

Bernhard Nocht Institute for Tropical Medicine contracts Provecs Medical as partner for therapeutic vaccine program

Hamburg | 07 February 2011. The Hamburg based Bernhard Nocht Institute for Tropical Medicine (BNI) and Provecs Medical have signed a development agreement for the design and evaluation of novel vaccine candidates based on Provecs' technology in four infectious diseases, three of them transmitted by insects such as Malaria and Leishmaniasis. The therapeutic vaccine candidates address immunological targets in the microenvironment of protozoan and bacterial infections. The cooperation partners expect a potential both for the prophylaxis and also for the therapy of these infections. Teams at the BNI will evaluate the vaccines in *in vivo* and *in vitro* test systems. After the evaluation phase the consortium wishes to extend promising programs to the preclinical and clinical levels. Provecs Medical's CEO, Dr. Frank Schnieders, comments this collaboration with this German Centre of Competence in tropical diseases and rare infections as major milestone in the development of the platform technology to broaden the product pipeline beyond the current oncology focus. His project partner, Prof. Dr. Bernhard Fleischer, member of the board of directors at BNI, is looking forward to the outcome of the studies using this novel therapeutic strategy. Under the agreement Provecs Medical will receive payments for the design and manufacture of the vaccine candidates. Financial terms were not disclosed.

The Bernhard Nocht Institute for Tropical Medicine combines state-of-the-art research with clinical practice and expert training, thereby serving as Germany's centre of competence for tropical diseases and rare infections. The Institute integrates high-technology laboratory work on the biology of pathogens, their reservoirs and vectors with host genetics and immunology, clinical trials, epidemiology and community-based intervention. Present studies focus on malaria, haemorrhagic fevers and tissue worm infections. For work on highly contagious pathogens such as Lassa and Ebola viruses, the Institute is equipped with high-security laboratories of biosafety level 4. The Institute is a member of the Leibniz Association, one of the four major German science organisations. It operates under the auspices of the German Ministry of Health and of the Government Agency for Science and Research of the City of Hamburg. www.bni-hamburg.de

Provecs Medical is a privately owned biopharmaceutical company founded in 2007 as a spin-out of the University-Medical Center, Hamburg-Eppendorf in Hamburg, Germany. Provecs Medical specializes in the development of novel targeted immunotherapeutics for cancer and infectious diseases.

www.provecs.com

contact: schnieders@provecs.com