

# LISAvienna Highlights

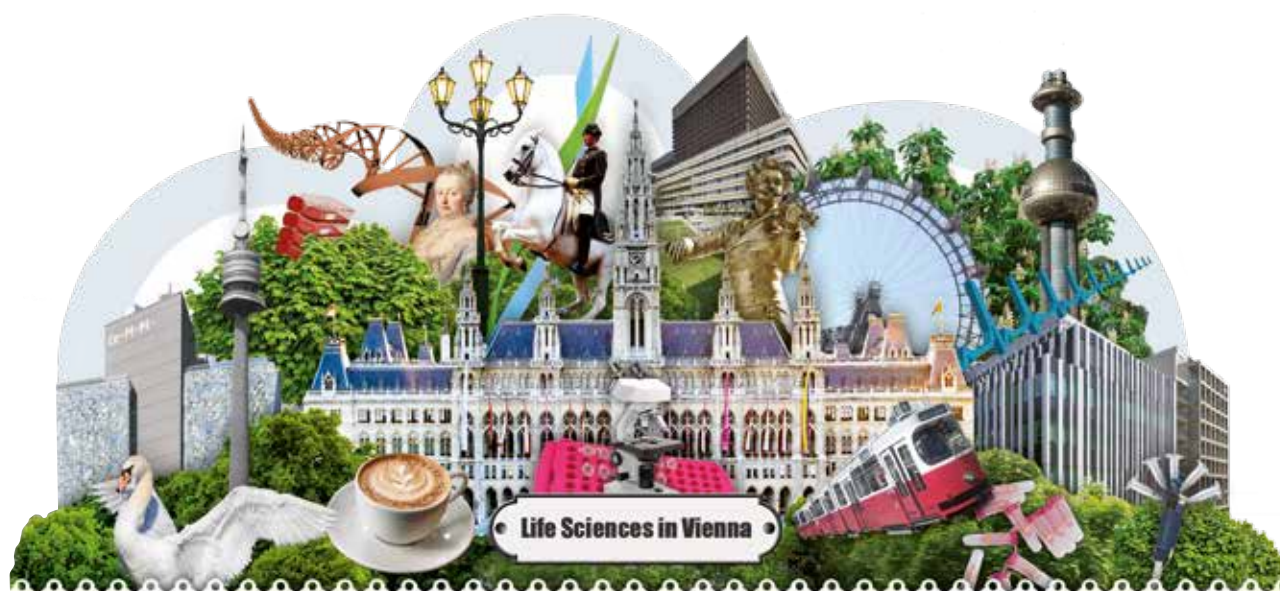
Spring & Summer 2022

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## LISAvienna: Celebrating 20 successful years

LISAvienna turns 20 this year. Mark your calendar for celebrating Vienna's flourishing life sciences sector at the Vienna City Hall on September 27, 2022. The LISAvienna team is looking forward to welcoming you.



Founded in 2002, LISAvienna witnessed and contributed to the fantastic growth of Vienna's biotechnology, medical device, and digital health community. Today, LISAvienna is part of an outstanding network comprised of 600 companies, research institutes and other organizations connected to the life sciences sector in Vienna, that together employ 41,000 people. The businesses generate €13.3bn

annually and Vienna is involved in more than 8,000 scientific papers each year. Johannes Sarx and Philipp Hainzl, Managing Directors at LISAvienna note: "Looking back at the past two decades makes us very happy and we want to thank all the people that contributed to transforming our platform and Vienna's life science community into a vivid success story."



## Dear readers!

Vienna is a highly dynamic life sciences hub in the heart of Europe. LISAvienna is happy to provide advice free of charge to innovators and entrepreneurs that want to develop a business idea in the life sciences through to the market in Vienna. We accompany you on this journey and help you find suitable lab space, funding opportunities for generating proof of concept data or developing a prototype and connect you to potential private equity and business partners. Let's collaborate and fill the pipeline with ideas for advancing the life science location Vienna and shape the future. In this way we will prepare the ground for the next success stories of Vienna's highly dynamic deep-tech-driven biotech, pharma, medtech, IVD, digital health and bioeconomy sector. In addition, we invite you to join events such as our anniversary celebration and the regulatory conference this fall and grow your network.

LISAvienna is a member of international networks - including CEBR and the MedTech Cluster Alliance - to strengthen Europe's innovation capacities. We also are participating in international trade shows throughout the year.

We hope you enjoy reading this folder bringing you up to date on recent success stories! We invite you to subscribe to our electronic newsletter and our general event mailing list, and to follow us on Twitter and LinkedIn.

Johannes Sarx and Philipp Hainzl  
LISAvienna Executive Board

**+++ Trade shows and conferences +++**

### **BMT 2022**

Innsbruck, September 28-30, 2022

### **BIO-Europe**

Leipzig, October 24-26, 2022

### **Medica**

Duesseldorf, November 14-17, 2022

### **BioFit**

Strasbourg, November 29-30, 2022

A MEMBER OF **LISA**  **LIFE SCIENCE AUSTRIA**



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### **aws BoB Best of Biotech**

Early phase projects and start-ups can win up to €6,000. The focus is on innovative biotech, pharma, medtech, IVD and digital health business idea from around the globe. Apply at aws by July 29, 2022!

[www.bestofbiotech.at](http://www.bestofbiotech.at)

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# Vienna: Outstanding funding opportunities for the life sciences

On the occasion of ViennaUP we organized an evening event focusing on life science funding opportunities that facilitate developing ideas into new marketable products, processes, and services in Vienna. Biotech Austria and the new innovation hub EIT Health Austria were on board as partners.



ViennaUP is a decentralized community-driven festival in the heart of Europe, shining a light on what the future of technology holds. Together with contributing partners, the Vienna Business Agency built a unique interconnected experience for startups, investors, tech enthusiasts, creatives and visionaries. As one of ViennaUP's partners, LISAvienna organized an event on May 31, 2022. We were thrilled that about 250 guests followed our invitation to Kursalon Hübner and enjoyed discussing the programs available at AWS, FFG, the Vienna Business Agency and at international level including EIT Health. In addition to start-ups and companies from Vienna, international ViennaUP participants also joined the business meeting and strengthened their contacts to funding agencies, investors, service providers and academic institutions. Photos and slide decks are available at the LISAvienna website. Don't hesitate to contact the LISAvienna team for personalized advice on funding opportunities, lab space or partners in Vienna!

## Join our upcoming events to grow your network



### ÖGMBT Annual Meeting 2022

LISAvienna will chair a session on the science behind biotech spin-offs in Vienna at the ÖGMBT Annual Meeting on September 20, 2022.

Join the conference at the new **University of Vienna Biology Building** at the Vienna BioCenter. We also encourage you to participate in the **Life Science Career Fair** prior to the conference.



### Regulatory conference: MD & IVD

At the LISAvienna regulatory conference on medical devices and in-vitro diagnostics, we will provide room for discussing the latest news on the EU's MDR and IVDR, and FDA regulations. Join us on **October 13, 2022**, at **Apothekertrakt, Schönbrunn Palace** and register on our website.



# Bulletin Board

## Biomay

Opening of new manufacturing facilities for pDNA, mRNA and recombinant proteins in Vienna

[www.biomay.com](http://www.biomay.com)



© Biomay AG

## APEIRON Biologics subsidiary invIOs

goes live with a unique cell therapy platform and a clinical-stage immuno-oncology pipeline

[www.invios.com](http://www.invios.com)

## WWTF: Vienna Science and Technology Fund

- City of Vienna will add €30 million to its budget within the next three years
- 8 chemical biology research projects funded with €5 million recently
- 2022: Call for research projects focusing on public health topics, and funding for research groups lead by young investigators in environmental systems research

[www.wwtf.at](http://www.wwtf.at)

## Vivaldi Biosciences:

- Nasal-spray combined vaccine for Covid-19 and Flu shows protection in preclinical studies
- Filing of PCT patent application for universal Flu and Covid-19 combination vaccine

[vivaldibiosciences.com](http://vivaldibiosciences.com)

## Valneva

Marketing authorization in Europe for its inactivated whole-virus COVID-19 vaccine VLA2001

[www.valneva.com](http://www.valneva.com)



© Valneva

## Apeptico:

Scientists of the solnatide network unravel the mechanism of action of Solnatide, a therapeutic candidate for ARDS treatment

[www.solnatide.eu](http://www.solnatide.eu)

## Life sciences companies founded in Vienna in 2021 – Be welcome!

- ADvantage Therapeutics GmbH
- Apeiron Respiratory Therapies GmbH
- Ascense Medical GmbH
- BioNTech R&D (Austria) GmbH
- CellElectric Biosciences GmbH
- AMResolute GmbH
- Cutanos GmbH
- Dr. Robubi VIS GmbH
- Evobright GmbH
- Exscientia GmbH
- Fermify GmbH
- Galapagos Biopharma Austria GmbH
- HeartBeat.bio AG
- HILDA GmbH
- InnoFly BioCenter GmbH
- invIOs GmbH
- MAG-LAB GmbH
- NovoArc GmbH
- Rockfish Bio AG
- ViroStone GmbH
- VTL GmbH

This list is not exhaustive.

## Austria boosts health care innovation through linking public procurement and SMEs

LISAvienna collaborated with IÖB Servicesstelle in its first call for digital health care solutions. We encouraged SMEs to promote their solutions and contributed to increasing their visibility for public procurement experts. The winners are:

**Famado:** PriorizR software for managing waiting lists

**Solgenium:** CARA solution for data driven workforce management

**SOFY:** Edupression software for individualized depression therapy

**Contextflow:** deep-learning-based tools for radiologists

**SCARLETRED:** innovative digital health solutions

**Cogvis:** cogvisAI software for fall prevention and detection

Additional information is provided at the public procurers' virtual marketplace for innovative solutions:

[www.ioeb-innovationsplattform.at/marktplatz-innovation](http://www.ioeb-innovationsplattform.at/marktplatz-innovation)

## Center for Precision Medicine at MedUni's Vienna General Hospital Campus to be named after Nobel Prize winner Eric Kandel

[www.meduniwien.ac.at](http://www.meduniwien.ac.at)



© MedUni Wien / feelimage

## BlueSky Immunotherapies:

Complete elimination of very aggressive and difficult-to-cure sarcoids in horses as a big milestone in cancer therapy

[www.blueskyvaccines.com](http://www.blueskyvaccines.com)

## BOKU: 150 years featuring future 1872-2022

[www.BOKU.ac.at](http://www.BOKU.ac.at)



© LISAvienna / Michlmayr

## HOOKIPA:

Positive Phase 1 data and Phase 2 plans for HB-200 program for the treatment of advanced head and neck cancers at ASCO

[www.hookipapharma.com](http://www.hookipapharma.com)

## MedUni Vienna:

Gabriele Häusler and Thomas Wrba named Inventors of the Year 2021: Award for the development of a portal for assessing children's body measurements



© MedUni Wien / feelimage

## Incus

Closing of Series A investment round and secures Additive Manufacturing expertise for growth journey

[www.incus3d.com](http://www.incus3d.com)

## Vienna Business Agency funds 13 new life sciences projects with €4.5 million

Congratulations to the companies whose plans succeeded in convincing the jury:

- Ablevia biotech GmbH
- ARCHIMED LIFE SCIENCE GmbH
- Ascense Medical GmbH
- AUSTRIAN AUDIO GmbH
- G.ST Antivirals GmbH
- HeartBeat.bio AG
- HOOKIPA Biotech GmbH
- Hypericum LifeScience GmbH
- invlOs GmbH / APEIRON Biologics AG
- Otto Bock Healthcare Products GmbH
- Ribbon Biolabs GmbH
- TissueGnostics GmbH

[www.viennabusinessagency.at](http://www.viennabusinessagency.at)

# Big birthday at LISAvienna: Expertise meets commitment

Vienna's life sciences took a huge leap forward over the past two decades. The city's start-up ecosystem is flourishing, big players keep investing and combined with Vienna's excellence in academia the city is internationally recognized as a prime life science location. Since 2002, LISAvienna has been contributing markedly to this goal.

In the beginning, the LISAvienna task force - at the interface of Austria's and Vienna's business support - focused on early-stage drug developers. A very small number of start-ups were around in the early 2000s, and LISAvienna both nurtured their first steps and contributed to building biotech expertise at the funding agencies. In addition to providing advice, we organized specialized events to make entrepreneurs aware of topics such as IPR, business strategies and high-tech financing. In parallel, LISAvienna encouraged the setting up of lab space. Later, we strategically broadened our focus to include all biotech topics and expanded into medical devices and digital health. We also strengthened our ties to large and medium-sized pharmaceutical companies, academia, service providers, suppliers and most recently the public procurement sector.

## Going international

LISAvienna is attending international trade shows and partnering conferences to facilitate attracting investors and licensing partners and to prepare the ground for future M&A activities. These events are excellent opportunities to raise Vienna's profile as a prime business location at the heart of Europe. LISAvienna also contributed to attracting key business events to Vienna, including BIO-Europe. A key ingredient in the recipe for success on the international stage is the umbrella brand Life Science Austria (LISA) that is operated in collaboration with cluster partners across Austria.



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© LISAvienna - Michlmayr  
© WienTourismus - Christian Stemper

## Austria's economic powerhouse

Vienna is Austria's most important life science location and hosts about half of the sector. LISAvienna facilitates the exchange of know-how between national and regional funding agencies and provides insights into global trends and opportunities shaping the sector. In addition, we raise awareness about the challenges confronting the life sciences community in Vienna and contribute to developing solutions ranging from start-up labs and shared core facilities to education and networking initiatives, and setting up a notified body for medical devices and in-vitro diagnostics.

## LISAvienna in numbers

Over the past 20 years, we supported Vienna's life science companies in over 1,900 personal consultation meetings and have promoted and networked Vienna's life sciences community at some 430 events. We featured success stories in more than 115 newsletters with some 3,850 subscribers. In addition, we share information on news items, on our services, events, and funding opportunities with more than 4,000 followers on LinkedIn and over 2,450 followers on Twitter. We as well contributed to publishing the fifth report providing key facts and figures on Vienna's thriving life science community last year.

Additional information on LISAvienna is available at [www.LISAvienna.at](http://www.LISAvienna.at). Reach out to us to grow your network.

# 20 Highlights from 2002 to 2022

**2002**

Foundation of LISAvienna, first Life Sciences Call at the Vienna Business Agency, and start of LISA program to bring life sciences to life in Austria

**2003**

First WWTF Life Sciences Call

**2004**

Opening of Campus Vienna Biocenter 2, and Vienna Competence Center

**2005**

Intercell IPO, foundation of Max Perutz Labs Vienna, and opening of Campus Vienna Biocenter 5

**2006**

Opening of IMBA & GMI building, and the Vienna Open Lab

**2007**

Launch of LISA umbrella brand for international marketing

**2008**

Opening of Campus Vienna Biocenter 3

**2010**

ACIB, VBCF and EQ BOKU strengthen collaborations, and first LISAvienna Golden Heart trophy for best medtech start-up

**2009**

1st BIO-Europe in Vienna, LISAvienna to expand into the medtech field, and opening of new labs at Muthgasse

**2011**

First Vienna Life Science Report, and opening of Marxbox

**2012**

Carl Reiner celebrates 100 years of manufacturing medical devices in Vienna, and Austrian Genome Research Program ends

**2013**

Takeda expands its Vienna site, 2<sup>nd</sup> Bio-Europe in Vienna

**2014**

Ottobock's Genium knee joint wins Austrian National Design Award, Roche to acquire Dutalys

**2015**

€2.2 billion investment at MedUni Vienna / AKH campus decided

**2016**

Boehringer Ingelheim invests € 700 million in biopharmaceutical manufacturing plant in Vienna

**2017**

Opening of the new IMP building, mySugr joins Roche family, and Apeiron Biologics' cancer immunotherapy product receives market approval

**2018**

Octapharma to open new R&D facility

**2020**

Opening of Startup Labs at the Vienna BioCenter, launch of funding programs to cope with the pandemic, MSD to acquire Themis Bioscience

**2019**

€70 million KHAN-I fund & wings4innovation strengthen early-stage drug development, IPO HOOKIPA Pharma, IPO Marinomed, Bio-Europe Spring in Vienna

**2021**

EFIB in Vienna, foundation of EIT Health Austria, opening of University Biology Building, BioNTech acquires PhagoMed, Exscientia acquires Allcyte, Sanofi acquires Origimm

**2022**

Market entry of Valneva's COVID-19 vaccine, LISAvienna celebrates its 20th anniversary

*\*This list is not exhaustive and only includes a few examples. Many more highlights are featured at [www.LISAvienna.at](http://www.LISAvienna.at).*



# XUND: Milestones on the road to success

Founded in Vienna in 2018, the digital health tech start-up XUND developed an AI-powered health assistant designed to improve the quality and accessibility of healthcare. The company already employs more than 30 people and operates from its headquarters in Vienna and office in Budapest.



Health Pioneers attending the Austrian Health Forum 2022 to contribute to further advancing Austria's health system

XUND's core product is an AI-powered Medical API that provides symptom and risk assessment to give patients a reliable initial assessment and guide them to the best point of care. The technology is certified as a Class IIa medical device under the European Medical Device Regulation (MDR) and utilized by market leading insurance, pharma and big tech companies. In addition, the company's iOS app is available free of charge to any user in the Apple App Store, and the Android version is currently in the beta phase.

## Recent milestones

- XUND to win WKO's Born Global Champion 2022 label
- FFG funds granted for the development of AI in emergency wards in collaboration with MedUni Graz, TU Wien, and KAGes
- XUND CEO Lukas Seper to co-found Health Pioneers - Austria's first interest group for digital health start-ups
- MDR update: XUND received certificate for Class IIa software based medical devices
- Roche subsidiary RoX Health invests six-figure sum to accelerate XUND's growth into international markets
- XUND to partner with Wiener Städtische, one of Austria's largest health insurance companies
- AWS granted funding for the development of responsible AI solutions
- XUND to contribute to increasing health literacy in collaboration with the renowned Thieme publishing house

[www.xund.ai](http://www.xund.ai)

## +++ Certificates, releases and patents +++

- **Biome Diagnostics:** CE-IVD certificate for BiomeOne®, the world's first stool-based response prediction test for immunotherapy
- **hi.health:** ISO27001 certificate
- **myReha:** iOS release
- **piur imaging:** PIUR tUS now MDR certified
- **Pregenerate:** Patent granted
- **Scarletred:** Scarletred®Vision - CE class 1m medical device certificate
- **VirusSure:** GLP and GMP certificates renewed and expanded



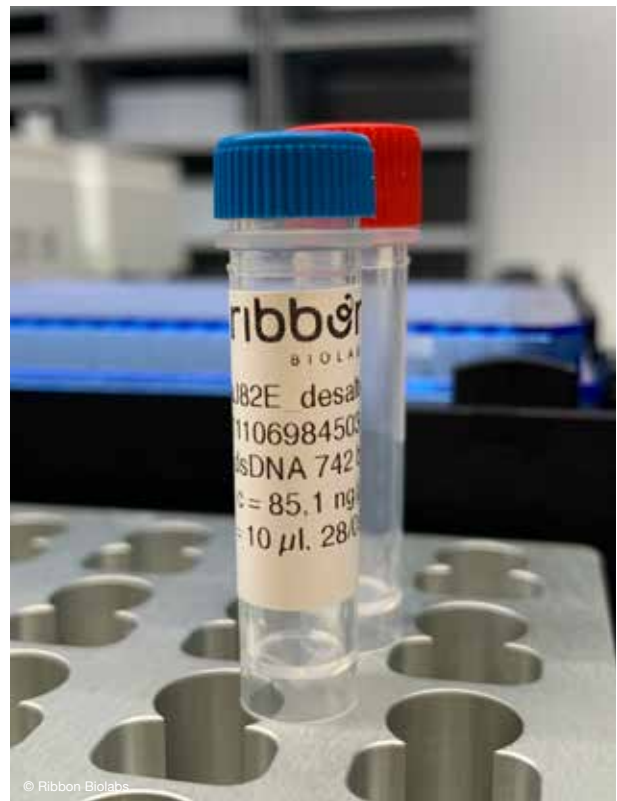
# Ribbon Biolabs raises €18 million Series A financing

**These funds will empower a new era of synthetic DNA production and support hiring talent at the company's facilities in Vienna and in the IST Park. Ribbon Biolabs is setting up production facilities that prove the power of its DNA synthesis technology and plans expand to the US.**

Ribbon Biolabs, the DNA synthesis company, announced the successful closure of €18 million in its Series A funding round from a consortium of European and US investors led by Hadean Ventures and with participation from Lansdowne Partners, Helicase Venture as well as several undisclosed investors. Existing investors IST cube and tec-net equity also joined in the round. "We are more than excited and proud about this close, as this fundraising enables us to expand our production capabilities and collaborate with key partners," commented Harold P. de Vlader, CEO and founder of Ribbon Biolabs. Walter Stockinger, Managing Partner at Hadean Ventures added: "Synthetic biology is about to disrupt the biopharmaceutical and other life science industries by overcoming previous limitations with new genetic technologies. We are excited to support Ribbon Biolabs in its mission to fully automate long DNA synthesis through its novel and proprietary approach and to become an important player in this new field of biology."

## From prototype to market

Ribbon Biolabs was founded in 2018 to redefine the potential of synthetic DNA. The technology addresses the growing market need for synthetic DNA of sub-genomic size, an essential component in biopharmaceutical research developments and a key to the disruptive potential of synthetic biology. Supported by aws Seedfinancing, the company recently validated its capabilities by providing synthetic DNA molecules of 10,000 bp and 20,000 bp.



The new funds will be used for the commercialization of Ribbon Biolabs' DNA synthesis technology. It uses an innovative approach integrating combinatorial optimization algorithms to guide the automated enzymatic assembly of long DNA molecules to enable innovation in the life sciences.

[www.ribbonbiolabs.com](http://www.ribbonbiolabs.com)



© Alexander Kramel

## Why Vienna?

"Both the biotech and the start-up scene have developed very well in Vienna in recent years and are offering not only a dynamic environment but also a broad range of grants,

subsidies and other – not only financial – support for innovative companies. And last not least, it is just a great place to live and work!"

Harold de Vlader, Founder & CEO Ribbon Biolabs

# HealthTech start-up myReha raises €2.2 million

**Even before the launch of its digital rehab platform for stroke patients, the Viennese startup myReha closed its pre-seed round with €2.2 million in fresh capital. myReha is now available for Android tablets and via the Google Play Store.**

Founded in 2020, the company focuses on speech and cognitive rehabilitation of stroke victims. Their AI-based rehab app creates a specific exercise plan for each patient that is tailored to individual needs and automatically adapts to the patient's rehabilitation progress on an ongoing basis. For the first time, it allows patients to continue their rehabilitation at home with a professional, evi-

dence-based support and guidance. The rehab app closes the gap in care after the first several weeks of rehabilitation in a hospital or the rehabilitation center. Patients get support to exploit their full rehabilitation potential which facilitates returning to their former independent everyday life.

[www.myreha.ai](http://www.myreha.ai)

# CellEctric Biosciences closes its first financing round

**The Austrian Institute of Technology (AIT) spin-off is developing an electrodynamic cell manipulation platform for the quick analysis of sepsis and announced the successful closing of its first financing round with IST cube as lead investor with other private investors.**

CellEctric was founded in early 2021 in Vienna. Through an exclusive license agreement with AIT, the start-up is based on a patent portfolio covering a wide range of applications for electrodynamic cell manipulation. In the first showcase, the technology has been applied to solve a persisting challenge in sepsis diagnosis. Fast and reliable pathogen identification in a patient's blood sample is key to initiating lifesaving therapy as early as possible.



This is quite tricky. By isolating viable pathogens from a patient sample, CellEctric accelerates sepsis diagnosis tenfold, compared to standard in-vitro diagnosis technologies. The company is funded under the FFG General Program, was awarded the Austrian Phoenix Founders Award for Innovative Founders in 2022 and has recently been granted aws Seedfinancing.

[www.cellectric-biosciences.com](http://www.cellectric-biosciences.com)

# Origimm brings expertise to treat acne with vaccine-based immunotherapy to Sanofi

**Acquiring Origimm Biotechnology adds a potential first-in-class vaccine candidate for acne vulgaris, a condition affecting millions of people worldwide, to Sanofi's pipeline. Origimm is continuing its operations in Vienna. The company is part of aws' Preseed and Seedfinancing portfolio.**

Origimm ('Origins of Immunity') is a biotechnology company specializing in the discovery of virulent skin microbiome components and antigens from bacteria causing skin disease, such as acne. The transaction will add ORI-001 to Sanofi's early-stage pipeline. ORI-001 is a therapeutic vaccine candidate for acne vulgaris based on recombinant proteins. It entered preliminary clinical studies in Q3 2021. In parallel, Sanofi is working to develop additional antigen versions and expects to leverage its next-generation mRNA platform in a comprehensive Ph1/2 trial to start in 2023. "The acquisition of Origimm further broadens our vaccines R&D pipeline with a first vaccine candidate against acne, a high medical need for millions of teenagers and adults," said Thomas Triomphe, Executive Vice President, Global Head of Sanofi Vaccines in the press release published at the time of the acquisition. "Welcoming Origimm to Sanofi expands our area of expertise by bringing extensive know-how in the field of skin microbiome and skin immunology. We look forward to unlocking the full potential of this candidate."

## First-in-human clinical trial

A first-in-human clinical trial of Origimm's acne vulgaris vaccine started recently. This is a major milestone for a world-wide first vaccine candidate against the bacteria involved in the pathogenesis of acne. The Phase 1/2a study will evaluate the safety and immunogenicity of the vaccine candidate in acne patients. "We are looking forward to combining our expertise and strengths to continue



developing innovative solutions for prevention and treatment of the skin microbiome-associated diseases, such as common acne" says Sanja Selak, Founder & Managing Director of Origimm. "Together with such a strong partner like Sanofi, we will strive to creating a paradigm shift in treatment of skin diseases and many other microbiome-associated disorders and infections, for which current medical solutions are inadequate."

[www.origimm.com](http://www.origimm.com)



© Origimm / Sanofi

## Why Vienna?

"Over the recent years Vienna has increased its importance in the biotech scene. While the city itself offers a very high quality of life and is attracting more and more talent from all

over Europe and the world, the very good network amongst universities and biotech start-ups is one of the fostering factors allowing the growth."

Sanja Selak, Founder & Managing Director of Origimm



# Proxygen announces strategic collaboration with Merck to develop molecular glue degraders

**Proxygen is eligible to receive up to €495 million in continuous R&D funding, upfront and success-based pre-clinical, clinical, regulatory, and commercial milestones, as well as additional royalty payments.**

Founded in 2020 with support provided through the aws Preseed program, Proxygen is focused on the discovery and development of molecular glue degraders against targets of unmet medical need across various indications. While advancing its internal programs towards clinical development, the company also maintains strategic partnerships to co-create synergies along the drug development pipeline. With its headquarters and laboratory operations in Vienna, Austria, Proxygen employs talent both locally and remotely all over Europe.

## **Strategic collaboration with Merck**

Proxygen is a leader in the discovery and development of molecular glue degraders, announced that the company has entered into a strategic multi-year research collaboration and license agreement with Merck. Under the terms of the agreement, the companies will jointly identify and develop molecular glue degraders up to a clinical candidate stage. “We are incredibly excited to start this long-term collaboration with Merck, a globally recognized player in the pharmaceutical industry that shares our drive towards dynamic innovation for the benefit of patients. The partnership

validates the unique potential of Proxygen’s glue degrader platform and strategically leverages our common strengths in the targeted protein degradation field”, says Bernd Boidol, CEO of Proxygen.

## **Scalable discovery strategy**

Molecular glue degraders re-direct the cell’s own quality control machinery towards disease-causing proteins, inducing their selective and complete elimination. Because of their capability to modulate protein classes that would not be amenable to traditional drug discovery approaches, glue degraders hold the promise of unlocking a large proportion of the undruggable target space and delivering innovative therapies for diseases with high unmet medical need. By streamlining and fully integrating cutting-edge genomic, proteomic, and biochemical technologies, Proxygen has successfully developed a highly versatile glue degrader discovery engine. The ligase-agnostic screening approach enables the specific and unbiased identification of molecular glue degraders against difficult-to-drug or completely undruggable targets at large scale.

[www.proxygen.com](http://www.proxygen.com)



## **Why Vienna?**

“Vienna has various pull factors that facilitate the setup of successful biotech companies: a strong enrichment of high-quality science talent coming from the city’s world-class academic institutions fills the ‘talent gap’ known from other biotech hubs. A growing number of early-stage funding opportunities

enable the validation and de-risking of ideas that would otherwise migrate to other cities or even continents. And a steady exchange between new and established biotech companies via clubs and associations helps making the right decisions in times of great ambiguity.”

Bernd Boidol and Matthias Brand, Proxygen