Crossbeta receives grant from The Michael J. Fox Foundation to develop alpha-synuclein oligomer-specific antibody

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Crossbeta Biosciences today announced that it received a grant from The Michael J. Fox Foundation for Parkinson’s Research (MJFF) in the amount of USD 425,000 for the development of an alpha-synuclein oligomer-specific antibody. Such oligomer-specific antibodies will add great value to Parkinson’s disease research, as they hold significant potential for the development of novel, disease-specific biomarker tools, an area that currently forms a bottleneck in Parkinson’s disease diagnosis and drug development. Furthermore, alpha-synuclein oligomer-specific antibodies may be developed into Parkinson therapeutics themselves.

The alpha-synuclein oligomer-specific antibody generated with the MJFF grant will be made available to the broader research community through an efficient process and at a non-prohibitive cost.

The field has generated a vast amount of compelling evidence of alpha-synuclein, and more specifically its oligomeric form, playing a significant role in the development of Parkinson’s disease as well as a variety of so-called atypical parkinsonian disorders, e.g. dementia with Lewy bodies or multiple system atrophy. Oligomer-based research, however, is very challenging because of their inherent instability. Crossbeta’s technology overcomes this problem by uniquely enabling the generation of stable, well-defined oligomers while maintaining their pathobiological features. Consequently, Crossbeta is uniquely positioned to deliver on this high-profile project of generating an alpha-synuclein oligomer-specific antibody.

“This significant grant from The Michael J. Fox Foundation is of immense support for our work to develop a truly oligomer-specific antibody, which could prove to be a key tool for the development of a Parkinson’s disease biomarker assay and also hold potential for a disease-modifying treatment,” said Guus Scheefhals, CEO of Crossbeta Biosciences.

Terina Martinez, PhD, MJFF senior associate director of research programs, commented: “The availability of an alpha-synuclein oligomer-specific antibody will be a highly valuable tool for the Parkinson’s research community to further diagnostic and therapeutic projects. Crossbeta’s unique technology for generating stable oligomers positions them to deliver this important asset.”

About Crossbeta Biosciences

Crossbeta Biosciences is a biotech company with a proprietary technology for efficient oligomer-based drug discovery, with applications in Alzheimer’s, Parkinson’s, ALS and Huntington’s disease. Crossbeta’s technology allows the unprecedented generation of well-defined stable, pathobiologically functional, oligomers. Crossbeta’s oligomers have enabled the development of robust assays allowing fast, de-risked compound screening and characterization. The unique capabilities of Crossbeta’s technology have been demonstrated in a therapeutic Alzheimer’s disease program by successfully identifying compounds that neutralize oligomer toxicity in vitro and in vivo.

Crossbeta offers its proprietary technology for strategic collaborative partnerships aimed at developing new oligomer targets and related screening assays and for therapeutic and diagnostic/biomarker assay development programs.
About The Michael J. Fox Foundation for Parkinson’s Research
As the world’s largest non-profit funder of Parkinson’s research, The Michael J. Fox Foundation is dedicated to accelerating a cure for Parkinson’s disease and improved therapies for those living with the condition today. The Foundation pursues its goals through an aggressively funded, highly targeted research program coupled with active global engagement of scientists, Parkinson’s patients, business leaders, clinical trial participants, donors and volunteers. In addition to funding more than $600 million in research to date, the Foundation has fundamentally altered the trajectory of progress toward a cure. Operating at the hub of worldwide Parkinson’s research, the Foundation forges ground-breaking collaborations with industry leaders, academic scientists and government research funders; increases the flow of participants into Parkinson’s disease clinical trials with its online tool, Fox Trial Finder; promotes Parkinson’s awareness through high-profile advocacy, events and outreach; and coordinates the grassroots involvement of thousands of Team Fox members around the world.

For further information:

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