

## Curevo Raises \$110 Million to Advance Amesosvatein Shingles Vaccine

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*-- Amesosvatein has shown excellent immunogenicity and improved tolerability in Phase 2 study*

*-- Medicxi leads round, joined by new investors OrbiMed, HBM Healthcare Investments, and Sanofi Ventures*

*-- Former Chair of GSK's vaccine business and Chief Scientific Advisor to Operation Warp Speed, Moncef Slaoui, to join Curevo as Board Chair*

SEATTLE, March 17, 2025 (GLOBE NEWSWIRE) -- Curevo Vaccine (Curevo), a privately-held clinical-stage biotechnology company dedicated to developing varicella zoster virus (VZV) vaccines with improved tolerability, today announces the closing of a \$110 million Series B round to advance development of amesosvatein, its vaccine for shingles.

Leading the round is new investor Medicxi, a European biotech-focused investment firm with significant experience investing in vaccine companies such as Vaxcyte and ViceBio. Joining Medicxi is an international group of investment funds including OrbiMed, HBM Healthcare Investments, and Sanofi Ventures plus existing investors RA Capital Management, Janus Henderson Investors, Adjuvant Capital, and founding investor GC Biopharma.

“This Series B round will fund the extension of our successful Phase 2 program into an additional 640 participants, including the key population of adults over age 70, to finalize dose selection ahead of the Phase 3 program,” said Curevo’s CEO, George Simeon, MBA/MPH. “Designed based upon feedback from regulators and other stakeholders, this short extension trial will begin mid-2025 and serve to set the company for clinical, strategic, and regulatory success.”

Concurrent with the round, Moncef Slaoui, PhD, will join Curevo as Board Chair. Dr. Slaoui was most recently the Chief Scientific Advisor to Operation Warp Speed during the COVID-19 pandemic, helping deliver vaccines against the SARS-CoV-2 virus. He spent nearly 30 years at GlaxoSmithKline, during which he helped shape its vaccine business by contributing to the creation of numerous new vaccines including Shingrix® (shingles), Cervarix® (HPV-induced cervical cancer), Mosquirix® (malaria), Rotarix® (rotavirus gastroenteritis), and Synflorix® (pneumococcal disease).

“I have been collaborating with the Curevo team for several weeks now,” stated Dr. Slaoui. “I’m very excited to work with them to help perfect shingles vaccination, adding good tolerability to the exceptional efficacy achieved by the current vaccine. The data so far show Curevo’s adjuvant technology has the attributes to succeed in this endeavor.”

Also joining Curevo’s Board of Directors will be Giovanni Mariggi, PhD, co-founder and Partner at Medicxi, an experienced infectious disease investor and board member. “Patients, doctors, and payors are very clear a new shingles vaccine like amesosvatein would be welcome in the global marketplace. Amesosvatein’s activity and improved tolerability profile could allow it to be a significant product in the shingles vaccines market. We are excited to support Curevo’s plan with a streamlined path to approval,” stated Dr. Mariggi.

Tal Zaks, MD/PhD, will be joining Curevo's Board of Directors on behalf of OrbiMed. Dr. Zaks is the former Chief Medical Officer of Moderna, where he led development of their mRNA vaccine against the SARS-CoV-2 virus. He previously held senior leadership positions in drug development at GSK and Sanofi. "OrbiMed has a long history of investing in biotech companies like Curevo seeking to improve healthcare outcomes while creating long-term shareholder value," said Dr. Zaks. "The fact amezosvatein contains an optimized version of the TLR4 agonist with a known mechanism of action reduces biological risk while providing the competitive advantage of potentially improved tolerability, which should position it as the first choice for people who want to be protected from shingles."

#### **About amezosvatein**

'Amezosvatein' is the assigned non-proprietary name for CRV-101, a non-mRNA adjuvanted subunit vaccine under investigation by Curevo. Like Shingrix, amezosvatein uses a subunit protein antigen called glycoprotein 'E' (gE). Targeting the gE antigen is proven to elicit a long-term, protective immune response to prevent shingles. Amezosvatein's adjuvant contains an optimized version of the TLR4 agonist proven by Shingrix to be biologically active in shingles vaccination. Amezosvatein was engineered to maintain exceptional efficacy and have a best-in-class tolerability profile. The SLA-SE adjuvant formulation was developed at Seattle-based Access to Advanced Health Institute (AAHI) and amezosvatein was licensed from the Mogam Institute for Biomedical Research, a research institute funded by South Korea's GC Biopharma.

#### **About Curevo**

Curevo is a privately held, clinical-stage biotechnology company based near Seattle dedicated to reducing the burden of infectious disease by developing vaccines with improved tolerability and accessibility. Curevo's lead product is amezosvatein, a non-mRNA adjuvanted sub-unit vaccine to prevent shingles, a serious medical condition involving a painful, blistering skin rash where 10-18% of people also develop serious, long-lasting nerve pain. The current \$4+ billion shingles vaccine market is characterized by accessibility issues and vaccine hesitancy/dose avoidance related to vaccine tolerability. For more information visit <https://curevovaccine.com/>.

#### **About Medicxi**

Medicxi is a healthcare-focused investment firm with the mission to create and invest in companies across the full drug development continuum. Leveraging deep expertise in drug development and company creation spanning over two decades, Medicxi invests in early and late-stage therapeutics with a product vision that can fulfill a clear unmet medical need. For more information, please visit: <https://www.medicxi.com>.

#### **About OrbiMed**

OrbiMed is a leading global healthcare investment firm with approximately \$17 billion in assets under management. OrbiMed invests globally across the healthcare industry, from start-ups to large multinational corporations, via private equity funds, public equity funds, and royalty/credit funds. OrbiMed seeks to be a capital provider of choice, providing tailored financing solutions and extensive global team resources to help build world-class healthcare companies.

OrbiMed's team of over 100 professionals is based in New York City, London, San Francisco, Shanghai, Hong Kong, Mumbai, Herzliya, and other key global markets. For more information, please visit [www.orbimed.com](http://www.orbimed.com).

#### **About HBM Healthcare Investments**

Switzerland-based HBM Healthcare Investments focuses on the healthcare sector, holding and managing an international portfolio of promising companies in the human medicine,

biotechnology, medical technology, diagnostics, and related areas. Many of these companies have their lead products already available on the market or are at an advanced stage of development. The portfolio companies are closely tracked and actively guided in their strategic direction. This is what makes HBM Healthcare Investments an interesting alternative to investments in big pharma and biotechnology companies. HBM Healthcare Investments has an international shareholder base and is listed on SIX Swiss Exchange (SIX:HBMN).

### **About Sanofi Ventures**

Sanofi Ventures is the corporate venture capital arm of Sanofi, focused on investing in promising early-stage healthcare companies. The firm supports pioneering innovations in biotechnology, digital health, and life sciences aligning with Sanofi's mission to bring life-changing treatments to patients worldwide. For more information, please visit [www.sanofiventures.com](http://www.sanofiventures.com).

### **About RA Capital**

Founded in 2004, RA Capital Management is a multi-stage investment manager dedicated to evidence-based investing in public and private healthcare, life sciences, and planetary health companies. RA Capital creates and funds innovative companies, from private seed rounds to public follow-on financings, allowing management teams to drive value creation from inception through commercialization and beyond. RA Capital's knowledge engine is guided by its TechAtlas internal research division, and Raven, RA Capital's healthcare incubator, offers entrepreneurs and innovators a collaborative and comprehensive platform to explore the novel and the re-imagined. RA Capital has more than 150 employees and over \$10 billion in assets under management.

### **About Janus Henderson Investors**

Janus Henderson Investors exists to help clients achieve their long-term financial goals. Its active management offers clients the opportunity to outperform passive portfolios over the course of market cycles. With more than 360 investment professionals, Janus Henderson Investors provides access to some of the industry's most talented and innovative thinkers, spanning equities, fixed income, multi-asset, and alternatives, globally. Its investment teams blend insight, originality, and precision with rigorous analysis, structured processes, and robust risk management. Janus Henderson Investors builds client partnerships on openness and trust, channeling expertise from across the business and communicating the views of its experts in a timely and relevant way. <https://www.janushenderson.com/>

### **About Adjuvant Capital**

Headquartered in New York, with offices in Zürich, Adjuvant is a global life science investment fund built to accelerate the development of new technologies for the world's most pressing public health challenges. Backed by prominent healthcare and emerging market investors, Adjuvant draws upon its network of scientists, public health experts, biopharmaceutical industry veterans, and development finance professionals to identify new investment opportunities. Adjuvant invests in companies developing promising new vaccines, therapeutics, diagnostics, and medical devices targeting high-burden infectious diseases, maternal and child health, antimicrobial resistance, and malnutrition, with a commitment to make these interventions accessible globally. For more information, visit <http://www.adjuvantcapital.com>

### **About GC Biopharma**

Founding investor GC Biopharma (formerly known as Green Cross Corporation) is a biopharmaceutical company headquartered in Yongin, South Korea. The company has over half

a century of experience in the development and manufacturing of plasma derivatives and vaccines and expanded its global presence with the successful USA market entry of ALYGLO™ (intravenous immunoglobulin G) in 2024. In line with its mission to meet the demands of future healthcare, GC Biopharma continues to drive innovation by leveraging its core R&D capabilities in engineering of proteins, mRNAs, and lipid nanoparticle (LNP) drug delivery platforms to develop therapeutics for the field of rare disease as well as I&I (Immunology & Inflammation). To learn more about the company, visit <https://www.gcbiopharma.com/eng/>

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