GeneOne Life Science and Houston Methodist will Develop a COVID-19 Vaccine

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GeneOne Life Science is partnering with Houston Methodist to develop an RNA vaccine against COVID-19, the novel coronavirus that has now caused a global pandemic. Houston Methodist has established an RNA therapeutics research program to design, manufacture and test clinical-grade RNA. GeneOne, based in Seoul, South Korea, and its Texas-based manufacturing subsidiary VGXI have expertise in generating pre-clinical through cGMP-grade DNA plasmids for vaccines, gene therapies and viral vector production. VGXI, GeneOne’s fully owned subsidiary located in The Woodlands, Texas, has a pre-existing exclusive license with Houston Methodist to develop large-batch RNA manufacturing capacity. Together, the group will generate and test an RNA vaccine against COVID-19.

The RNA therapeutics research program at Houston Methodist is led by professor and chair John Cooke, M.D., Ph.D., and scientific director Roman Sukhovershin, M.D., Ph.D. The program designs and generates RNA constructs for the scientific and medical communities in the Texas Medical Center and across the world. In addition to manufacturing non-GMP and cGMP RNA, the scientists in the RNA Therapeutics research program develop technologies to improve the stability and enhance the delivery of RNA products, as well as have the facilities to support testing of RNA products in pre-clinical models and a first-in-man clinical trials unit.

This partnership will leverage the expertise of GeneOne in generating DNA therapeutics and its experience in developing vaccines against coronaviruses to rapidly generate and assess the efficacy of an RNA vaccine against COVID-19.

“RNA vaccines are a new class of therapeutics that are particularly promising for a rapid response to a pandemic,” said Cooke of Houston Methodist “We are fortunate to have GeneOne and VGXI as partners in this effort to combat COVID-19.”

GeneOne President and CEO Young K. Park added, “The partnership between Houston Methodist and GeneOne will drive development of this innovative RNA vaccine platform against COVID-19.”

About Houston Methodist

Houston Methodist is an academic medical center comprising seven hospitals and a Research Institute. Houston Methodist Hospital, the system’s flagship, is ranked the #1 hospital in Texas by U.S. News and World Report and is located in the Texas Medical Center, which is the largest medical center globally. The RNA therapeutics research program at Houston Methodist began as a core group for the Progenitor Cell Biology Consortium of the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute and is now also supported by the Cancer Prevention Research Institute of Texas to further the development of cutting-edge RNA technologies for cancer. Funding from GeneOne has
permitted the program to expand into vaccines. For more information, visit https://www.houstonmethodist.org/research/our-research/cores/rnacore/.

About VGXI, Inc.
VGXI, Inc. has nearly 20 years of experience and is a leading provider of manufacturing and development services for DNA vaccines and gene therapies. The company has a reputation of success in manufacturing DNA products under cGMP conditions for clinical trials in the US, EU, Asia, Canada, and Australia, and its cGMP and non-GMP products have passed rigorous reviews by several international regulatory agencies. VGXI’s ability to work with unique requirements and create custom manufacturing solutions is based on its patented manufacturing process, flexible cGMP production facility, and experienced development team. VGXI, Inc. is a wholly-owned subsidiary CDMO of GeneOne Life Science, Inc. To learn more or request a quote, visit http://www.vgxii.com.

About GeneOne Life Science
GeneOne Life Science Inc. (“GeneOne” KOSPI: 011000) is an international DNA vaccine and product developer and leading contract manufacturer of DNA plasmid-based agents for pre-clinical and clinical trials for global companies and institutions. It researches and develops DNA vaccines and products to prevent and treat incurable diseases in South Korea and internationally. The company is headquartered in Seoul, South Korea. VGXI, Inc., GeneOne's wholly-owned manufacturing subsidiary located in Texas, is a global leader of cGMP DNA plasmid and RNA manufacturing. For more information, visit http://www.genels.com/en.

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