

# DBW, SAS and KBA group invest GBP 1.5M into Wales-based HALO Therapeutics to bring first antiviral spray into clinic

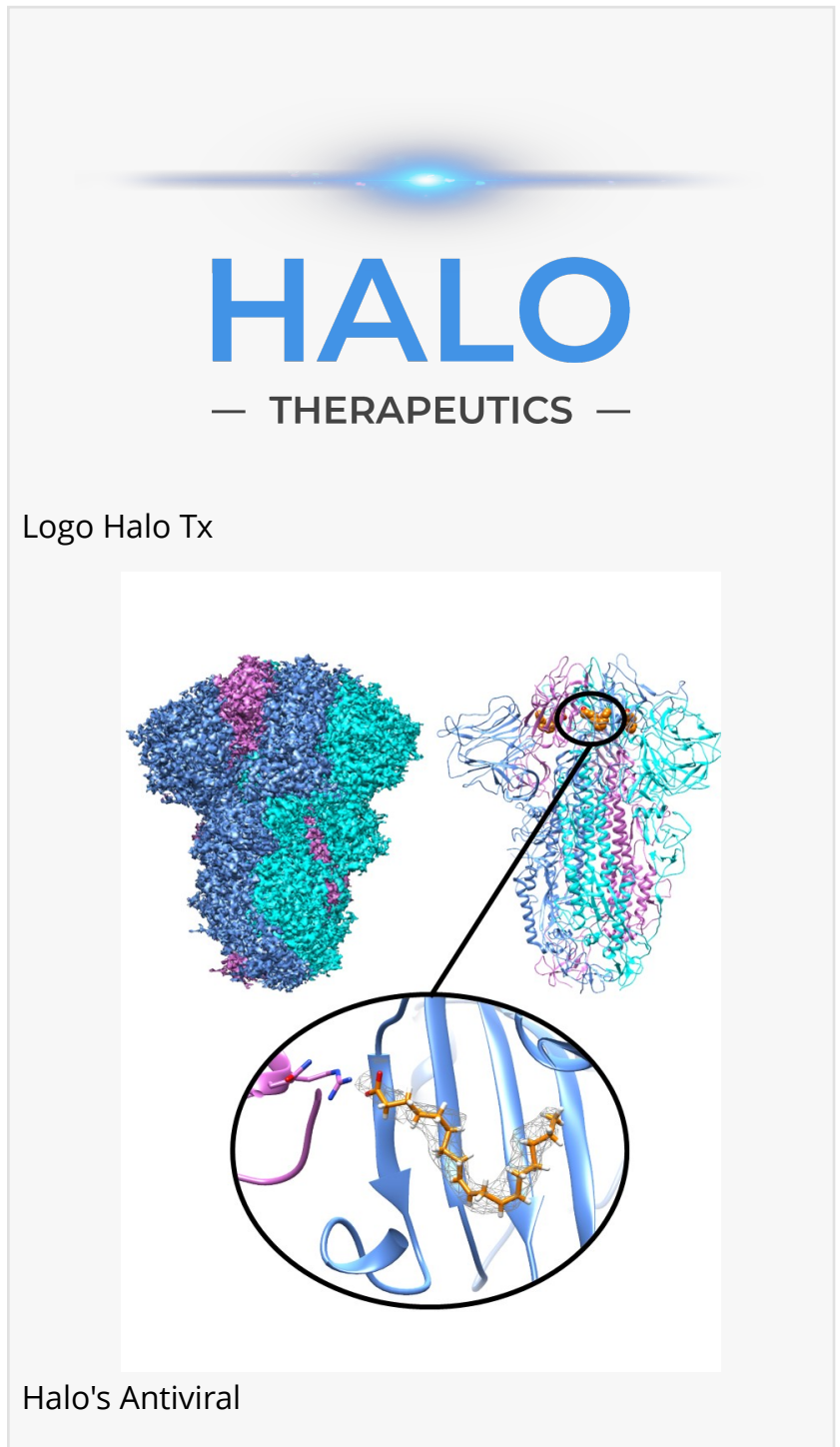
CAERPHILLY, WALES, UNITED KINGDOM, May 17, 2023

/EINPresswire.com/ -- Clinical trials of an easy-to-use home therapeutic treatment for SARS-CoV-2 (coronaviruses) are underway following a £1.5 million investment led by the Development Bank of Wales alongside Science Angel Syndicate (SAS) members and the KBA Group.

Based on world-class research carried out at Bristol University, Halo Therapeutics was established as a spin-out company in 2020 by CEO Dr Daniel Fitzgerald, Professor Christiane Schaffitzel, and Professor Imre Berger. Halo Therapeutics has been attracted to Wales following an £1,000,000 equity investment by the Development Bank of Wales.

This first-in-human study of [Halo Therapeutic's](#) respiratory antiviral spray for coronaviruses will investigate the safety and tolerability of the treatment prior to subsequent studies being conducted in patients that are SARS-CoV-2 positive or are at risk of becoming SARS-CoV-2 positive.

Professor Berger added: "Vaccination and treatments have reduced the impact of the virus but it is still a



significant health risk. Our self-administered and cost-effective antiviral treatment stops the virus from entering and multiplying in the nose, where it can then spread to the throat and then into the lungs. It is a potential game-changer in the treatment and prevention of coronaviruses."

Dr Mark Bowman, Venture Fund Manager for the Development Bank, commented: "It is encouraging to see a growing number of life sciences and medical technology companies investing in Wales. As a nation, we offer a vibrant and prosperous environment that is an attractive proposition for early-stage businesses like Halo Therapeutics as they move towards global commercialisation from a base here in Wales."

Dr Johnathan Matlock, Co-Founder of SAS said: "We have worked closely with Imre and Daniel since their pre-seed round. Beginning with publications in the world's leading scientific journals it is rare that you get the opportunity to see scientific innovations so rapidly translate into the clinic and one step closer to patients."

#### ABOUT HALO Therapeutics

Halo Therapeutics develops pan-coronavirus antivirals. Founded in December 2020 based on ground-breaking discovery, HALO's vision is to roll out a class of small molecule pan-coronavirus therapeutics targeting the central axis of disease pathology: lipid regulation. The company is located in the Welsh ICE, Caerphilly.

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#### ABOUT DBW

The Development Bank of Wales is a Welsh development bank that provides financial support for Welsh businesses and is owned by the Welsh Government. The bank provides loans for businesses to start up, strengthen and grow and also provides equity investments for already established businesses.

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#### ABOUT KBA Group and Science Angel Syndicate

Science Angel Syndicate is a community of entrepreneurs and investors who source world class scientific discoveries that impact society on a global scale, Halo investment lead Dr. Johnathan Matlock. KBA Group is an angel consortium of high net worth individuals co-led by Dr Nikolaos Kostopoulos and Paras Barot.

Daniel Fitzgerald

Halo Therapeutics LTD

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