Fabentech awarded €7.7m from the European Commission as coordinator of the e-FabRIC consortium to develop an innovative broad-spectrum therapy against emerging viruses with pandemic potential

- **Creation of e-FabRIC, a leading European consortium coordinated by Fabentech, to develop a new treatment in order to combat future epidemic outbreaks caused by Sarbecoviruses, a highly pathogenic viral family.**

- **Grant of €7.7 million from the European Commission to e-FabRIC for the development of an innovative broad-spectrum therapy, paving the way for a new generation of antiviral treatments enhancing pandemic preparedness.**

Lyon, France, January 30th, 2024 – 9:00 CET – Fabentech, a pharmaceutical-stage biotechnology company specialized in the development, production and marketing of polyclonal antibodies to answer emergency situations and to treat emerging infectious diseases, announces the launch of the e-FabRIC[1] consortium. This initiative unites top universities and European companies to bolster global health and preparedness.

The aim of this European project coordinated by Fabentech is to develop an innovative broad-spectrum antiviral therapy to combat new emerging infectious diseases with pandemic potential, particularly those caused by viruses in the Sarbecovirus family.

Considered to be one of the riskiest viruses, Sarbecoviruses are responsible for severe respiratory pathologies in humans, coupled with a high mortality rate and strong mutagenic capacities[2] [3].

The Covid-19 crisis revealed the need for healthcare systems worldwide to be better prepared for potential future health emergencies. Improving health protocols thus implies the development of European sovereignty in public health, and the implementation of coordinated response mechanisms on a cross-border scale.

With a €7.7 million grant from the European Commission under the "Horizon Europe" program, the e-FabRIC consortium is part of the European Union's drive to develop strategic and therapeutic solutions to respond to epidemic outbreaks caused by this specific family of viruses.

The funds granted to the consortium will be used to develop a new and innovative broad-spectrum immunotherapy treatment using the polyclonal antibody technology of Fabentech. e-FabRIC will be the first European project to use this kind of approach to develop a treatment able to neutralize several viruses from the same family and their potential variants.

[1] enhanced manufacturing of broadly potent equine polyclonal Fab with a Rational Immunization strategy against Coronavirus

[2] Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) (who.int)

[3] Liu, B., Zhao, P., Xu, P. et al. A comprehensive dataset of animal-associated sarbecoviruses. Sci Data 10, 681 (2023)

This innovative therapy is based on mosaic antigen immunization, allowing the large-scale production of multivalent antibodies capable of specifically targeting any virus from a given family, and paves the way for the creation of a new generation of broad-spectrum antiviral treatments.

The consortium will initially focus on the development of a treatment addressing 8 highly pathogenic viruses of the Sarbecovirus family, identified as top priorities by the World Health Organization (WHO). Using this broad-spectrum technology on high-pandemic-potential viruses like Sarbecoviruses anticipates the development of a fast, precise, and life-saving solutions before outbreaks, through treatment stockpiling to safeguard public health.

Fabentech will lead the project and collaborate on the development of this life-saving solution to improve pandemic preparedness and response with world-renowned European companies and research institutions such as the Cambridge University (UK), the Prince Leopold Institute of Tropical Medicine in Antwerp (Belgium), the Foundation for Biomedical Research of the *Hospital Universitario 12 de Octubre* in Madrid (Spain), Biotem (France), a company specialized in immune-technologies, and the international public relations agency FIPRA (Belgium).

"We are delighted to have been chosen by the European Commission to coordinate this ambitious European project, which is essential to the implementation of new preventive and therapeutic strategies to avoid the development of health crises similar to the Covid-19 pandemic," **said Sébastien Iva, Chief Executive Officer of Fabentech.** *"Fabentech has always been committed to working with European institutions to give patients access to new therapeutic options as soon as possible. Within this consortium, and with the help of these renowned partners, we are confident in our ability to develop the next generation of broad-spectrum antivirals, paving the way for Europe to emerge as a global leader in preventing the onset of future pandemics."*

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About FABENTECH

Created in 2009 and based in Lyon, Fabentech is a pharmaceutical-stage biotechnology company specialized in the development, production and marketing of polyclonal antibodies for responding to emergency situations.

Specializing in biothreats and working in close partnership with the French military, the company's goal is to build a domestic and European shield against the biological threats that are the greatest risk to public health by producing and marketing preventive stocks against these targeted pathogens.

This process, licensed out to Fabentech by Sanofi Pasteur, has substantial potential in the designing of antidotes against bioterrorist attacks and treatments for numerous infectious diseases.

Fabentech has 40 staff and is financially supported by prestigious shareholders such as Definvest and Institut Mérieux.

For more information, go to https://fabentech.fr/en

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