

Allele Enters into Collaboration and Licensing Deal on its cGMP iPSC with Alpine BioTherapeutics for Vision Loss

Allele Biotechnology and Pharmaceuticals, Inc. and Alpine BioTherapeutics Corporation entered into a research agreement for developing iPSC-derived cell therapy

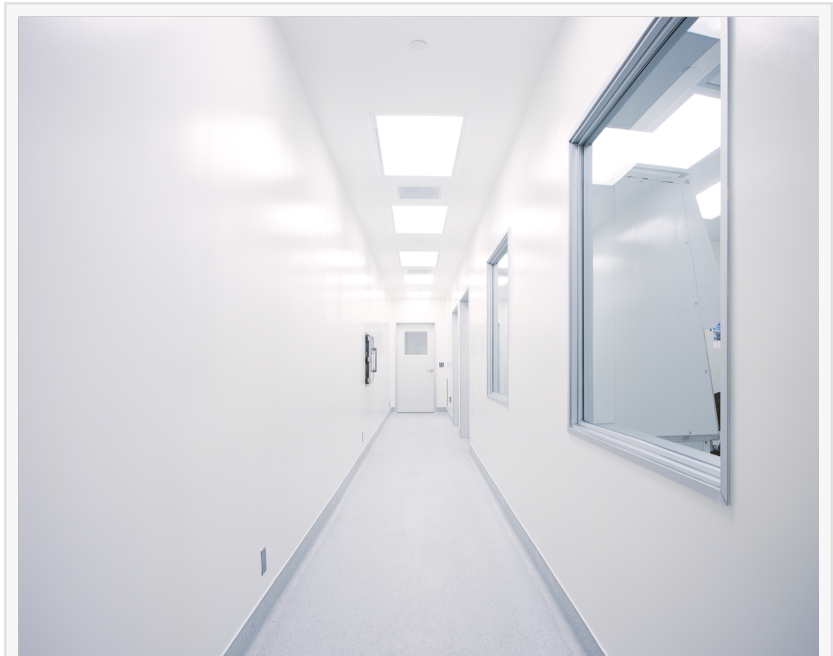
SAN DIEGO, CA, USA, June 12, 2019 /EINPresswire.com/ -- San Diego, June 12, 2019--Allele Biotechnology and Pharmaceuticals, Inc. and Alpine BioTherapeutics Corporation entered into a research agreement for developing iPSC-derived cell therapy for treating retinal diseases. Both companies are based in San Diego, California.

iPSCs (induced pluripotent stem cells) have the potential to differentiate into all human tissue types and play an increasingly important role in regenerative medicine. Approximately a dozen clinical trials using iPSCs are currently underway around the globe.

Allele Biotechnology has been developing technologies to produce GMP grade human iPSCs and high-quality tissue-specific cells derived from them for 10 years. Allele's core capabilities in this area include its proprietary and patented technologies utilizing mRNA for generation and differentiation of footprint-free iPSCs in its state-of-the-art commercialization-ready [cGMP iPSC](#) facility.

Alpine BioTherapeutics has developed a patented stem cell differentiation technique to robustly generate human retinal stem cells from pluripotent stem cells. Alpine's cell therapy products will be used to treat blindness caused by Retinitis Pigmentosa, Stargardt disease, and dry AMD. The company claims their technique as by far the most efficient process known in the manufactured retinal cell category and is expected to yield the highest quality retinal cell for use in patients. This potentially translate into much lower variability and cost while also minimizing regulatory risk.

"This collaboration with Allele Biotechnology provides us a clear path forward for clinical use of our technology. There are only a handful of clinical grade iPSC lines available in the world and we are fortunate that we will now have access to one of the best. Moreover, the support of Allele's cell scientists and cGMP experts will be of great advantage to enable us to move to IND and into clinical trials quickly", said Dr. Jack J. Zhao, CEO of Alpine BioTherapeutics.



Allele produces clinical grade iPSC under its own GMP cleanroom in California

The agreement will provide Alpine BioTherapeutics priority access to Allele's cGMP facility and will involve licensing one or more of Allele's cGMP-grade human iPSC lines to generate cell therapy products for vision loss.

Dr. Jiwu Wang, Founder and CEO of Allele Biotechnology, said "We are excited that our technology synergizes with Alpine's to make novel products with the potential to make a difference to millions of lives affected with debilitating eye disorders".

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