

SCOTTISH BIOTECH PIONEER ANNOUNCES BREAKTHROUGH IN BATTLE AGAINST COVID-19

ILC Therapeutics has completed in vivo tests of synthetic hybrid interferon Alfacyte™ demonstrating efficacy in treating and preventing spread of Covid-19.

GLASGOW, UNITED KINGDOM, February 23, 2023 /EINPresswire.com/ -- [ILC Therapeutics](#) has

“

Alfacyte™ could play a crucial role in maintaining immunity in global populations as new variants of the disease emerge and providing an effective treatment in regions without vaccines.”

Dr Alan Walker

completed in vivo tests of its pioneering synthetic hybrid interferon [Alfacyte™](#). The highly statistically significant results demonstrate the drug's effectiveness both in preventing infection and in the treatment of [Covid-19](#).

Dr Alan Walker, CEO of ILC Therapeutics which is based near Glasgow, said: “The dramatic success of these tests enables us to now move forward with our planning for safety trials. The global fight against Covid isn't over – 55,000 deaths were recorded globally in January. Alfacyte™ could play a crucial role in maintaining immunity in global populations as new variants of the disease emerge and

providing an effective treatment in regions where the vaccine isn't available or where there is vaccine hesitancy.”

The firm has been increasing staff numbers and is now in the process of recruiting a Head of Pre-Clinical Development to manage the safety programme and further product development for Alfacyte™.

Alfacyte™ has the potential to prevent and treat other serious viral infections including HIV, hepatitis, RSV and other major pathogens.

Earlier research carried out by ILC confirmed that Alfacyte™ is 15 to 20 times more potent at inhibiting SARS-CoV-2 (the virus which causes Covid-19) in cell culture than other interferons (Link to University of St Andrews research: <https://news.st-andrews.ac.uk/archive/significant-covid-19-drug-breakthrough/>)

Interferons “interfere” with viral reproduction and are one of the body's key defences against all

viral pathogens. In some cases (SARS, MERS, Covid-19), viruses can evade the interferon response by delaying the innate immune response. A therapeutic drug such as Alfacyte™ can offer enhanced interference in Covid-19 replication and activate the body's own Natural Killer (NK) cells to fight viral infection. It can also reduce "off target" effects and reduce production of cytokine storms which often cause the most severe cases of Covid-19.

ILC Therapeutics' hybrid interferons are designed by identifying selected favourable attributes of naturally occurring interferon subtypes and combining them together in a new class of hybrid synthetic interferons which provide a significantly improved therapeutic ratio compared with natural interferons.

Dr Alan Walker continued: "Chemical antiviral treatments currently available for a range of diseases are limited because of the likelihood of severe side effects. Using synthetic interferons could be a game changer in the prevention and treatment of devastating diseases such as HIV and respiratory infections. We are at the forefront of this pioneering technology which has global implications for disease prevention and treatment."

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