Tellus Therapeutics

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Company Profile

Tellus Therapeutics was founded in 2018 as a neonatal care company whose mission is to develop safe and effective treatments for newborns in the neonatal intensive care unit (NICU). One in ten babies is born premature and at significant risk for white matter (myelin) injury and subsequent life-long cognitive and neurological impairments, such as cerebral palsy. Tellus' novel small molecules have demonstrated ability to induce regeneration of myelin-producing oligodendrocytes and reverse white matter injury in animal models of perinatal brain injury. Tellus' TT-20 has been granted Rare Pediatric Disease and Orphan Drug Designations and is completing IND-enabling studies to support a Phase 1b trial in premature infants at risk for brain injury. The potential of the Tellus platform extends beyond treatment of neonatal brain injury into neonatal respiratory and gastrointestinal disorders, including bronchopulmonary dysplasia and necrotizing enterocolitis.

Product Information

Technology Type: Small molecule drug

Technology Target: TT-20 has demonstrated an impressive efficacy and safety profile in models of WMI, supporting its potential as a breakthrough candidate to address the unmet medical need in babies born prematurely. TT-20 is derived from a class of naturally-occurring molecules in breast milk, which promote oligodendrocyte differentiation in postnatal neural stem cell populations, rescue perinatal WMI and reverse motor deficits in mice. The mechanism of action is reparative and independent of the cause of WMI, thereby providing an advantage over neuroprotective approaches that target only injury prevention.

Therapeutic Focus: CNS/Neurological, Orphan/Rare Disease, Regenerative Medicine

Development Program: TT- 20 is in late preclinical development having initiated drug product formulation, IND-enabling work and preparation for a pre-IND meeting in the next year.

Regulatory Pathway: Tellus is pursuing a strategy for market authorization utilizing available FDA regulatory mechanisms, E.g., Orphan Drug Designation, Breakthrough Therapy, FastTrack and Accelerated Approval, to safely and efficiently bring TT20 to newborns with brain injury.

Market Profile

Current Investors: Xontogeny

Unmet Need: Tellus is developing the first treatment to prevent white matter brain injury in babies born premature and to improve neurodevelopment outcomes, including incidence and severity of cerebral palsy.

Competitive Advantage: Tellus is developing the only small molecule therapeutic targeting the repair of white matter brain injury in premature infants.

Funding Raised to Date: $3.6 million in Seed and non-dilutive funding

Go-to-Market Strategy: Tellus is pursuing a strategy for market authorization utilizing available regulatory mechanisms and incentives and will serve the hospital neonatal intensive care units who provide care for neonatal patients.