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CAPRISA and Evotec launch a new project to accelerate a new technology for HIV prevention

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The Center for the AIDS Program of Research in South Africa (CAPRISA) and Evotec establish a new collaboration to develop a broadly neutralizing antibody against HIV to help slow the spread of the virus, especially in Africa.

Today, in a side meeting during the AU-EU ministerial summit in Kigali, Rwanda, Prof Salim Abdool Karim, director of CAPRISA, announced a collaboration with a leading life science company Evotec for the design and development of CAP256, a largely neutralizing antibody against HIV. The project is a major expansion of the development of an antibody originally jointly developed by CAPRISA and the US NIH National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases Vaccine Research Center (VRC). This new project is a major push for the CAP256 antibody as a potential tool in the fight against HIV in Africa and shows the potential of African researchers to combat the continent's high-burden diseases.

CAP256, isolated from a South African woman by CAPRISA and VRC, has shown a good safety profile in Phase I studies. The next step is to assess whether the antibody can prevent HIV infection in humans as effectively as has in monkeys. If shown to be effective in preventing HIV, the antibody, together with the VRC07 antibody from VRC, has the potential to break the cycle of HIV infection. However, the difficulties in producing the antibody have been an obstacle in the research and development of CAP256. These obstacles can be overcome and the production of this antibody can be significantly improved.

Through the kENUP Foundation, Evotec SE intends to enter into a long-term collaboration with CAPRISA to optimize and further develop CAP256, using innovative approaches that they have successfully developed and used with other antibodies. The collaboration will leverage Just - Evotec Biologics' capabilities in optimizing manufacturing processes through artificial intelligence and machine learning. The result is a more productive manufacturing process for lower cost and wider product access. Evotec's centers of excellence in Redmond (USA) and Toulouse (France) will play a key role in improving antibody production, facilitating the coformulation of the CAP256-VRC07 combination and producing CAP256 for clinical trials.

In the presence of Hon. Dr Daniel Ngamije, Minister of Health of the Republic of Rwanda, Dr Lindiwe Makubalo, Assistant Regional Director of WHO for Africa, and Antoine Anfré, French ambassador to the Republic of Rwanda, the participants in the AU-EU ministerial meeting discussed the potential impact of the project on the resilience and independence of African health systems.

Prof Salim Abdool Karim , Director of CAPRISA: "We are excited to work with Evotec and the VRC on this project to improve the manufacturing processes of CAP256. It is the culmination of a decade of research to develop CAP256 in order to assess whether this antibody, born in Africa, it is effective in preventing HIV in Africa ".

Dr Werner Lanthaler , CEO of Evotec SE: "We look forward to collaborating on the re-engineering of CAP256. We will use and build global capabilities to maximize the impact of this important product. This is the core of our mission to maximize access. to modern organic also in Africa ".

Hon. Dr Daniel Ngamije , Minister of Health, Republic of Rwanda: "Rwanda is focused on creating a biopharmaceutical ecosystem. With CAPRISA and Evotec's work on monoclonal antibodies, we have the potential to finally secure Africa's access to highly effective for many endemic diseases of our continent. This effort has the full support of Rwanda. "

Evotec information

Evotec is a life science company with a unique business model that pursues its mission to discover and develop highly effective therapies and make them available to patients. The company's multimodal platform encompasses a unique combination of innovative technologies, data and science for the

discovery, development and manufacturing of first and best quality pharmaceutical products. Evotec leverages this "Data-Driven R&D Autobahn to Care" for projects owned and within a partner network that includes all of the Top 20 Pharmaceuticals and over 800 biotech companies, academic institutions and other healthcare stakeholders. Evotec has strategic activities in a wide range of therapeutic areas currently under-served, including for example neurology, oncology and metabolic and infectious diseases. Within these areas of expertise, Evotec aims to create the world's leading co-proprietary pipeline for innovative therapies and to date has established a portfolio of more than 200 proprietary and co-proprietary R&D projects from initial discovery to clinical development. Evotec operates globally with more than 3,900 highly qualified people. The company's 14 sites offer highly synergistic technologies and services and operate as complementary clusters of excellence. For more information go to S owners and co-owners from initial discovery to clinical development. Evotec operates globally with more than 3,900 highly qualified people. The company's 14 sites offer highly synergistic technologies and services and operate as complementary clusters of excellence. For more information go to S owners and co-owners from initial discovery to clinical development. Evotec operates globally with more than 3,900 highly qualified people. The company's 14 sites offer highly synergistic technologies and services and operate as complementary clusters of excellence. For more information go to www.evotec.com and follow us on Twitter @Evotec and LinkedIn .

Information about CAPRISA

CAPRISA is a world leading AIDS research center based in Africa. He is renowned for his research which has shown that high HIV rates in Africa are driven by the "HIV transmission cycle" in which young women mate with men about 10 years older. CAPRISA has provided the first evidence that topical antiretrovirals prevent HIV infection. He has since led the development of several new HIV prevention technologies in Africa. The five main partner institutions that make up CAPRISA are: University of KwaZulu-Natal, University of Cape Town, University of the Western Cape, National Institute for Communicable Diseases and Columbia University of New York. CAPRISA has different skills in basic and molecular epidemiology, virology, immunology, infectious disease medicine, bioinformatics, statistics, ethics and health policy. CAPRISA is based at the Nelson R Mandela Medical School of the University of KwaZulu-Natal in Durban, South Africa. For more information go to www.caprisa.org

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