Araris Biotech Publishes New Preclinical Data on ADC Technology Demonstrating Enhanced Anti-Tumor Activity Compared to Polatuzumab Vedotin

Araris anti-CD79b ADC demonstrated enhanced stability, reduced toxicity and greater anti-tumor efficacy preclinically compared to commercial polatuzumab vedotin in head-to-head studies

Validates company's foundational linker-conjugation platform that generates ADCs in one step from native antibodies with potential to transform any antibody into an ADC

AU ZH, SWITZERLAND, 3 April, 2025 – Araris Biotech AG ("Araris"), a Swiss oncology biotech company developing next-generation antibody drug conjugates (ADCs), published new data demonstrating that an Araris CD79b-targeting ADC developed with the company's proprietary peptide-based linker-conjugation platform, AraLinQ™, had enhanced stability, reduced toxicity, and greater anti-tumor efficacy in preclinical head-to-head efficacy studies when compared to a commercial ADC, polatuzumab vedotin (PV) (Polivy®), with the same targeting antibody and payload. The results, published in *Molecular Cancer Therapeutics* following expedited review from industry-informed experts, validate the company's foundational technology that enables site-specific conjugation of a linker-payload to native antibodies in one step with the potential to transform any antibody into an ADC.

Dr. Philipp Spycher, CSO of Araris said: "These data demonstrate that our foundational technology has the potential to address critical limitations of current generation ADCs, including instability in circulation, limited exposure causing severe side effects that reduce dosing and efficacy. Furthermore, our conjugation was highly efficient without the need to modify the targeting antibody by any means upfront and resulted in a highly pure ADC. The remarkable stability with no signs of payload loss and reduced toxicity profile of our novel conjugation platform positions us to create a new standard in targeted cancer therapeutics, offering hope for improved outcomes in difficult-to-treat cancers. We look forward to applying our proprietary peptide-based linker-conjugation platform AraLinQ™ to different antibodies and payload classes and at varying drug-to-antibody ratios as we develop next-generation ADCs."

The study compared the biophysical properties of an anti-CD79b-targeting Araris ADC, consisting of native polatuzumab antibody conjugated to a proprietary peptide linker and monomethyl auristatin E (MMAE) cytotoxic payload, against polatuzumab vedotin (PV, Polivy®), an FDA-approved ADC. The Araris ADC achieved a 4-6 times wider therapeutic window versus PV and a highest non-severely toxic dose three times higher than PV, allowing for potentially higher dosing, reduced side effects, and more sustained tumor suppression. Notably, the Araris ADC therapeutic achieved stronger and longer-lasting tumor suppression at equal concentrations of MMAE, compared to PV. The Araris ADC, featuring a drug-to-antibody ratio of 2, showed remarkable stability, consistently across different *in vivo* testings while delivering highly potent anti-tumor effects across multiple cancer cell lines.

Dr. Dragan Grabulovski, CEO of Araris commented: "Our mission at Araris is to pioneer the future of ADCs by directly addressing the key limitations that currently exist in this class of therapeutics. We are pleased to see that we can demonstrate very efficient one-step conjugation with native, unmodified antibodies, an approach that can be applied to a range of antibodies and drug payloads, representing a quantum leap forward for next-generation ADCs across multiple cancer types."

The publication titled, "Broadening the Therapeutic Window of ADCs using Site-Specific Bioconjugation showcased by a MMAE containing Peptide Linker in a CD79b Targeting ADC," is now **available online** and will be published in the April issue of *Molecular Cancer Therapeutics*.

About Araris Biotech AG

Araris Biotech is a leading biotech company pioneering the future of antibody-drug conjugates (ADCs) and redefining the entire paradigm of targeted cancer therapy and beyond. Araris' vision is a world without

chemotherapy and its proprietary conjugation and groundbreaking multi-payload technology represents a quantum leap forward in ADC design, enabling the transformation of any antibody into an ADC with the goal of better safety and efficacy. By enabling the attachment of multiple, synergistic cancer-fighting payloads to a single antibody in an efficient one-step process, Araris is creating a new generation of smart missiles that deliver the potency of combination chemotherapy in a targeted fashion in order to tackle the persistent challenges of cancer resistance.

Araris is a wholly owned subsidiary of Taiho Pharmaceutical following its acquisition in March 2025. For more information about our science and pipeline, please visit https://www.ararisbiotech.com/.

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