The EU funded project EURE-CART did hold its kick-off meeting in Milan on 27-28 February 2017

Frechen (Germany), March 16, 2017 – acromion GmbH informed that the EURE-CART project (EURopean Endeavour for Chimeric Antigen Receptor Therapies), of which acromion is consortium partner, did hold its kick-off meeting in Milan on 27-28 February 2017. The project officially started on 1st January 2017.

EURE-CART project's main object is to conduct a multicentre, first-in-man Phase I/IIa clinical trial to demonstrate the safety and the efficacy of CD44v6 CAR T-cell immunotherapy in acute myeloid leukaemia and multiple myeloma.

CAR-T CD44v6, developed at IRCCS Ospedale San Raffaele by Attilio Bondanza, head of the Innovative Immunotherapies Unit, and owned by MolMed since 2015, is part of the CAR-T (Chimeric antigen-receptor-engineered T cells) family: lymphocytes armed with chimeric receptors that have demonstrated high anti-tumour potential, also against tumours, which are particularly aggressive and resistant to traditional therapies. CAR-CD44v6, which has already been successfully tested in appropriate murine models, represents a product candidate with a particularly high therapeutic potential, as it specifically recognises variant 6 (v6) of the antigen CD44 (CD44v6), expressed by many haematological malignancies, including acute myeloid leukaemia and multiple myeloma - as well as by several epithelial tumours, including breast, colon, pancreatic, head-and-neck and lung carcinomas.

EURE-CART project is awarded by the European Commission a 5,903,146 Euro grant partially covering R&D expenses of the project over a 48-month period, within the Horizon 2020 - Research and Innovation Framework Programme, section reserved to the new therapies for chronic diseases (including cancer). To carry out this project and to reach clinical translation, a consortium of nine partners from five different EU countries has been established, including clinical, scientific and industrial groups clearly representing excellences in their fields: MolMed S.p.A. (Italy), Ospedale San Raffaele (Italy), Universitätsklinikum Würzburg - (Germany), Ospedale Pediatrico Bambino Gesù (Italy), Fundacio Privada Institut de Recerca de L' Hospital de la Santa Creu i Sant Pau (Spain), Fakultni Nemocnice S Poliklinikou Ostrava Foundation (Czech Republic), Istituto Superiore di Sanità (Italy), Acromion GMBH (Germany), ARTTIC SAS (France).

"One of the assets of the project is its interdisciplinary approach. To come together on a regular basis to ensure a transparent and efficient project process is very important", says Catia Traversari, Principal Investigator of the project at MolMed. *"The kick-off meeting is the start of this process; I am very much looking forward to the next steps we will agree on, in order to push this breakthrough field forward. Indeed, adoptive immunotherapy with T cells genetically modified with a tumour-reactive CAR is an innovative therapeutic concept, promising to eradicate cancer cells, without causing secondary chronic diseases. The main expected impact of EURE-CART is the establishment of CAR T-cell therapy as the ultimate personalised therapy, capable of defeating neoplastic diseases."*