

**Program for the development of a novel vaccine against Middle ear infection started –  
EUR 2.3 million funding by the European Commission**

- » Coordination of a European consortium of academic and commercial partners to develop a vaccine against the childhood disease otitis media (Middle ear infection)
- » The project was selected from almost 100 applications and evaluated very favorable in the highly competitive 4<sup>th</sup> call of the 6th Framework Program (FP6)
- » The European commission will support the project with EUR 2.3 million for the next three years

**Vienna (Austria), November 13, 2006** – Intercell is coordinating a European consortium of academic and commercial partners, the OMVac project, that will develop a vaccine against the childhood disease otitis media (OM). The disease is predominantly caused by three bacterial species, namely *Streptococcus pneumoniae*, *Haemophilus influenzae* and *Moraxella catarrhalis*.

The OMVac project was launched by the European Commission in October 2006 with the aim to develop a novel vaccine to prevent otitis media caused by these three species. The project was selected from almost 100 applications and evaluated very favorable in the highly competitive 4<sup>th</sup> call of the 6th Framework Program (FP6). The European commission will provide support to OMVac amounting to EUR 2.3 million for the next three years. The project brings together expertise from leading scientists and biotech companies in seven institutions from the Netherlands, Germany, Sweden, Hungary and Austria under the coordination of Intercell AG, Austria.

At present, there is no vaccine available to prevent otitis media disease in children, and antibiotic treatment cannot effectively cure bacterial OM disease. This is explained by the multitude of bacterial pathogens and their large number of serotypes as well as the increase in antibiotic resistance of disease causing bacterial strains. Otitis media affects many millions of children worldwide each year and severe forms can lead to symptoms ranging from hearing loss and tinnitus to anorexia or conjunctivitis. The OMVac project proposes to systematically identify genes suitable for the development of vaccines and diagnostic markers applying expertise and technologies ranging from proteomics and mass-spectrometry to genome-wide antigen identification, infectious disease models mimicking human disease and studies to further our understanding of the human immune response towards these pathogens.

The OMVac project has set up very ambitious goals, which can only be reached by the chosen integrated approach that teams up a group of excellent European scientists in the field and a group of small, but highly motivated biotech companies. It addresses a number of program goals set within the 6th Framework Program (FP6) of the European Union and is



designed to strengthen the European Research Area, but also aims at scientific goals towards the use of genomic information to further our knowledge in life science and health.

### **OMVac-Partners**

- » Intercell AG, Austria ([www.intercell.com](http://www.intercell.com))
- » AGOWA GmbH, Germany ([www.agowa.de](http://www.agowa.de))
- » KF University of Graz, Austria ([www.kfunigraz.ac.at](http://www.kfunigraz.ac.at))
- » Semmelweis University, Hungary ([www.sote.hu/english/](http://www.sote.hu/english/))
- » Erasmus Medical Center, The Netherlands ([www.erasmusmc.nl](http://www.erasmusmc.nl))
- » Radboud University Nijmegen Medical Centre, The Netherlands ([www.umcn.nl/scientist/](http://www.umcn.nl/scientist/))
- » Karolinska Institutet, Sweden ([www.ki.se](http://www.ki.se))

### **About Intercell AG**

Intercell AG is a biotechnology company focused on the research, development, manufacturing and future commercialization of innovative vaccines for the prevention and treatment of infectious diseases, for which there exists a substantial unaddressed medical need. Intercell develops antigens and immunizers (adjuvants), which are derived from its proprietary technology platforms and has in-house GMP manufacturing capability. Intercell has strategic partnerships with a number of global pharmaceutical companies, including Novartis, Wyeth, Sanofi Pasteur S.A., Merck & Co., Inc., Kirin Brewery Co., Ltd. and the Statens Serum Institut. Intercell has a broad development pipeline with a vaccine product candidate for Japanese Encephalitis in Phase III clinical trials, a vaccine product candidate for Hepatitis C in Phase II, partnered vaccine candidates for Tuberculosis and *S. aureus*, which are in Phase I, and more than five other product candidates focused on infectious diseases in pre-clinical development. Intercell is listed on the Vienna stock exchange under the symbol "ICLL".

For more information, please visit: [www.intercell.com](http://www.intercell.com)

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