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press release

Aspect Biosystems and Novo Nordisk enter partnership to develop bioprinted tissue therapeutics for diabetes and obesity

Partnership will leverage Aspect's proprietary bioprinting technology and Novo Nordisk's expertise and technology in stem cell differentiation and cell therapy development and manufacturing.

Aspect to receive 75 million US dollars in initial payments and up to 650 million dollars in future milestone payments per product arising from the collaboration, plus tiered royalties.

Vancouver, BC, Canada and Bagsværd, Denmark, 12 April 2023 – Aspect Biosystems and Novo Nordisk A/S today announced a collaboration, development, and licence agreement to develop bioprinted tissue therapeutics designed to replace, repair, or supplement biological functions inside the body with the aim of delivering a new class of truly disease-modifying treatments for diabetes and obesity.

The collaboration will leverage Aspect's proprietary bioprinting technology and Novo Nordisk's expertise and technology in stem cell differentiation and cell therapy development and manufacturing.

Under the terms of the agreement, Novo Nordisk will receive an exclusive, worldwide licence to use Aspect's bioprinting technology to develop up to four products for the treatment of diabetes and/or obesity. Aspect will receive initial payments of 75 million dollars, including an upfront payment, research funding and an investment in the form of a convertible note. Aspect is also eligible to receive up to 650 million dollars in future development, regulatory, commercial and sales milestone payments per product, as well as tiered royalties on future product sales.

“We are thrilled to partner with Novo Nordisk, a global leader and pioneer in the fight against diabetes and chronic diseases, to create breakthrough therapeutics that could transform the lives of millions of people around the world,” said Tamer Mohamed, chief executive officer, Aspect Biosystems. “This partnership leverages Aspect’s full-stack tissue therapeutic platform, talented team and bold vision, and reinforces our strategy to create bioprinted tissue therapeutics through partnerships with global industry leaders while also advancing our internal therapeutic pipeline.”

Aspect has developed a platform technology that may allow for development of a novel class of cell-based medicine designed to be biologically functional, encapsulated to be immune-protective and suitable for surgical implantation. Novo Nordisk has developed expertise to differentiate stem cells into a wide array of cells that may be used to replace damaged and lost cells which could lead to a specific disease, such as insulin-producing beta cells in type 1 diabetes, as well as manufacturing capabilities to produce the cells at scale.

By combining the strongholds of each company, the goal of the collaboration is to develop implantable bioprinted tissues to replace, repair or supplement biological functions. These tissues will be designed to be allogeneic, meaning the cells used are derived from a single source to increase the viability of future large-scale manufacturing.

“Novo Nordisk has built strong capabilities when it comes to producing functional and highly pure therapeutic replacement cells at the highest quality and at scale,” said Jacob Sten Petersen, corporate vice president of Cell Therapy R&D, Novo Nordisk. “Collaborating with Aspect Biosystems adds an important component to our strategy to develop comprehensive cell therapy products. We are excited to co-develop solutions for cell therapy delivery that could lead to life-changing treatments for those living with a serious chronic disease.”

The collaboration will initially focus on developing bioprinted tissue therapeutics designed to maintain normal blood glucose levels without the need for immunosuppression, which may represent a transformative treatment for people living with type 1 diabetes.

About Aspect Biosystems

Aspect Biosystems is a biotechnology company pioneering the development of bioprinted tissue therapeutics to transform how we treat currently incurable diseases. Aspect is creating these next generation cell therapies by applying its full-stack tissue therapeutic platform, which combines the company’s proprietary bioprinting technology, therapeutic cells, biomaterials, and computational design. Aspect’s bioprinted tissue therapeutics are designed to replace, repair, or supplement biological function inside the body with the aim of treating currently incurable diseases such as type 1 diabetes as well as genetic and acquired liver diseases. Learn more at www.aspectbiosystems.com.

About Novo Nordisk

Novo Nordisk is a leading global healthcare company, founded in 1923 and headquartered in Denmark. Our purpose is to drive change to defeat diabetes and other serious chronic diseases such as obesity and rare blood and endocrine disorders. We do so by pioneering scientific breakthroughs, expanding access to our medicines, and working to prevent and ultimately cure disease. Novo Nordisk employs about 54,400 people in 80 countries and markets its products in around 170 countries. For more information, visit novonordisk.com, [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [LinkedIn](#) and [YouTube](#).

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