

Press release

LDC: New branch for development of therapeutic antibodies in Munich

Dortmund/Munich, 23 April 2018 – The Lead Discovery Center GmbH (LDC) has established a branch - LDC Biologics - in the Munich Biocluster. While the team in Dortmund focuses on chemical compounds (small molecules), in Munich the emphasis will be on the development of therapeutic antibodies. LDC Biologics will produce, optimise and humanise innovative antibodies according to industrial standards in close cooperation with partners from academia and therefore connecting academic research and industrial drug discovery. The Munich team, under the management of Dr. Johannes Bange, can resort to more than 15 years of experience in the pre-clinical and clinical development of therapeutic antibodies.

With this branch office, LDC is also expanding its long-standing expertise in the pharmaceutical drug discovery with partners from academia and industry to include the development of therapeutic antibodies. This allows for the use of technologies and methods complying with the highest quality standards and industrial best practices at a very early project stage and creates a sustainable transfer solution for excellent innovative ideas from academia and the industry.

“With the expansion of LDC activities to include biological agents we are responding to the wish of our industry partners to offer a solution not only for chemical compounds, but also for biological ones. In doing this, we will continue with the established and proven LDC translation model of close cooperation with our partners from academia in respect of biological agents. The “LDC Biologics” department is ideally located in the Munich Biotechcluster, the centre of research of biological agents in Germany“, states Dr. Bert Klebl, Managing Director and Chief Scientific Officer of the LDC.

In addition, the entire drug discovery value chain at the Munich site is supported by LDC’s well-proven global pharmaceutical and investor network through licencing and/or a spin-off of new companies.

The new site of the antibody group is in direct proximity to the Martinsried Biotech Campus, which connects academic basic research and applied development.

“We are very pleased that LDC has located its biologics division in the Greater Munich Area. Our location provides the best scientists and an excellent LifeScience ecosystem, which has been established for years, for the successful translation from academia to medical use“, adds Prof. Horst Domdey, Managing Director of the Bio^M Biotech Cluster Development GmbH.

There is also a close interconnection with the newly founded ISAR Bioscience GmbH which will also cooperate closely with LDC in the future. LDC Biologics has already entered into active partnerships in the field of antibody development with local research facilities, such as Helmholtz Zentrum München – German Research Center for Environmental Health. One project of the LDC Biologics portfolio is funded by the Bavarian Ministry of Economy.

About the LDC

The Lead Discovery Center (LDC) was established in 2008 by the technology transfer organization Max Planck Innovation, as a novel approach to capitalize on the potential of excellent basic research for the discovery of new therapies for diseases with high medical need.

The LDC takes on promising early-stage projects from academia and transforms them into innovative pharmaceutical leads that reach initial proof-of-concept in animals. In close collaboration with high-profile partners from academia and industry, the LDC is building a strong and growing portfolio of small molecule leads with exceptional medical and commercial potential.

The LDC sustains a preferred partnership with the Max Planck Society and has formed alliances with AstraZeneca, Bayer, Boehringer Ingelheim, Merck KGaA, Daiichi Sankyo, Qurient, Johnson & Johnson Innovation, Roche and Sotio as well as leading translational drug discovery centres around the globe.

Further information at: www.lead-discovery.de

Contact

Dr. Johannes Bange

E.: Bange@lead-discovery.de

Public Relations LDC

E.: pr@lead-discovery.de

T.: +49 231 9742 7000