

HOOKIPA PROPOSES IPO AS ITS CANCER VACCINES HEAD TOWARDS THE CLINIC

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Infectious disease and cancer vaccine company Hookipa proposed Friday to raise up to \$86.3 million in an IPO on NASDAQ.

Hookipa Pharma Inc. (New York, N.Y.) is developing vaccines using its VaxWave and TheraT viral vector platforms, both of which are arenavirus-based.

Hookipa's HB-101 is in a Phase II study to prevent cytomegalovirus (CMV) infection in kidney transplantation patients, with preliminary data due in 1H20. The bivalent vaccine uses VaxWave vectors to express human CMV phosphoprotein 65 (pp65; UL83) and truncated CMV glycoprotein B.

The company is also developing HB-201 and HB-202 to treat HPV-positive cancers. Hookipa plans to submit INDs for the candidates in 1H19 and 2H19, respectively.

Baker Brothers is Hookipa's largest shareholder, with 19.7%; Sofinnova Partners and Forbion Capital Partners hold 18.5% and 12.5%, respectively.

Also holding stakes greater than 5% are Boehringer Ingelheim Venture Fund, Takeda Ventures, HBM Partners and Redmile Group. Redmile led the biotech's \$37.4 million (€33 million) series D round last month (see "**Hookipa Seeking Clinical Progress with \$37.4M Series D Round**").

The IPO's underwriters are BofA Merrill Lynch, SVP Leerink, RBC Capital Markets and Kempen.