

Astellas, Potenza partner to enhance immune-oncology programs

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Singapore: Japan's Astellas Pharma and Potenza Therapeutics, a biotechnology company developing a portfolio of immuno-oncology programs, have collaborated to build a portfolio of novel mechanisms for targeting immune checkpoint pathways, co-stimulatory signals and regulatory T cells.

"We are at the beginning of a new era in cancer therapy. First generation immuno-oncology therapeutics have demonstrated meaningful clinical benefit to patients with certain cancers. The new targets and pathways that Potenza is working on offer promise for continued expansion of immunotherapy treatment options," said Mr Daniel Hicklin, co-founder, Potenza and the company's chief executive Officer. "We are excited to partner with Astellas to progress our programs in support of their strategy to become a global leader in oncology and next-generation therapeutics."

Under the terms of the collaboration agreement, Potenza will lead drug discovery activities and deliver development candidates to Astellas. Astellas will be responsible for clinical development activities and commercialization. Specific financial terms will not be disclosed, but include an equity investment, option fee, research funding, and potential future acquisition and milestone payments.