

Saving cells from acid when blood flow stops

ACIDION

THE PROBLEM

Stroke and ischemic heart disease cause massive mortality and disability, yet there is still no approved drug that directly protects tissue from ischemic damage, largely due to the complexity of the underlying biology and the lack of sufficiently selective therapeutic targets.

OUR SOLUTION

We have developed AI-designed miniproteins that selectively inhibit ASIC1a, overcoming a key limitation that has held back this promising ischemia target: the lack of selective, developable inhibitors. These compact protein therapeutics combine high target specificity with a much smaller and simpler-to-produce format than antibodies, creating a scalable approach for ischemic tissue protection. The same platform can be extended to other difficult-to-drug targets.

PATENT STATUS

Priority application filed.

FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

In pre-seed phase: funding from non-dilutive Danish and EU sources, incl. Innovation Fund, NNF schemes, EIC Pathfinder or EIC Accelerator to advance our lead ASIC1a inhibitor through preclinical validation in ischemia models.

MILESTONES

1st round: 2 functional inhibitors, nanomolar lead; inhibition, selectivity and mechanism confirmed, >50% infarct reduction, scalable bacterial production, manuscript submitted.

Next 12–18 months: cardiac ischemia-reperfusion PoC; PK and route of administration; lead optimization; additional patents; pre-seed raise.

TARGET MARKET & CUSTOMERS

- Ischemic stroke: nothing protects brain tissue.
- Myocardial infarction: muscle loss drives heart failure; fits existing reperfusion care.
- Adjacent: chronic pain.
- Customer: pharma with interest ischemia.

THE PROFILE WE ARE LOOKING FOR

Preferred qualifications

Business expertise; experience in protein targets and peptide/protein modalities, network in pharma, experience in funding acquisition.

Personal fit

Collaborative, communicative

TASKS & RESPONSIBILITIES (FIRST 3 MONTHS)

Definition of asset lead indication; lead optimization; financial model and pre-seed raise; incorporation with KU TTO; IP and competitive landscape; first pharma conversations.

ACADEMIC & ENTREPRENEURIAL BACKGROUND OF CURRENT CO-FOUNDERS

Assist. Prof. Janina Sörmann, Prof. Stephan A Pless: ion channel pharmacology, binder design and screening.

PHYSICAL ADDRESS

University of Copenhagen, Jagtvej 160, 2100 Copenhagen.

Remote/hybrid work possible.