

Hep-Art's Bioartificial Liver Device for Acute Liver Failure receives Grant of 6 million Euro from European Union.

Newly appointed CEO of Hep-Art to guide a 3 years development program.

Tuesday, 17 July 2012, Netherlands: Hep-Art Medical Devices B.V. (Hep-Art), a specialty biotechnology company focusing on the development of bioartificial liver devices (BAL, formerly known as AMC-BAL) for acute liver failure (ALF), announces the granting of 6 million Euro funding by the European seventh Framework Program (FP7) in a consortium together with 4 other parties. The consortium consists of the Academic Medical Center in Amsterdam (NL), who is the program coordinator, The University of Edinburgh (UK) and the companies PharmaCell (NL), Biopredic (F) and Hep-Art (NL).

The BAL originates from a scientific and clinical development program guided by hepatologist Rob Chamuleau, MD, PhD, executed at the Academic Medical Center (AMC) in Amsterdam. Dr Chamuleau, current CSO of Hep-Art, comments: *"In 2000-2001 the BAL charged with freshly isolated porcine liver cells proved to be safe in 14 ALF patients in Naples and Rome. Due to the European moratorium on xenotransplantation AMC and Hep-Art developed human liver cells in large quantities suitable for clinical testing. The BAL loaded with these cells proved efficacy in a pre-clinical study on rats, as recently published in PLoS ONE (vol 7, issue 6, e38778)"*.

Hep-Art has obtained the exclusive commercial rights on the intellectual property around the BAL.

"This consortium around the development of the BAL and the obtained funding under the FP7 grant is of extreme importance to make the BAL available for patients suffering from acute liver failure due to e.g. serious hepatitis infection", comments newly appointed CEO, Eric M. van der Aa, PhD. Dr van der Aa has more than 17 years experience in guiding biotechnology companies from early stage research towards clinical development of drugs and devices in Advanced Therapy Medicinal Products. He added: *"The involved parties in this consortium have all experience and facilities in house to complete the toxicology program and GMP manufacturing of the BAL in order to complete a clinical phase I/IIa clinical trial within 3 years"*.

About Hep-Art Medical Devices B.V.

Hep-Art Medical Devices B.V. is a specialty biotechnology company focusing on the development of bioartificial liver devices for patients suffering from acute liver failure. The company is a spin off from the Academic Medical Center in Amsterdam and holds the exclusive commercial rights of the BAL. Hep-Art Medical Devices B.V. is located at the premises of the Academic Medical Center. For more information, please contact Eric M. van der Aa at e.vanderaa@amc.uva.nl.