

# IMMUNOCORE

targeting T cell receptors

PRESS RELEASE – IMMUNOCORE LIMITED

## Immunocore named one of Fierce 15 leading biotechs of 2013

**(Oxford, UK, 24 September 2013)** Immunocore Limited, the Oxford-based biotechnology company developing novel biological drugs to treat cancer and viral disease, has today been named by FierceBiotech as one of 2013's Fierce 15 biotechs, designating it as one of the most promising private biotechnology companies in the industry. This is FierceBiotech's eleventh annual Fierce 15 selection.

"Immunocore offers an interesting early-stage approach to rallying the immune system against cancer," said FierceBiotech Executive Editor Ryan McBride. "Its T-cell receptor technology has taken many years to invent from scratch, and the hard work has begun to pay dividends with two recent pharma partnership deals."

The company's world-leading platform of bi-specific biological drugs, called ImmTACs (Immune mobilising mTCR Against Cancer), exploit the power of T Cell Receptors (TCRs) to recognise intracellular changes that occur during cancer or viral infection. This unique recognition ability of TCRs sets them apart from traditional antibody-based therapies that can only recognise changes on the surface of cells, and provides, for the first time, the ability to develop extremely potent targeted therapies for cancers that are poorly served. A particular feature is that the ImmTACs can be directed to target and destroy only the cancerous cells, avoiding damage to healthy cells.

The most advanced ImmTAC drug, IMCgp100 for the treatment of melanoma, is in Phase I/II clinical trials in the UK and USA.

This summer, Immunocore announced two major partnership agreements with Genentech, a member of Roche Group, and GlaxoSmithKline to discover, develop and commercialise ImmTAC therapies against multiple targets.

James Noble, Chief Executive Officer of Immunocore, commented: "We are delighted to receive this prestigious award from FierceBiotech and be ranked among the top private biotech firms globally. This award recognizes 14 years of work to develop our technology and create a robust and reproducible platform, which has been validated through our two significant partnership deals, enabling our ImmTACs to be deployed as the basis of breakthrough treatments for cancers where there is a large unmet medical need."

The Fierce 15 celebrates the spirit of being "fierce" - championing innovation and creativity, even in the face of intense competition.

An internationally recognized daily newsletter reaching more than 100,000 biotech and pharma industry professionals, FierceBiotech provides subscribers with an authoritative analysis of the day's top stories. Every year FierceBiotech evaluates hundreds of private

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companies from around the world for its annual Fierce 15 list, which is based on a variety of factors such as the strength of its technology, partnerships, venture backers and a competitive market position.

A complete list of “Fierce 15” companies - the online newsletter’s eleventh annual selection - is available at [www.fiercebiotech.com](http://www.fiercebiotech.com)

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## Images

1. James Noble, Chief Executive Officer of Immunocore



2. Immunocore laboratory – Scientists growing research cells



## Available on request:

3. Melanoma cancer cells (red) are targeted and killed by T cells (blue) when activated by the drug, IMCgp100 (a melanoma specific ImmTAC). Healthy cells (green) are ignored and left undamaged.
4. T cell (grey) killing a tumour cell (yellow)

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### **Killing cancer - video available on request**

A video is available on request which shows melanoma cancer cells (red) being killed by T cells (blue) when activated by the drug, IMCgp100 (a melanoma specific ImmTAC). Healthy cells (green) are ignored and left undamaged.

The video can be viewed at: <http://www.immunocore.com/technology/cancer-killing/>

### **Notes for editors**

#### **About Immunocore**

Founded in 2008, Immunocore Ltd is a privately owned, clinical-stage, biotechnology company developing a highly innovative platform technology that generates novel drugs called ImmTACs for the treatment of cancer and viral infection.

Immunocore traces its roots to Avidex Ltd, founded in 1999 as a spin-out from the University of Oxford to develop novel T Cell Receptor technology invented by the founder and chief scientist, Dr Bent Jakobsen. The Company has over 65 staff and is located in Abingdon, Oxfordshire.

Immunocore has major discovery collaborations with leading pharmaceutical companies Genentech and GlaxoSmithKline.

#### **About ImmTACs**

Immunocore's ImmTAC (Immune mobilising mTCR Against Cancer) technology enables the immune system to recognise and kill cancer or viral cells.

T Cell Receptors naturally recognise diseased cells and Immunocore's competitive advantage is its ability to engineer high affinity T Cell Receptors and link them to an antibody fragment, anti-CD3, which can activate the immune system to kill the targeted cancer or viral cells. These bi-specific proteins, called ImmTACS, have the potential to be extremely potent anti-cancer or anti-viral agents.

Immunocore has completed development of the ImmTAC technology, including the generation of a Good Manufacturing Practice (GMP) compliant, fully scalable manufacture route. The company has also established regulatory pathways approved by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) that will form the basis of all future ImmTAC programmes.

The most advanced ImmTAC drug, IMCgp100, is currently in clinical trials in melanoma patients in both the US and UK. For more information: [www.immunocore.com](http://www.immunocore.com)