

Lazio Life Sciences

Pharma Finance 2008

The Alsium Consortium

The Rome International Tissue Engineering Laboratory

The ALSIUM CONSORTIUM is an international initiative gathering public and private research institutions and aimed at setting up innovative technologies and procedures for tissue engineering. To this end, a perfect multidisciplinary organization must be activated promoting the collaboration among biotechnology, material science, bioinformatics, genetic, biology and clinical medicine investigators. This multidisciplinary approach makes Alsium a platform of excellence to promote the most innovative solutions in regenerative medicine.

In October 2003, a study promoted by the European Union identified the tissue engineering as one of the most promising research area for the future with potential revenue for 400 billions euro. In fact, tissue engineering technology promises to solve many clinical problems for which, at present, organ transplantation is the elective treatment. Clinical practice evidenced the limits of transplantation owing to organ shortage and rejection. Tissue engineering will allow the fabrication of tissue substitutes to restore structural and functional portions of damaged organs avoiding the transplantation in most critical patients.

Alsium is at the forefront of tissue engineering applications. In fact, significant results have been obtained in fabricating "flat" biosubstitutes (cornea, skin) and "tridimensional" tissues (liver, heart) with polymers endowed with particular characteristics and design. In addition, new procedures have been set up to isolate, expand and manipulate differentiated and stem cells. New materials and procedures are already available for the industrial exploitation and commercialization.

The scientific-industrial complex of the Alsium Consortium will consist of two independent structures: the Centre for Regenerative Technologies (CRT) and the Industrial Area (IA), where companies strongly committed to innovation will be hosted. The activities sustained by Alsium will be focused at developing translational and applicative research and, only in part, at developing basic sciences. Companies hosted in the IA will take advantage of a series of administrative and organizational opportunities including the possibility of a continuous cross-talk with the CRT, where investigators of international relevance will be invited to collaborate.

In addition, a very high level educational program will be fostered to support students from countries potentially interested in the initiative. The educational program will include PhD courses and Masters in both scientific and economical areas.

Negotiations are in progress to fund the initiative with national and international, public and private capitals. The organization of the Consortium is presently ongoing and expressions of interest are welcomed, above all by investment companies.



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