

CaroGen Awarded \$3 M Grant from the National Institutes of Health

Farmington, CT, May 3, 2021 – CaroGen Corporation (<https://carogencorp.com>), the developer of transformative immunotherapies for cancer and infectious diseases, today announced that it has been awarded a \$3 million Phase 2b SBIR grant from the National Institutes of Health (NIH) to advance its lead clinical candidate in infectious diseases, CARG-201, toward human clinical trials for patients chronically infected with hepatitis B virus (HBV). CARG-201 is being developed by collaborative efforts of CaroGen, Yale University School of Medicine and Albany Medical College scientists and over \$5 million NIH funding since 2018.

“CARG-201 is based on our proprietary platform, **AVIDIO** (Artificial Virus for Infectious Diseases and Immune-Oncology), which is capable of simultaneously delivering multiple therapeutic agents. Therefore, it can potentially induce broad and durable antibody and T cell responses to eradicate the virus in patients chronically infected with HBV,” said Valerian Nakaar, Ph.D. (Principal Investigator), CSO and co-founder, at CaroGen. “In our preclinical mouse efficacy studies, CARG-201 has shown significant reduction of HBsAg, a major biomarker of HBV infection.”

“Over 250 million people in the world are infected with HBV, and while there are several effective antiviral drugs available to treat the patients to reduce their viral load and minimize symptoms, there is no cure. Development of CARG-201 is a blockbuster market opportunity. It is designed to be given to HBV patients to further boost their immune system to eradicate HBV antigens or generate antibodies to control the disease without a need for medications.” said Bijan Almassian, Ph.D., CEO & co-founder of CaroGen.

About CaroGen Corporation

CaroGen, based in Farmington, CT is creating a portfolio of immunotherapies and vaccines for oncology and infectious diseases using its patented **AVIDIO** immunotherapy platform, discovered at Yale University School of Medicine by renowned virologist and co-founder of CaroGen professor John Rose, Ph.D., and licensed by CaroGen for worldwide use. Using its AVIDIO platform, CaroGen is developing a portfolio of products including CARG-2020 for treatment of patients with colorectal and ovarian cancer in collaboration with UConn Health and Wayne State University scientists, respectively.

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