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Elewa's drug candidate to be examined for use in Covid-19 treatment

Freiburg (ots) -

Elewa, a manufacturer of superior biologics, is exploring the potential of one of its drug candidates for first-in-line therapy of Covid-19. The compound, factor H, is part of the complement system, which is believed to affect the severity of the course of Covid-19. Elewa has developed factor H previously for a different indication and taken it through pre-clinical stages.

The complement system is a vital part of the immune system. It recognizes and destroys pathogens and protects the body's own cells with a special component, factor H. Insufficient amounts of factor H lead to excessive inflammation and risk of tissue damage. Emerging evidence suggests that the lung tissue decay observed in severe cases of Covid-19 could be caused by this unregulated inflammation. Current means to inhibit this process use artificial antibodies that block the pathway altogether, stopping the inactivation of pathogens and causing a significant risk of infection. Conversely, supplemented factor H allows for regulated defence while protecting the host cells.

Andreas Schaaf, CEO of Elewa, says: "Unlocking novel therapies is our mission. This path deserves to be explored and may lead to effective treatment of Covid-19."

Elewa has previously developed recombinant factor H for glomerulopathy and taken it through pre-clinical stages. Studies have indicated a significant reduction in inflammation and tissue damage when factor H was supplemented. Elewa is now looking to accelerate the Covid-19-specific evaluation with a pharmaceutical partner.

About Elewa

Elewa develops novel biological therapies with its pharmaceutical partners. The privately-held company leverages its unique moss-based production platform to produce supreme biologics like antibodies, replacement enzymes, or fusion toxins. Elewa has successfully developed drug candidates into clinical phases.

Contact:

eleva GmbH
Fabienne Zeitter
pr@elevabiologics.com
+49 761 470 99 0
www.elevabiologics.com

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