



BIMINI

Institute
of
Oncology
Research

BIMINI – HEMATOLOGICAL CANCER TREATMENT

Problem – Challenge

Specific lymphoma subtypes, in particular mantle cell lymphoma and diffuse large B-cell lymphoma, pose a formidable management challenge due to their aggressive nature and poor prognosis. Despite therapeutic improvements, relapses remain too high, particularly among elderly patients who can't endure intensive treatments. Thus, an urgent unmet need exists for effective therapies that overcome treatment resistance and significantly enhance patient outcomes.

Solution

An innovative compound, BM-011 (also known as EG-011), was identified at the Institute of Oncology Research (IOR), affiliated to Università della Svizzera italiana (USI), by the group of Prof. Francesco Bertoni. BM-011 showcases anti-cancer efficacy in both in vitro and in vivo settings. In view of the promising results IOR filed for patent protection. The compound has been later successfully licensed to the early-stage company BIMINI Biotech, which is in lead for bringing this innovative compound to the market.

The quality of the project has been further acknowledged and awarded a Eureka Eurostars grant with the aim of developing novel therapeutics for lymphomas with a total project budget of 1.7 million euros.

The core strategy revolves around activating the Wiskott Aldrich Syndrome protein (WASp), exclusive to hematopoietic cells, crucial in lymphoma aggressiveness. Through the groundbreaking WASp activation, BM-011 induces genomic instability, triggering cancer cell death. WASp implications are not restricted to lymphomas; its reach extends to leukemias, multiple myeloma, and more, promising innovation across medical horizons. BIMINI's pioneering stride aligns with the broader vision of reshaping oncology treatment, transcending boundaries for a new era in cancer care. This paradigm shift not only addresses immediate lymphoma treatment gaps but opens avenues for future approaches to overcome current treatment limitations. The strategic partnership exploits Prof. Francesco Bertoni's team insights and IOR's research, merging academic excellence with entrepreneurial drive.

Bimini is now pre-incubated in the start-up program at the USI Startup Centre to open a branch in Ticino or even relocate there.



Experiments with EG-011 in the IOR laboratory