



BerGenBio

we are pioneering the AXL biology

Media pack

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BerGenBio

This is BerGenBio ASA

- BerGenBio is a biotechnology company with a skilled research team in Bergen and a development team in Oxford. BerGenBio is listed on the Oslo Stock Exchange (OSE:BGBIO)
- BerGenBio has identified a protein - AXL - that sits on the cell surface. *BerGenBio is a pioneer in understanding AXL technology*
- BerGenBio has found that AXL allows some cells to gain greater resistance to drugs and allows some cells to hide from the body's immune system
- BerGenBio has developed a drug called *bemcentinib* which blocks and inhibits the AXL signals and through it makes the treatment more effective
- Although bemcentinib initially is developed for cancer treatment, BGB's drug has the general characteristic that it inhibits AXL which builds the cell's resilience
- BerGenBio is committed to developing the best-in-class selective inhibitors of the AXL protein and we have a portfolio of drugs that inhibits this protein
- BerGenBio is the world leader in understanding the AXL



BERGENBIO'S BEMCENTINIB SELECTED TO BE FAST-TRACKED AS POTENTIAL TREATMENT FOR COVID-19

BerGenBio announces that bemcentinib has been selected to be fast-tracked in a new UK national multi-centre randomised Phase 2 clinical trial initiative that aims to get an early indication of whether bemcentinib could save lives and improve outcomes in the most vulnerable patients with COVID-19

The study, with drug material and trial resources provided by BerGenBio, will rapidly commence testing in 120 subjects (60 hospitalised COVID-19 patients and 60 control group receiving standard of care treatment) across 6 UK NHS hospital trusts, with the first patients due to be treated imminently

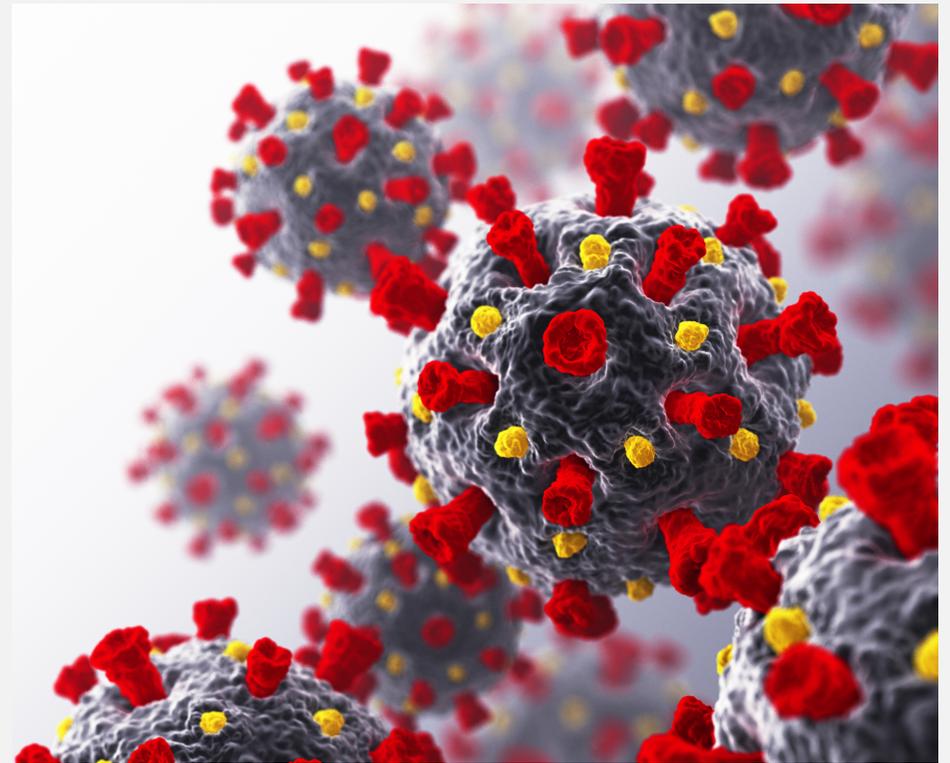
The study is funded by The Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) and UK Research and Innovation (UKRI)

COVID-19 is the clinical disease manifested as a result of SARS-CoV-2 coronavirus infection, responsible for the current COVID-19 pandemic. Preclinical data suggest that bemcentinib is potentially useful for the treatment of early SARS-CoV-2 infection

There are currently no approved medical treatments for, or vaccines against, COVID-19

The first patients in the study due to be treated imminently. BerGenBio anticipates that top line data will readout within a few months

After that, the study may seamlessly progress to Phase III testing of about 125 patients and to rapid marketing approval



What is bemcentinib?

Bemcentinib, is a once-a-day, oral, highly selective and potent inhibitor of AXL kinase being developed by BerGenBio

Bemcentinib selectively inhibits AXL kinase activity, blocking viral entry and enhancing the anti-viral type I interferon response, a key cellular defence mechanism against viral infection

Bemcentinib has previously been reported to exhibit potent anti-viral activity in preclinical models against several enveloped viruses, including Ebola and Zika virus. Recent data have expanded this to SARS-CoV-2

Bemcentinib has previously demonstrated a key role in cancer treatment: preventing immune evasion, drug resistance and metastasis in a variety of cancer trials

The drug has to date been shown to be safe and well-tolerated in hundreds of patients and in many cases taken daily for several years

Photo: Nils Olav Mevatne



CEO Richard Godfrey



"We are delighted to be part of this initiative which is a ground-breaking partnership between government, academia and industry. We are hopeful that bemcentinib can play a significant role in the global effort to find suitable treatment options for COVID-19 patients, which has had such serious implications for so many people and thereby ease pressures on hospital intensive care units, and ultimately treat thousands of patients. We are poised to commence dosing in the coming days and will provide results as soon as is practically possible."

- Richard Godfrey joined BerGenBio as Chief Executive Officer in 2008
- He has more than 25 years' industry experience leading many international drug development and commercialisation partnerships
- Formerly he served as Chief Executive Officer of Aenova Inc., a specialist biopharmaceutical company
- Prior to this he was the Managing Director of DCC Healthcare Ltd and previously he held positions of increasing responsibility at Catalant, Eli Lilly and Reckitt Benckiser in RnD and commercial roles
- He qualified as a Pharmacist from Liverpool University and received his M.B.A. from Bath University

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Photo: Nils Olav Mevatne

For more information

Read more about BerGenBio here:

<https://www.bergenbio.com>

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