

Granzyme B identified as a potential therapeutic target for treating autoimmune blister diseases

Vancouver, British Columbia (January 12, 2021) viDA Therapeutics Inc. (viDA), a private biotechnology company, today announced publication of data in which we show proof of concept using a novel small molecule Granzyme B (GzmB) inhibitor, VTI-1002, and knockout approaches in multiple models of autoimmune blistering. The article, entitled “Granzyme B inhibition reduces disease severity in autoimmune blistering diseases”, was published in *Nature Communications* (<https://rdcu.be/cdq3O>)

In this peer-reviewed study, published by a team led by Dr. David Granville (Professor, University of British Columbia, Executive Director of the Vancouver Coastal Health Research Institute and co-founder of viDA), they found that inhibiting GzmB reduced blistering by approximately 50 per cent in three different pemphigoid disease models. Research results also showed that the GzmB-inhibiting gel protected the structural integrity of the skin and reduced inflammation.

The most common autoimmune blistering disease, bullous pemphigoid, affects mainly the elderly, and may be associated with age-related neurologic conditions, as well as the use of newer psychotropic drugs, checkpoint inhibitors for cancer and dipeptidyl peptidase IV (DPP4i) inhibitors for diabetes. Blisters caused by these conditions can be extremely discomforting, unsightly and potentially fatal.

As there is no current cure for pemphigoid diseases, the need for more effective treatments will continue to grow in the population of elderly individuals as it significantly expands.

The present results are consistent with accumulating evidence supporting the use of GzmB-targeted therapeutics for inflammatory skin conditions including recent work published in the *Journal of Investigative Dermatology*, entitled “Granzyme B Contributes to Barrier Dysfunction in Oxazolone-induced Skin Inflammation through E-Cadherin and Filaggrin Cleavage” a model of atopic dermatitis.

Both studies show great promise for GzmB inhibition. A GzmB-blocking gel could be used as a safer, more targeted alternative for treating autoimmune blistering and other inflammatory skin diseases.

About viDA Therapeutics

viDA Therapeutics, Inc. (viDA), a Vancouver, Canada based privately held biotechnology company, is focused on developing first-in-class drugs targeting granzymes, a family of serine proteases that promote autoimmune and chronic diseases.

For additional information about viDA, please visit www.vidatherapeutics.com

Contact Info:

Alistair Duncan, President & CEO

viDA Therapeutics Inc.

aduncan@vidatherapeutics.com