

Pharma

Phico Awarded £1 Million for Trials

6th February 2009

Phico Therapeutics has been granted a Wellcome Trust Strategic Translational Award totalling £1.03 million to cover Phase I and II trials of its lead candidate SASPject PT1.2 for decolonisation of MRSA and *S. aureus*. PT1.2 is based on a new class of antibacterial proteins called SASPs, which bind to bacterial DNA resulting in rapid "speed of kill".

If successful, PT1.2 will provide a major new weapon in the fight against MRSA and other bacterial infections. Dr Ted Bianco, Director of Technology Transfer at the Wellcome Trust, commented: "There is an urgent need to develop innovative ways to manage the transmission of antibiotic-resistant bacteria in the hospital and care-home environments. The approach being taken by Dr Fairhead and colleagues is imaginative and original. If successful, this technology may provide an important new tool in the fight against MRSA and other pathogenic bacteria."

Flic Gabbay, a Senior Partner in TranScrip and Chairman of Phico, has been instrumental in assisting Phico with the strategic development of the portfolio; at board level and within development decision-making processes and, with assistance from her team, has supported the successful award application. Dr Gabbay said: "I am very proud of the team effort to help facilitate the development of the product that addresses the continuing twin problems of transmission and drug-resistance. We are delighted that the Wellcome Trust sees the potential of PT1.2. This award will enable Phico to conduct phase I and II clinical trials with results expected in Q3 2009 and Q3 2010 respectively." It is anticipated that TranScrip Partners will continue to provide strategic and operational support to Phico.

More information

www.wellcome.ac.uk