

Charity announces further funding to help find a cure for CMD

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SAM Supports Prothelia in Developing a Treatment for Muscular Dystrophy

Struggle Against Muscular Dystrophy (SAM), the local charity dedicated to bringing effective treatments to children suffering from Congenital Muscular Dystrophy (MDC1A) has committed \$108,000 to Prothelia to support the development of their lead therapeutic, Laminin-111. "With the support of SAM and others, we will bring this therapeutic to market and dramatically improve the quality and longevity of life for children affected by muscular dystrophy" states Rich Cloud, CEO of Prothelia.

Congenital Muscular Dystrophy is a devastating genetic muscle-wasting disease that presents in early childhood and results in profound muscle weakness in all skeletal muscles. Children with MDC1A often cannot walk and have significant respiratory and eating difficulties. There are currently no approved therapies or treatments for this form of muscular dystrophy.

Prothelia's mission is to develop and commercialize therapies for patients with muscular dystrophy and is a collaborative effort of expert scientists, dedicated management, and partnerships with patient advocacy groups, investors, regulatory bodies and other biopharmaceutical institutions.

"Laminin-111 has been found to be extremely effective in restoring lost muscle function in animal models of MDC1A", states Dr. Brad Hodges, CSO of Prothelia. "Our next critical milestones are to reengineer and optimize the genes for human Laminin-111, construct the cell-based production platform, and begin manufacturing of recombinant human Laminin-111 for the anticipated clinical trial. The financial support from SAM will allow us to complete these milestones ahead of schedule and will accelerate our efforts to bring human Laminin-111 to patients with MDC1A."

Prothelia's lead drug candidate, Laminin-111, was first discovered by Dr. Dean Burkin at the University of Nevada, Reno (UNR). UNR has licensed LAM-111 to Prothelia and we are working closely with Dr. Burkin and his staff to accelerate the development of Laminin-111 for treatment of MDC1A, Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy (DMD) and other forms of muscular dystrophy.

SAM is a "zero cost charity" meaning that no money is deducted from donations to cover salaries, administration or overheads – every penny of every pound goes towards funding research projects.

Having raised an incredible £250,000 in just over 18 months the charity is also currently funding research to evaluate 3 promising CMD drug candidates and a separate effort to identify disease biomarkers. SAM has also funded the entire set-up and running costs for a Global Patient Registry – a vital pre-requisite for future clinical trials.

To learn more about SAM please go to www.helpsam.info