CASE STUDY

ARARIS: NOVEL ANTIBODY-DRUG CONJUGATE (ADC) LINKER TECHNOLOGY

Problem – Challenge

Antibody Drug Conjugates (ADCs) are the combination of highly potent cytotoxic agents conjugated to antibodies through a specific linker allowing the highly selective delivery of any therapeutic to diseased tissue within a patient, while the healthy parts of the human body are spared. ADCs generated with conventional methods face technical challenges such as the premature loss of the linked drug from the antibody before delivery at the diseased tissue; limited linker solubility, causing diligent and expensive optimization processes and very time- and cost-consuming development and production process.

Solution

Araris Biotech AG is a spin-off company from the Paul Scherrer Institute (PSI) and ETH Zurich focusing on the commercialization of a novel ADC-linker technology.

The innovative platform licensed out to Araris by PSI allows for the attachment of any payload to 'off the shelf' antibodies without the need of prior antibody engineering. The resulting ADCs have a well-defined drug-to-antibody ratio, are stable and monomeric. All these favorable properties contribute to the high efficacy and low level of toxicity observed so far. In summary, the straightforward drug conjugation, versatility of the technology and high in vivo efficacy enable the generation of ADC compounds for the treatment of patients with a high unmet medical need.

Within the first 6 months of its foundation Araris was able to raise a first round of CHF 2.5M seed capital and has received recognition by Venture Leaders and Venture Kick, and was a Finalist to the Swiss Technology Award. Let's keep Araris on our watchlists, we will definitely hear from them again…