

LIFTT and Finde launch a 1M euros round for Corion Biotech: from the placenta a therapeutic approach for preeclampsia.

Turin, September 09, 2020 - LIFTT, the Investment Operating Company led by the entrepreneur scientist Stefano Buono and Finde, a private and independent financial holding owned by the Denegri family, finance a round worth 1M euros – equally shared - to support Corion Biotech. The innovative start-up is perfecting the first specific therapy against preeclampsia.

The goal is to develop a treatment against a syndrome that affects over 7 million pregnant women worldwide every year and continues to grow due to the increase in their average age and other risk conditions.

Preeclampsia is an incurable pregnancy syndrome that can have serious consequences. The disease can cause damage to the health of both the mother and the child, as well as currently being the leading cause of maternal-foetal mortality in the world. The potential market is very large: it is estimated that preeclampsia costs the global health service 7 - 8 billion euros spent on therapies that do not guarantee to be successful, with very heavy economic and social consequences.

Corion Biotech, which has identified the innovative therapeutic approach, is led by a team of researchers from the University of Turin: Tullia Todros and Alessandro Rolfo, who have been dealing with the physiopathology of pregnancy for decades. The therapy is based on the use of a specific placental cell population able to produce molecules effective against preeclamptic syndrome.

The funding will be used for the preclinical trial and to obtain authorisation for the clinical trial.

The investment company LIFTT immediately believed in Corion's mission, as the CEO Giovanni Tesoriere explains: "We often talk about gender gap and discrimination - he explains - and unfortunately, preeclampsia has so far remained without therapy possibly for this reason: one may think it has been neglected because it exclusively affects the female population. So far, only non-specific drugs are used, with unsatisfactory results."

Corion, the Latin name of a specific cell population of the placenta, was set up in 2012 as an academic spin off of the University of Turin and had already received an initial equity investment of 150k euros from Finde Group, which entered the share capital in 2015.

Michele Denegri, CEO of Finde, expressed his satisfaction over the participation in Corion Biotech capital increase. "This investment aims to protect people's health from before birth, with incalculable repercussions for the well-being of individuals and the community. It is the continuation of a process that began in 2014 with the funding of an important loan to the University of Turin by the Foundation Carlo Denegri ONLUS; The funding allowed Prof. Alessandro Rolfo to develop this promising project, with the subsequent direct investment in 2015 aimed at validating the proof of concept in vivo".

Commenting on this decisive step for the fate of the project is the co-founder and Chief Scientific Officer, Alessandro Rolfo: "We have reached the end of a research path which has lasted over thirty years. Our therapeutic approach has already obtained the scientific advice of the EMA. Therefore, the preclinical trial that we want to carry out with the new round of investments will be developed on the recommendation of



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their experts. We have developed an innovative 'cell-free' cellular therapy, rather than adopting a traditional one, which would have been risky in a delicate situation such as pregnancy, when every intervention impacts both mother and child. This allows us to administer only therapeutic molecules and no allogeneic cells, thus avoiding risks both in ethical and biosecurity terms. We are proud to have found strategic partners such as LIFTT and Finde with whom we share a common understanding of ethics and contribution to well-being and social progress"