The Next Generation of Cancer Technology

DNAtrix is a biotech company developing a new generation of cancer therapies designed to effectively destroy cancer cells while leaving healthy cells unharmed. Founded in 2009 by world-class physicians and scientists from across the nation, this Texas-based company is seeking to fast-track its most recent breakthrough therapy, Glimatuvir, a drug that targets brain tumors.

Technology

DNAtrix’s first cancer therapy, Glimatuvir, exhibited remarkable antitumor activity in glioblastoma patients in a Phase 1 clinical study at MD Anderson Cancer Center. Glioblastoma multiforme is a rapidly progressing and universally fatal cancer that affects approximately 10,000 people per year in the United States and a similar number in Europe. The median survival in newly diagnosed patients with best available treatments is approximately 14 months. Nearly all patients diagnosed with glioblastoma experience relapse of this aggressive cancer following first-line treatment. The company’s Phase 1 clinical data show a high response rate and increased progression-free survival, and include several patients who have responded completely to the therapy. The company is preparing for an important Phase 2 clinical study of this breakthrough oncolytic adenovirus designed to be tumor-selective and highly potent. Glimatuvir has an enhanced response when combined with both radiation and chemotherapy as a treatment for both local and regional malignant tumors.

Market Potential

The market is ready to use oncolytic agents in the fight against cancer, and the opportunity for the glioblastoma indication alone is more than $650 million. Four leading oncolytic agents are showing clinical efficacy against a variety of cancers, and one company, BioVex, was purchased recently by Amgen for $1 billion in cash. After approval for glioblastoma multiforme, DNAtrix will pursue additional indications representing a market opportunity of well over $1 billion, including anaplastic astrocytoma, anaplastic oligodendroglioma, low grade glioma, and recurrent pediatric CNS tumors, brain metastasis and other solid tumors.

Strategy

The company is following a low-cost model to achieve proof of concept. It operates virtually, by employing world experts in manufacturing, regulatory, clinical and quality control. DNAtrix is preparing a Phase 2 clinical study for glioblastoma that could roll straight into a pivotal study for FDA marketing approval. DNAtrix is also developing related cancer technologies based on oncolytic vectors and cancer immunotherapy in order to further expand market share and strengthen its pipeline.
Management Team

Frank Tufaro, Ph.D., CEO
Dr. Tufaro has extensive experience with biotech firms. He was one of the founders of NeuroVir, Inc. and served as the company’s CEO. During his tenure there, he helped negotiate and execute the successful merger of NeuroVir with MediGene AG, and built the company’s drug-development team.

Board of Directors

Dan Watkins, Ph.D., Board Chairman
Dr. Watkins has experience in founding and managing startups in the advanced-materials and bioscience sectors. Prior to co-founding DFJ Mercury, Dr. Watkins was the founder and Managing Partner of A3 Associates, a Houston-based venture firm where he co-founded DNAtrix, Nanospectra Biosciences and X-EMI. He has also been awarded National Science Foundation grants as Principal Investigator for advanced-materials and life-sciences research.

Frank McCormick, Ph.D.
Dr. McCormick is a Professor and Director of the University of California San Francisco Comprehensive Cancer Center. Dr. McCormick has had significant success in founding and managing biotech companies. He was founder and CSO of Onyx, Inc. ($800M market cap); VP Research, Chiron ($9B market cap); VP Research, Cetus ($880M acquisition by Chiron).

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