

PRESS RELEASE**AC Immune Awarded Grant from The Michael J. Fox Foundation for Parkinson's Research**

- **Grant to fund development of Parkinson's disease diagnostic agent**
- **Focuses on alpha-synuclein, a key protein in Parkinson's disease pathology**
- **Offers potential of earlier and more accurate diagnosis of Parkinson's disease**

Lausanne, Switzerland, - February 12, 2015 - AC Immune today announced it has been awarded a research grant by The Michael J. Fox Foundation for Parkinson's Research (MJFF) for the development of Positron Emission Tomography (PET) tracers for the alpha-synuclein protein, supporting the diagnosis and clinical management of Parkinson's disease. The amount of the grant was not disclosed.

The research project aims to develop brain imaging agents for alpha-synuclein, a key protein involved in the pathology of Parkinson's disease. Such an alpha-synuclein-PET imaging agent will help diagnose the disease earlier and more accurately, enable tracking of pathology over time, and monitor the efficacy of therapeutics in reducing alpha-synuclein aggregates. Using its proprietary Morphomer™ chemistry technology platform, designed to interact with the basic process of protein misfolding, AC Immune has identified promising small molecule compounds with good selectivity for alpha-synuclein and promising properties as PET ligands. The grant will allow AC Immune to develop a lead compound with suitable characteristics that could rapidly enter into clinical development.

Prof. Andrea Pfeifer, CEO of AC Immune, said: "We are extremely pleased to receive this grant from The Michael J. Fox Foundation. This represents further validation of AC Immune's capacity and expertise in developing both diagnostic and therapeutic agents for multiple neurodegenerative diseases such as Parkinson's disease. While maintaining a sharp focus on Alzheimer's disease we continue to leverage our key technology platforms to expand our pipeline to other neurodegenerative diseases based on our deep experience in this field."

"The development of an alpha-synuclein imaging agent would be transformative for Parkinson's disease research and drug development. The AC Immune program is making promising progress toward that achievement," commented **Jamie Eberling, PhD, senior associate director of research programs at MJFF**.

About alpha-synuclein-PET tracers

A brain positron emission tomography (PET) scan is an imaging test of the brain involving an imaging device and an imaging agent called a PET tracer. No alpha-synuclein-PET tracer has received regulatory approval for commercial distribution, which represents a huge medical need, not only in Parkinson's disease but also in other

synucleinopathies such as multiple system atrophy and dementia with Lewy bodies. Once the alpha-synuclein-PET tracer is introduced to the body, it transiently enters the brain, binds to abnormal alpha-synuclein protein structures (Lewy bodies). Through the radio-tracer on the tracer molecule, the imaging device detects the bound alpha-synuclein imaging agent and creates pictures reflecting the amount and distribution of pathological alpha-synuclein in the brain.

About Parkinson's disease

Parkinson's disease is the second most common neurodegenerative disorder after Alzheimer's disease. Parkinson's disease affects approximately 1% of individuals older than 60 years and causes progressive disability (motor and non-motor symptoms). Current therapies only treat the symptoms of Parkinson's; there is no available treatment that can slow or halt disease progression. The two major neuropathologic findings in Parkinson's disease are loss of dopaminergic neurons of the substantia nigra pars compacta and the presence of Lewy bodies and Lewy neurites in which the major constituent is alpha-synuclein. The abnormal accumulations of fibrillar alpha-synuclein in Lewy bodies, and the mutations in the gene for alpha-synuclein in familial forms of Parkinson's disease, have led to the belief that this protein has a central role in Parkinson's disease. The development of alpha-synuclein pathology appears to correlate with the loss of dopaminergic neurons and subsequent decline in motor performance, making it a highly relevant molecular target for diagnostic approaches.

Further details about the research project and grant can be found at on the [MJFF website](#).

About Michael J. Fox Foundation

As the world's largest nonprofit funder of Parkinson's research, The Michael J. Fox Foundation is dedicated to accelerating a cure for Parkinson's disease and improved therapies for those living with the condition today. The Foundation pursues its goals through an aggressively funded, highly targeted research program coupled with active global engagement of scientists, Parkinson's patients, business leaders, clinical trial participants, donors and volunteers. In addition to funding more than \$450 million in research to date, the Foundation has fundamentally altered the trajectory of progress toward a cure. Operating at the hub of worldwide Parkinson's research, the Foundation forges groundbreaking collaborations with industry leaders, academic scientists and government research funders; increases the flow of participants into Parkinson's disease clinical trials with its online tool, Fox Trial Finder; promotes Parkinson's awareness through high-profile advocacy, events and outreach; and coordinates the grassroots involvement of thousands of Team Fox members around the world.

About AC Immune

AC Immune is a leading Swiss-based biopharmaceutical company with three products in clinical trials. The Company designs, discovers and develops therapeutic and diagnostic

products to prevent and modify diseases caused by misfolding proteins. AC Immune's two proprietary technology platforms create antibodies, small molecules and vaccines to address large markets across a broad spectrum of central nervous system indications. Alzheimer's disease is the largest indication addressed by its products but the company's innovative, highly differentiated and disease-modifying therapies are capable of shifting the paradigm in the treatment of other neurodegenerative diseases such as Down syndrome, Parkinson's, tauopathies and Glaucoma. The Company has a large, diversified and promising pipeline featuring seven therapeutic and two diagnostic products in Alzheimer's disease. The most advanced of these is crenezumab, an anti-Abeta antibody that is licensed to Genentech and has completed phase II clinical trials. Crenezumab was chosen by the US National Institute of Health for use in the first-ever AD prevention trial. The company has partnered three programs targeting Tau: ACI-35 with Janssen (therapeutic vaccine, phase Ib), Tau PET tracers with Piramal (Alzheimer's diagnostic agent, pre-clinical) and Tau-antibodies with Genentech (preclinical). The anti-Abeta vaccine ACI-24 phase I/IIa trial is run in house. Since its foundation in 2003, AC Immune has raised 84 million Swiss francs from private investors.

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