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[Navrogen, Inc.](#), a biopharmaceutical company specialized in developing antibody-based therapies for cancer, today announces a grant award from the National Cancer Institute to advance the development of antagonists to treat Humoral Immuno-Oncology (HIO) positive cancers. HIO-positive cancers are characterized by the production of HIO factors, which are tumor-derived proteins that suppress antibody-mediated immune responses. These factors block the engagement of tumor-bound antibodies to natural killer (NK) cells through the CD16a Fc-receptor, thereby impairing humoral immune-mediated killing of tumor cells. Navrogen's proprietary research has identified four distinct HIO factors responsible for this form of immunosuppression, with one or more of these factors co-expressed within a patient's tumor. The newly awarded grant will specifically support the development of antagonists against the HIO-2 factor, which is prominently expressed in several difficult-to-treat cancers, including triple-negative breast, colorectal, non-small cell lung, and pancreatic cancers. "Over years of discovery research, Navrogen scientists have uncovered this novel HIO cancer

paradigm

and developed a broad approach to characterize HIO factors and design therapeutic agents aimed at

overcoming their immunosuppression,” said Dr. Luigi Grasso, Chief Scientific Officer of Navrogen.

“This peer-reviewed grant not only validates the HIO paradigm but also enables us to further advance

therapeutic strategies designed to treat patients with HIO-positive cancers.”

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the authors and does not necessarily represent the official views of the National Institutes of Health.

About Navrogen

Navrogen is a biotechnology company focused on the discovery of tumor-produced Humoral Immuno-

Oncology (HIO) factors that are associated with suppressed humoral immunity, poor prognosis and

limited therapeutic response of immune-mediated anti-cancer therapies. The company’s mission is to

develop best and first-in-class agents that can overcome the immunosuppressive effects of HIO factors

by employing its proprietary screening and engineering technologies as well as diagnostic assays that can

identify patients whose tumors produce HIO factors to advise physicians on therapeutic options.

For more

information, please visit www.navrogen.com.

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