

Press Release

Priavoid and Forschungszentrum Jülich receive funding from The Michael J. Fox Foundation

Düsseldorf, Germany, February 24th, 2021: A collaboration project of Priavoid and Forschungszentrum Jülich has received grant funding from The Michael J. Fox Foundation for the development of an anti-prionic compound for the treatment of Parkinson's disease.

Parkinson's disease (PD) is the second-most common age-related neurodegenerative disorder. An estimated seven to ten million people worldwide are affected by PD. Current treatment options are symptomatic and become less effective over time. The disease has a significant impact on life span and quality of life for patients and a tremendous burden for relatives, caregivers, and health care systems.

During recent years, an increasing body of evidence has implicated oligomeric α -synuclein species as potentially toxic and associated with disease progression. The collaboration of Priavoid and Forschungszentrum Jülich (FZJ) intends to attack the disease-causing α -synuclein oligomers by developing a highly innovative, anti-prionic all-D-peptide as active pharmaceutical ingredient in a disease-modifying PD treatment.

"In short, by ligand-mediated stabilization of α -synuclein monomers, toxic prion-like behaving α -synuclein oligomers are disassembled into their monomer building blocks. The truly disruptive elimination of those oligomeric species, the prevention of their replication and spread in the brain is expected to have a significant impact on disease progression", explains Prof. Dr. Willbold, Professor of Physical Biology at Heinrich Heine University Düsseldorf and Director of the Institute of Structural Biochemistry (IBI-7) at FZJ. Together with Prof. Dr. Erdem Tamgüney, he is heading the FZJ part of the Michael J. Fox Foundation (MJFF) funded project. Prof. Dr. Willbold is also member of Priavoid's supervisory board and founder of the company. Notably and in contrast to immunotherapeutic approaches currently under development, Priavoid's anti-prionic mode of action does not involve or rely on the activation of the immune system. "Working in close collaboration with FZJ, its excellent infrastructure and scientific environment, Priavoid will make substantial progress in the drug development" says Dr. Antje Willuweit, Director of Preclinical Research at Priavoid and Principal Investigator of the project "Development of an anti-prionic compound against α -synuclein assemblies to treat Parkinson's disease".

"The funding of the Parkinson's program by The Michael J. Fox Foundation provides a significant contribution to the development of a promising disease-modifying therapy for patients suffering from PD. It also acknowledges and underscores the potential of Priavoid's platform", states Prof. Dr. Dr. h.c. Detlev Riesner, shareholder and chairman of the supervisory board.



About Priavoid:

Priavoid GmbH is a drug discovery company that was founded in September 2017 as a spin-off from Heinrich Heine University Düsseldorf and Forschungszentrum Jülich. The company develops novel all-D-peptide drug candidates for the treatment of neurodegenerative diseases such as Alzheimer's, Parkinson's, ALS, tauopathies and Huntington's disease. The most advanced candidate is PRI-002 for Alzheimer's disease. All drug candidates are designed for their anti-prionic mode of action. Supervisory Board: Prof. Dr. Dr. h.c. Detlev Riesner (Chairman), Nobel Laureate Prof. Dr. Stanley Prusiner, Prof. Dr. Dieter Willbold. CEO: Philipp Bürling,

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