Hong Kong-based startup Immuno Cure BioTech raises $12M in series A round

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The funds will be used to advance DNA vaccines & immunotherapies for HIV, cancers & infectious diseases

Immuno Cure BioTech, a biotechnology group based in the Hong Kong Science Park, has closed the $12 million tranche in the $27 million Series A fundraising round. Led by the AEF Greater Bay Area Fund that Gobi Partners GBA manages, this round will be used to accelerate the development of DNA vaccines and antibodies, as well as to prepare for an initial public offering (IPO) in Hong Kong.

Immuno Cure focuses on research and development of immunotherapies for cancers, inflammatory and infectious diseases based on its patented "PD-1-enhanced DNA Vaccine Platform" and "Anti-?42PD1 Antibody Platform" with two DNA vaccine candidates, ICVAX and ICCOV, currently in clinical trials.

ICVAX, a therapeutic DNA vaccine candidate against HIV/AIDS, was developed with an aim to induce broadly reactive polyfunctional viral-specific T cells to achieve functional cure in HIV/AIDS. The Phase I clinical trial of ICVAX, which is underway in Shenzhen, is designed as a randomised, double-blinded, placebo-controlled study to evaluate the safety and immunogenicity of ICVAX in a total of 45 stable HIV/AIDS patient volunteers under antiretroviral therapy.

ICCOV, a preventive COVID-19 DNA vaccine candidate, has entered the Phase IIa clinical trial in Hong Kong, which is designed as an open-label study to evaluate the immunogenicity and safety of ICCOV as a booster vaccine in a total of 60 healthy adult volunteers between 18 and 75 years of age.

Furthermore, Immuno Cure has made significant achievements on the Anti-?42PD1 Antibody platform, which utilises antibodies targeting ?42PD1, a recently discovered isoformic programmed cell death protein 1 (PD-1), for the restoration of function of killer T cells, a type of immune cells essential for killing cancer cells, for the treatment of cancers such as liver cancer and colorectal cancer.