

Lonza and Asher Biotherapeutics to Collaborate on Manufacturing AB359, a Cis-Targeted IL-2 Immunotherapy

- Lonza to provide drug substance manufacturing for Asher Bio's molecule, AB359, a cis-targeted IL-2 immunotherapy
 - Drug substance manufacturing to be carried out at Lonza's Slough, UK, site
 - Project reflects Lonza's growing focus on bispecific antibodies and emerging biotech
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Basel, Switzerland, 07 April 2022 – Asher Biotherapeutics, Inc. (Asher Bio), a biotechnology company developing precisely targeted immunotherapies for cancer, autoimmune and infectious diseases, and Lonza, a global manufacturing partner to the pharma, biotech and nutrition industries, announced today that they have entered into a manufacturing agreement for AB359, a cis-targeted IL-2 fusion protein.

AB359 selectively activates the IL-2 pathway in CD8+ T cells. Unlike conventional immunotherapies that act on multiple cell types, cis-targeted immunotherapies are designed to selectively activate only the immune cell types that drive the desired therapeutic response – hence reducing side effects and optimizing activity through a new level of selectivity. AB359 is intended to broaden Asher Bio's application of cis-targeted immunotherapies to chronic infectious diseases.

Under the manufacturing agreement, Lonza will provide drug substance manufacturing for AB359 for preclinical and clinical testing. Work on this program starts in March 2022 at Lonza's Slough (UK) site. Bi- and multi-specific molecules are a growing part of Lonza's portfolio.

Julie Trulson, Head of CMC, Asher Bio, commented: "I'm looking forward to collaborating with Lonza on this program. Lonza's determination in implementing steady improvements, and offering its customers a more integrated experience, will be essential as we advance our cis-targeted immunotherapies closer to patients."

Jeetendra Vaghjiani, Executive Director, Clinical Development and Strategic Marketing, Lonza, added: "This collaboration marks our commitment and flexibility in tailoring our offering to the specific needs of emerging biotech. Our teams have built the capabilities and experience, including more complex protein formats, to help take Asher Bio's AB359 from development into the clinic."

About Lonza

Lonza is the preferred global partner to the pharmaceutical, biotech and nutrition markets. We work to enable a healthier world by supporting our customers to deliver new and innovative medicines that help treat a wide range of diseases. We achieve this by combining technological insight with world-class manufacturing, scientific expertise and process excellence. Our unparalleled breadth of offerings enables our customers to commercialize their discoveries and innovations in the healthcare industry.

Founded in 1897 in the Swiss Alps, today, Lonza operates across five continents. With approximately 16,000 full-time employees, we comprise high-performing teams and individual talent that make a meaningful difference to our own business, as well as to the communities in which we operate. The company generated sales of CHF 5.4 billion with a CORE EBITDA of CHF 1.7 billion in Full-Year 2021. Find out more at www.lonza.com.

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About Asher Biotherapeutics

Asher Bio is a biotechnology company developing precisely targeted immunotherapies for cancer and other diseases. Asher Bio's cis-targeting platform aims to enable selective activation of specific immune cell types, addressing the inherent limitations of otherwise pleiotropic immunotherapies that act on multiple cell types. Asher Bio's approach has the potential to precisely direct different immune mediators against a range of target immune cell-types and create novel immunotherapies in cancer and autoimmune and infectious diseases. Asher Bio was founded by Ivana Djuretic and Andy Yeung, with support from Third Rock Ventures, and is located in South San Francisco. For more information, please visit www.asherbio.com.

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