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Juno Therapeutics signs three license agreements

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Through its agreement with Eli Lilly and Company, Juno will acquire a license to the GSI known as LY3039478 which is a product candidate that has been studied in 411 patients and healthy volunteers



US based biopharma company Juno Therapeutics has announced three license agreements to advance its program in multiple myeloma using gamma secretase inhibitors (GSIs) in combination with BCMA-directed CAR T cells.

Juno therapeutics is a biopharmaceutical company developing innovative cellular immunotherapies for the treatment of cancer

Gamma secretase is an enzyme that cleaves a set of transmembrane proteins, including BCMA. Multiple publications have shown that treatment with GSIs can increase surface expression of BCMA on tumors, particularly multiple myeloma. Increased cell surface BCMA may increase potency of a BCMA-directed CAR T therapy1.

Sunil Agarwal, M.D., Juno's President of Research and Development said, "BCMA appears to be an important target for treating patients with multiple myeloma and Juno is dedicated to investigating novel approaches to maximize efficacy for these patients. These licenses open up an important approach to improve the activity and outcomes for CAR T cells targeted at BCMA. We plan to begin clinical trials in 2018 combining a gamma secretase inhibitor with our BCMA CAR T product candidates."

Through its agreement with Eli Lilly and Company, Juno will acquire a license to the GSI known as LY3039478 which is a product candidate that has been studied in 411 patients and healthy volunteers.

Through its agreements with OncoTracker and Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center, Juno will gain exclusive rights to intellectual property within the field of combinations of GSIs and BCMA-directed engineered T cells.

Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center is an independent, nonprofit research institute based in Seattle,

OncoTracker is a Los Angeles-based medical diagnostics company, with exclusive rights to the recent and patented discovery of a novel blood biomarker that monitors the tumor burden of patients with multiple myeloma, CLL, B cell lymphoma and potentially other cancers.