutics and manufacturing presented their company with its technologies at BIO-EUROPE 2020 Digital and discussed new approaches.

Watch the presentations of

- ✓ Freeline
- ✓ ViGeneron
- ✓ ethris
- ✓ Medigene
- ✓ Minaris





## [Life Science Open Space Online Week](#)

23. - 27. November 2020

Innovation and Cooperation Forum  
for Health and Quality of Life



## [Munich Digital Health Summit 2020](#)

25. - 27. November 2020

Meet the Munich Digital Health Ecosystem



## [BioFit 2020](#)

7. - 10. December 2020

The leading partnering event in Europe for early-stage  
innovation deals and investment rounds in the field of Life  
Sciences.



## [Genesis Digital 2020](#)

10. December 2020

Deals, Treatments and Patients in the 20s

Please find current event information on our website [www.bio-m.org/en/events](http://www.bio-m.org/en/events).  
Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, short-term changes can occur.

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