

PEM Technology provides new class of antibiotics

There are plenty of opportunities for the innovative biotech company, Polyphor Ltd. They use two proprietary technology platforms for drug discovery, PEM Technology and a complementary Small Molecule drug discovery platform, both of which they also offer to their pharmaceutical partners for collaborative research projects. Polyphor draws on its proprietary PEMfinder® library to develop pharmaceutical products for various therapeutic areas such as inflammation, regenerative medicine, haematology/oncology and infectious diseases. Although they have numerous drug candidates in their pipeline, all with enormous potential, it is their new class of antibiotics with an entirely original mode of action that has the medical community buzzing.

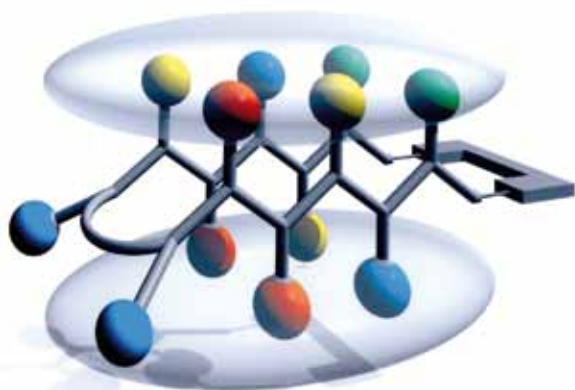
Effective against multi-drug resistant gram-negative bacteria, this proprietary new class of antibiotics offers new treatment options for serious and life-threatening infections. Polyphor's most advanced drug candidate in this class, POL7080 selectively kills the multi-drug resistant *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* bacteria and is ready for Clinical Phase I trials. *Pseudomonas* is a dangerous opportunistic pathogen which frequently infects hospitalised patients and people with chronic lung infections. According to Dr. Jean-Pierre Obrecht the company's CEO, the discovery of this class of highly potent and selective antibiotics which utilise a new antibacterial principle is a rare event that only happens about every 20 years,

and validates the innovative power of Polyphor's PEM Technology.

Another drug candidate in Polyphor's portfolio is POL6326, a CXCR4 inhibitor currently in Phase II clinical trials for adult stem cell transplantation in cancer patients as well as other therapeutic applications in oncology, inflammation and regenerative medicine. Obrecht claims POL6326 has the potential to become a multi-billion dollar product because of its numerous applications. Another exciting drug candidate currently in discovery phase is the elastase inhibitor, POL6014. "Elastase is an aggressive enzyme which degrades lung tissue, leading to fibrosis and ultimately, emphysema,"

says Obrecht. "Key to the success of this drug is the possibility of these PEM molecules being inhaled, which would lead to a high concentration in the lungs and low systemic exposure, thus minimising the risks of side effects."

Obrecht claims the scientific and commercial potential of Polyphor's technology platforms and product portfolio is huge, and can be best exploited through partnering, such as the recently announced collaboration with Novartis. The company's core strategy is to partner products and license programmes while retaining marketing rights in specific indications and regions. Polyphor was founded in 1996, and in 2001 it began researching Protein Epitope Mimetics (PEM) in order to develop a new class of drugs based on synthetic molecules that mimicked the biological function of proteins. Today the company is a world leader in addressing protein-protein interactions and mimicking protein epitopes using synthetic, medium-sized, macrocyclic molecules.



PROTEIN EPIOTOPE MIMETICS (PEM)



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