

Adenium Biotech is a spin-off from Novozymes and was established in 2011 with financing from Novo Seeds. The company works on developing the compound Arenicin, which is secreted from lugworms. Arenicin is the lugworms' defense against invasive bacteria. The compound has shown effectiveness against multi resistant gram-negative bacteria – the bacteria, that cause the biggest problems in hospitals today.

Adenium Biotech has raised a total of DKK 22 million from Novo Seeds and Sunstone Life Science Ventures Fund III, and with the new capital injection, there is financing to complete a comprehensive screening program. “With an investment from Sunstone of DKK 11 million we can now complete the next phase of our development program and chose the Arenicin-variant, that is most promising for further testing in humans”, Dr. Peter Nordkild, CEO of Adenium says.

Today patients that during a hospitalization incur less “serious” infection diseases like urinary tract infections and pneumonia, risk that these will develop and become life threatening. This is because many of these bacteria are multi resistant and that existing antibiotic treatments not are sufficiently effective. Therefore, doctors can in the worst case be left without treatment possibilities. For example the mortality for patients that incur pneumonia during a hospitalization is today 25-50%.

Peter Nordkild further says: ”Most people are not aware that we can very soon be in a situation, where the doctors are helpless against a trite infection, if this is caused by a multi resistant bacteria”.

The company predicts, that the compound Arenicin will be applicable to treatment of hospitalinfections, where other existing antibiotics have fallen short until now. New preclinical studies have shown that the compound in spite of its powerful effect on multi resistant bacteria, will not be toxic to humans, which is an advantage to preexisting treatments. Furthermore, the studies show that the compound is not only effective against cystitis, but also pneumonia.

Andreas Segerros, Partner in Sunstone Capital, looks very positively at the milestones, Adenium Biotech have already reached: “We have followed the exciting development of Arenicin and the establishment of Adenium throughout the last year and a half. We see a very large uncovered medical need within multi resistant targeted antibiotics and believe, that Arenicin is one of the most promising development programs within this area”.

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