Dr. Bent Jakobsen, Immunocore’s Chief Scientific Officer, elected to the Fellowship of the Academy of Medical Sciences

(Oxford, UK, 28 May 2015) Immunocore Limited, a world-leading biotechnology company developing novel biological drugs to treat cancer, viral infections and autoimmune disease, announces that its Chief Scientific Officer and co-founder, Dr. Bent Jakobsen, has been recognised for his contribution to medical science with an election to the Fellowship of the Academy of Medical Sciences.

Through decades of research, Dr Jakobsen has been instrumental in the development of Immunocore’s unique immuno-oncology platform technology, ImmTACs, and has contributed significantly to scientific advances in T cell receptor technology more broadly. This technology has the potential to create breakthrough treatments for diseases with high unmet medical need including cancer, viral infections and autoimmune diseases.

Dr. Eliot Forster, Chief Executive Officer of Immunocore, commented: “Bent Jakobsen’s contribution to the field of immuno-oncology through his work with both Immunocore and its sister company Adaptimmune is hard to over-estimate. He has been instrumental in establishing proof of concept for the T cell receptor technology which is at the heart of both companies’ technology platforms. He has played a central role in helping form Immunocore and in bringing our most advanced drug candidate, IMCgp100, to the clinic. We are delighted that he has been recognized by the Academy of Medical Sciences for this work.”

Dr. Bent Jakobsen said: “I am honoured to have been elected to a Fellowship of such a prestigious institution, and I hope that this recognition will help to further awareness of the advances we are making at Immunocore, and in T cell receptor technology across the board and the promise it holds for cancer patients.”

The Academy of Medical Sciences promotes innovation in medical science and campaigns to ensure patients can benefit from these developments. It elects Fellows for excellence in medical research, innovative application of scientific knowledge or for their conspicuous service to healthcare.

Dr. Jakobsen is one of 48 new Fellows who have been elected in 2015, who will be admitted formally to the Academy at a ceremony on July 1st, 2015.

More detail on this year’s Fellows, including a full list, can be viewed here:

http://www.acmedsci.ac.uk
Notes for editors

About Dr Bent Jakobsen

Dr Bent Jakobsen co-founded Immunocore in 2008 and has served as Chief Scientific Officer and Executive Board Member since that time. He is also scientific co-founder of Adaptimmune Ltd, where he provides strategic and advisory input as well as oversight of research programmes. He was previously Chief Scientific Officer of Avidex, a company he founded in 1999 as a spin-out from the University of Oxford to develop novel T cell receptor-based drugs. Dr Jakobsen was head of the Immune Receptor Group at the Institute of Molecular Medicine (IMM) in Oxford from 1993 to July 2000. Prior to this, he was a Senior Research Fellow of the Danish Natural Research Council, Aarhus, Denmark, and undertook post-doctoral research at the Laboratory of Molecular Biology of the Medical Research Council in Cambridge. Dr Jakobsen has authored numerous scientific papers and is considered a world expert in the field of T cell receptor immunology.

About Immunocore

Immunocore is one of the world’s leading biotechnology companies, with a highly innovative immuno-oncology platform technology called ImmTACs. ImmTACs are a novel
class of biologic drugs based on the Company's proprietary T cell receptor (TCR) technology which have the potential to treat diseases with high unmet medical need including cancer, viral infections and autoimmune diseases. Immunocore, based on decades of world-leading scientific innovation in the discovery of HLA targets and T cell receptor technology, has a pipeline of wholly-owned and partnered ImmTAC programmes with robust clinical data, validated by collaborations with world-leading pharmaceutical companies. Immunocore aims to leverage the utility of its platform across a wide range of indications to become a Premier Biotech company and world-leader in its field.

Immunocore's world-leading science and strong IP position has attracted major pharmaceutical companies including Genentech, GlaxoSmithKline, MedImmune, the biologics division of AstraZeneca, via discovery collaborations, as well as a co-discovery and co-development partnership with Lilly. Founded in 2008 originally out of Oxford University and headquartered outside Oxford, Immunocore now has more than 140 staff. Immunocore is well funded and owned by a group of long-term private investors. For more information, please visit www.immunocore.com

About ImmTACs

Immunocore’s proprietary technology is focused on small protein molecules called ImmTACs (Immune mobilising mTCR Against Cancer) that enable the immune system to recognise and kill cancerous or bacterially/virally infected cells.

Immunocore's ImmTACs, a new class of drug with ultra-high affinity for intracellular cancer targets, are synthetic, soluble T cell receptors (TCRs) that recognise diseased cells containing disease specific targets. The ImmTACs enable circulating T-cells to selectively identify and kill diseased cells. The ImmTAC platform is unique in its high specificity and potency and broad applicability to a wide range of intracellular targets and disease indications. ImmTACs can access up to nine-fold more targets than typical antibody-based therapies, including monoclonal antibodies.

TCRs naturally recognise diseased cells and Immunocore’s world-leading competitive advantage is its ability to engineer high affinity TCRs and link them to an antibody fragment that activates a highly potent and specific T cell response to recognise and destroy cancer cells. The most advanced ImmTAC, IMCgp100, is currently in Phase IIa clinical trials for the treatment of late stage melanoma. Immunocore has a growing internal pipeline of ImmTACs addressing many different cancer types and has developed a broad database of intracellular cancer targets.

ImmTACs can address a significantly larger range of disease indications than currently respond to existing immuno-oncology agents and combine the characteristics of very high potency, encouraging safety and low cost of goods.

About Fellowship of the Academy of Medical Sciences
This year Fellows were chosen from 362 candidates. The seven Sectional Committees met in March to consider potential Fellows for 2015 entry to the Academy. Three nominators from within the Fellowship must back each candidate. The Academy Registrar, Professor Moira Whyte, Professor of Respiratory Medicine, University of Sheffield, oversees the election.

The election brings the number of Fellows to 1169.

In 2013, the Academy released the report “Representation of women within the Academy’s Fellowship”, which scrutinised the nomination and election process for gender balance and equality.

The independent Academy of Medical Sciences promotes advances in medical science and campaigns to ensure these are translated into benefits for patients. The Academy’s Fellows are the United Kingdom’s leading medical scientists from hospitals, academia, industry and the public service.

Further details may be obtained from The Academy of Medical Sciences, 41 Portland Place, London W1B 1QH. Tel: 020 3176 2183

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