

TILT Biotherapeutics Announces First US Patient Dosed in Immunotherapy Clinical Trial in Ovarian Cancer

Helsinki, Finland – 11 October 2022: TILT Biotherapeutics, a clinical-stage biotechnology company developing cancer immunotherapies, announces that the first US patient has been dosed in its ovarian cancer trial ([NCT05271318](#)), using its oncolytic adenovirus, TILT-123, that has the potential to be first-in-class for this indication.

This open-label, phase I, dose-escalation, multicenter, and multinational, clinical trial of TILT-123 in combination with MSD's (a tradename of Merck & Co., Inc., Rahway, NJ., USA) anti-PD-1 therapy, KEYTRUDA® (pembrolizumab), is for platinum resistant or refractory ovarian cancer (PROTA, also called TILT-T563). The US patient, treated at the Mayo Clinic, should complete enrollment in the first cohort of three patients, the other two located in Finland. The Phase I trial is expected to enroll up to 15 patients.

The company's European and US open phase I clinical programs now cover several cancer types including ovarian cancer, head and neck cancer, and melanoma. In September, the company announced a new collaboration and supply agreement with MSD to evaluate TILT-123 in combination with KEYTRUDA in patients with immune checkpoint inhibitor refractory non-small cell lung cancer.

TILT Biotherapeutics' CEO, Akseli Hemminki, a cancer clinician who has personally treated hundreds of cancer patients with earlier versions of oncolytic viruses, said, "Ovarian cancer is a killer disease with a pressing need for better therapies. There are no oncolytic viruses or check point inhibitors approved for use in that indication. The first US patient dosed is a significant milestone as we strive to make a difference using our armed oncolytic viruses in this difficult to treat disease. It's a pleasure to work with the prestigious [Mayo Clinic](#) to deliver such innovation with impact. We are investing in our own US operations and opening US trial sites by the end of the year, as we advance towards Phase 2 trials."

The heart of TILT's innovative approach revolves around the use of cancer cell specific oncolytic adenoviruses, armed with cytokines and other molecules to boost the patient's T-cell immune response to better enable it to find and destroy cancer cells.

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KEYTRUDA® is a registered trademark of Merck Sharp & Dohme LLC, a subsidiary of Merck & Co., Inc., Rahway, NJ, USA.

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About TILT Biotherapeutics

TILT Biotherapeutics is a clinical-stage biotechnology company developing cancer therapeutics based on its proprietary oncolytic adenoviruses armed with molecules including cytokines that can stimulate, or suppress, T cells. The company's patented TILT[®] technology, which can be delivered locally and systemically, modifies the tumor microenvironment, and eliminates its ability to suppress immune responses to cancer, thereby enhancing T-cell therapies such as immune checkpoint inhibitors, tumor infiltrating lymphocyte (TIL) therapy, and CAR T therapies.

TILT's lead asset, TILT-123, is a 5/3 chimeric serotype adenovirus armed with two human cytokines: TNF alpha and IL-2. TILT-123 has demonstrated a 100% response rate in pre-clinical cancer models *in vivo*, and it is currently in Phase I clinical trials.

The Company's pioneering approach has been recognized by industry leaders including with the Merck KGaA and Pfizer Alliance, who are collaborating to investigate TILT-123's therapeutic effect in combination with the PD-L1 inhibitor, Avelumab (Bavencio[®]), in Head and Neck cancer (NCT05222932). The Company has two collaborations with MSD, a tradename of Merck & Co., Inc., Rahway, NJ, USA, investigating TILT-123 in combination with pembrolizumab (KEYTRUDA[®]) in Ovarian Cancer (NCT05271318) and in refractory non-small cell lung cancer. In 2019, TILT established an additional partnership with Biotheus, a privately held Chinese company based in Zhuhai, Guangdong, China, for the development and commercialization of TILT's proprietary oncolytic virus TILT-123 in Greater China.

Based in Helsinki, Finland, the company was established in 2013 as a spin-out from the University of Helsinki. It has funding from Lifeline Ventures, Finnish Industry Investment (TESI), angel investors, Business Finland, and the European Innovation Council.