

Topas Therapeutics signs multi-year research and option agreement with Lilly focused on immune tolerance

- Work will utilize Topas' novel approach for antigen-specific tolerance induction
- Lilly has option to in-license and further develop drug candidates produced under the collaboration

Hamburg, Germany, August 22, 2017 - Topas Therapeutics GmbH (Topas), a Hamburg, Germany-based private company, today announced that it has signed a multi-year agreement with Eli Lilly and Company (Lilly) to collaborate in the field of antigen-specific tolerance induction with an initial focus on external antigens thought to induce inflammation and/or autoimmune disease. Topas will be responsible for conducting pre-clinical proof-of-principle studies in collaboration with Lilly to generate drug candidates. Under the terms of the agreement, Lilly has an option for all candidates produced under the collaboration for in-licensing and further development. Topas will receive R&D funding and participate in the future success of any compounds in-licensed by Lilly. Financial details of the collaboration are not being disclosed.

Topas' technology platform induces antigen-specific immune tolerance by harnessing the liver's natural immunology capabilities; peptide-loaded nanoparticles are selectively targeted towards liver sinusoidal endothelial cells (LSECs). LSECs are one of the body's premier sites to induce tolerance against bloodborne antigens by generating peptide-specific regulatory T cells.

Timm Jessen, CEO of Topas Therapeutics, said: "We are excited to be working with Lilly to generate drug candidates using our proprietary technology. We expect this work to support the value of our approach in inducing tolerance also against external antigens. Additionally, the interest from such an important pharmaceutical company in our technology, we believe, supports the strong commercial potential of our work."

Thomas F. Bumol, Ph.D., senior vice president of biotechnology and immunology research at Lilly, added: "Lilly is committed to be an innovation leader in immunology. Topas has a very novel approach to immune tolerance induction, which we would like to see successfully applied to certain disease relevant antigens. We look forward to working together with Topas on their unique platform."

About Topas Therapeutics

Topas Therapeutics GmbH is a private Hamburg, Germany-based biotechnology company focused on developing products to address areas of major unmet need, including autoimmune diseases, allergies and anti-drug antibodies. Topas' technology platform induces antigen-specific immune tolerance by harnessing the liver's natural immunology capabilities. The company has two programs preparing to enter the clinic during 2018 – one for multiple sclerosis and one for an orphan disease. Topas also has a co-development program in Type 1 diabetes that is currently in pre-clinical testing. Topas' investors include: Epidarex Capital, GIMV, EMBL Ventures and Evotec.

Topas Therapeutics

For additional information, please visit: www.topas-therapeutics.com.

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