### CEACAM1 antibodies for anti-viral therapy

#### Anti-CEACAM1 antibodies promote the anti-viral T cell response

**Invention**

Cytotoxic CD8-positive T cells constitute the crucial leukocyte subpopulation for a cellular response against viral infection. Since only very few direct anti-viral therapeutics are available, the stimulation of an efficient and specific immune response against a viral infection is a valid alternative or additional therapeutic approach. The first of such strategies has been established by use of high doses of interferon, which however has a high risk of adverse reactions of the immune system, and low response rates. Therefore, it is mandatory to search for further immune stimulatory strategies that more specifically induce an anti-viral T cell response.

The herein described approach is based on antibody-mediated stimulation of the carcino-embryonic antigen-related cell adhesion molecule 1 (CEACAM1), which activates early parts of both the B cell and T cell receptor-induced signal transduction.

The researchers have shown on the example of the lymphocytic choriomeningitis virus (LCMV) that these antibodies stimulate the activation and expansion of virus specific cytotoxic T cells, which comes along with a reduced virus load in serum and organs of mice. In vitro studies confirmed efficacy also against influenza virus and cytomegalovirus.

#### Commercial Opportunities

The monoclonal, humanized anti-CEACAM1 antibodies are offered for licensing and further therapeutic development.

#### Current Status

The researcher have conducted experiments with a LMCV-specific immune response mouse model. Further proof of principle with the humanized variant of the antibody has been provided by means of humanized CEACAM1 mice. The antibody activates human virus-specific CD8+ T cells in vitro.

In case of interest we are pleased to inform you about the patent status.

#### Relevant Publications


An invention of the University of Duisburg and Essen.

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**Contact:**

Ref. No. 4782
Kordula Kruber

PROvendis GmbH
Schlossstrasse 11-15
45468 Muelheim an der Ruhr
Germany

Tel.: +49 (0) 208 94 105 30
Fax: +49 (0) 208 94 105 50
E-Mail: kk@provendis.info
Web: www.provendis.info

**Competitive Advantages**

- Complementary anti-viral therapy option
- Applies to a broad range of viruses
- Specific immune response against specific viruses