
PRESS RELEASE

January 14, 2016

Chr. Hansen enters first collaboration on production of a next generation probiotic from the Human Microbiome

Bacteria that live in and on our bodies outnumber the number of human cells by 10 to 1. There is an increased awareness that these bacteria, called the microbiome, play a crucial role in human health and diseases. Numerous studies have highlighted the therapeutic potential of specific bacteria in preventing and treating metabolic, gastrointestinal and other diseases. Today, Chr. Hansen and Caelus Health announce their collaboration on the development of *Eubacterium hallii* as a next generation probiotic for prevention and treatment of metabolic disease.

Recent studies have demonstrated the involvement of the intestinal microbiota in insulin resistance. Caelus Health have identified and patented a single species, *E. hallii*, which through preclinical studies has proven to be capable of reducing insulin resistance, a primary symptom of type 2 diabetes. Caelus' lead strain, CP-001, is a formulation of *E. hallii* and is currently in phase I clinical study.

The objective of the collaboration between Chr. Hansen and Caelus Health is to develop a CP-001 product formulation that will allow for progression to a phase II clinical trial and a subsequent market introduction. As part of this collaboration, Chr. Hansen will develop a production process and pilot material for clinical trials which Caelus Health will run to explore the use of *Eubacterium hallii* for prevention and treatment of metabolic disease

First of several projects within the Human Microbiome space

Johan van Hylckama Vlieg PhD, Senior Director, Microbiome, Chr. Hansen, says: *“Chr. Hansen has unparalleled expertise in fermentation and food and pharma grade production of bacteria. The collaboration with Caelus is in full alignment with our strategy to become the partner of choice for companies wanting to develop new generations of probiotic products and therapeutic microbes. The agreement with Caelus is an important milestone as the first of several projects within the Human Microbiome space for Chr. Hansen”*

Luc Sterkman MD, CEO, Caelus states: *“We are very pleased to announce this cooperation and are confident that Chr. Hansen has all the expertise and capabilities to develop an advanced formulation of CP-001, which we will further study in upcoming phase 2 clinical studies. This *E. hallii* based product is the first of a series of Microbiome-based products, which Caelus plans to bring to the market.”*

Caelus Health is an Amsterdam-based biotech company. Caelus is dedicated to the commercialisation of functional food and pharmaceutical products for the prevention and early treatment of cardio-metabolic diseases. Based on the strong correlation between the intestinal microbiome and health, the company is developing an entirely new class of microbiota-based therapeutics for the reduction of insulin resistance and prevention of Type 2 Diabetes Mellitus (T2DM) in people with metabolic syndrome (MetS). The first product is now in clinical phase of development and is based on Eubacterium hallii. Life Sciences Fund Amsterdam (LSFA) is the founding investor.

Chr. Hansen is a global bioscience company that develops natural ingredient solutions for the food, nutritional, pharmaceutical and agricultural industries. The products include cultures, enzymes, probiotics and natural colors, and all solutions are based on strong research and development competencies coupled with significant technology investments. Revenue in the 2014/15 financial year was EUR 859 million. The company holds a leading market position in all its divisions: Cultures & Enzymes, Health & Nutrition and Natural Colors. It has more than 2,500 dedicated employees in over 30 countries and main production facilities in Denmark, France, USA and Germany. Chr. Hansen was founded in 1874 and is listed on NASDAQ OMX Copenhagen.

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