

# argenx awarded €2.5 million VLAIO grant to identify novel therapeutic antibodies

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*Grant to fund research of novel targets involved in regulation of locally-released TGF- $\beta$ , a protein active in immunosuppression*

**Breda, the Netherlands / Ghent, Belgium** – argenx (Euronext & Nasdaq: ARGX), a clinical-stage biotechnology company developing a deep pipeline of differentiated antibody-based therapies for the treatment of severe autoimmune diseases and cancer, today announced that it has received a €2.5 million grant from Flanders Innovation and Entrepreneurship (VLAIO). This grant will be used to examine the role and therapeutic potential of proteins involved in regulating localized release of transforming growth factor beta (TGF- $\beta$ ).

“We are very pleased to receive this support from VLAIO, an organization that has enabled the steady build of highly competitive Flemish biotechnology companies. We hope to use the diversity of our immune repertoires to streamline target validation and transform **novel proteins** into **next generation therapeutic antibody programs**,” commented Michael Saunders, Vice President External Research at argenx. “Through this grant, we will advance our cutting-edge research around TGF- $\beta$  within our Innovative Access Program (IAP). Locally released TGF- $\beta$  plays an important role in immunosuppression, and, as such, we see inhibition of this target as an important therapeutic goal in immuno-oncology. As global inhibition of TGF- $\beta$  comes with important side effects, we are aiming to identify antibodies that can inhibit localized production of TGF- $\beta$  by blocking a series of targets that play a role in the specific spatio-temporal TGF- $\beta$  activation.”

The €2.5 million subsidy from VLAIO was granted to argenx through its IAP as funding of research around selective SIMPLE Antibody™ inhibition of TGF- $\beta$  for potential therapeutic use in immuno-oncology. **We believe the IAP** allows us to continue to mature a unique and sustainable pipeline and brings cutting edge antibody discovery technologies to centers of novel target research.

## **About SIMPLE Antibody™ platform**

argenx’s technology suite consists of four complementary platforms. The proprietary SIMPLE Antibody™ discovery platform enables the discovery of antibodies targeting novel, complex disease targets, and has generated antibody leads with attributes beyond those attainable using current platforms. The Fc engineering technologies NHance®, ABDEG™ and POTELLIGENT® have the potential to further augment the intrinsic therapeutic functionalities of our antibody leads by prolonging product residence time in the human body, enhancing the clearance of either disease targets or pathogenic antibodies and enhancing antibody cell killing through antibody-dependent cell-mediated cytotoxicity. These technology platforms can be applied either individually or in combination yielding differentiated therapeutic antibodies with multiple modes of action.

## **About the Innovative Access Program**

Through the IAP, we bring our antibody discovery technologies to the heart of novel target research through close collaboration with academic experts and small biotech companies. The IAP allows our

collaborators to use our technologies to unravel the functions of novel proteins in disease. In return, we receive early access to targets with therapeutic relevance and the potential to become the next therapeutic antibody programs in our pipeline.

### **About argenx**

argenx is a clinical-stage biotechnology company developing a deep pipeline of differentiated antibody-based therapies for the treatment of severe autoimmune diseases and cancer. We are focused on developing product candidates with the potential to be either first-in-class against novel targets or best-in-class against known, but complex, targets in order to treat diseases with a significant unmet medical need. Our ability to execute on this focus is enabled by our suite of differentiated technologies. Our SIMPLE Antibody™ Platform, based on the powerful llama immune system, allows us to exploit novel and complex targets, and our three antibody engineering technologies are designed to enable us to expand the therapeutic index of our product candidates. [www.argenx.com](http://www.argenx.com)

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