



## Press release

### **TxCell appoints Dr. Li Zhou as Vice President Cell Engineering to lead its CAR-Treg programs**

#### **CAR-T expert to accelerate R&D efforts and expand the potential of TxCell's CAR-Treg platform**

**Valbonne, France, October 13, 2016 – TxCell SA (FR0010127662 – TXCL)**, a biotechnology company developing innovative, personalized cellular immunotherapies using regulatory T cells (Treg) to treat severe chronic inflammatory and autoimmune diseases, today announces the appointment of Li Zhou, PhD, as Vice President, Cell Engineering. Dr. Zhou brings extensive pharmaceutical experience in antibody engineering and T-cell engineering to strengthen and accelerate the development of TxCell's ENTrIA CAR-Treg platform.

Dr. Zhou was notably Lab Head, Investigator at the Novartis Biologics Center in Cambridge (Massachusetts, US), from 2009 to 2016. In this role, he led the discovery and engineering activities on Chimeric Antigen Receptor (CAR) T cells (CAR-T) for cancer immunotherapy, with lead candidates now in clinical trials. He also led the development of next-generation CAR-Ts, including inducible CAR-Ts, which have achieved *in vivo* proof-of-concept.

In his new role, Dr. Zhou will lead TxCell's Cell Engineering team within the Research Department. In particular, he will lead the discovery and engineering activities on Chimeric Antigen Receptor in Treg cells (CAR-Treg) for immunotherapy of severe chronic autoimmune and inflammatory diseases as well as organ transplantation.

*"With this key appointment, TxCell is demonstrating its commitment to be at the forefront of cellular immunotherapy,"* said François Meyer, Head of Research of TxCell. *"Cell engineering significantly broadens the potential therapeutic applications of TxCell's technology and we have recently intensified the research efforts on our ENTrIA CAR-Treg platform. Li brings a wealth of technical and strategic expertise in T-cell engineering, which will be of great value to TxCell as we develop novel and next-generation Treg-based therapies."*

*"This is a very exciting time to be joining TxCell,"* said Dr. Li Zhou, Vice President, Cell Engineering, at TxCell. *"TxCell has strong Treg expertise as well as great partnerships with world-leading scientists. What we are doing here with CAR-Tregs to treat autoimmune diseases and transplantation-related disorders is truly unique. Everything is in place to rapidly build a solid cell engineering capacity and deliver on the Company's goals."*

Over the past few months, TxCell has intensified research on its second technology platform, ENTrIA, composed of engineered regulatory T cells (CAR-Treg). TxCell is focusing on four or five CAR-Treg programs, notably targeting lupus nephritis, bullous pemphigoid, multiple sclerosis and transplantation. TxCell's objectives are to generate several additional preclinical

proof-of-concept data within the next 12 months and to start at least one first-in-man clinical study before the end of 2018. A number of these programs are being developed through collaboration agreements with leading academic laboratories, including Ospedale San Raffaele (OSR) and the Lübeck Institute of Experimental Dermatology (LIED).

### About Dr. Li Zhou

Dr. Li Zhou has over 20 years of experience in drug discovery gained in pharma or biotech companies as well as in academic labs. Prior to joining TxCell, he was Chief Scientific Officer, Director of R&D at ZMKS International Cancer Therapy Biotechnologies Co., LTD, a Chinese immuno-oncology company. He was previously Lab Head, Investigator at the Novartis Biologics Center in Cambridge (Massachusetts, US), from 2009 to 2016. In this role, he led the discovery and engineering efforts on CAR-T cells for cancer immunotherapy, with top candidates now in clinical trials. He also led the development of next-generation CAR-Ts, including regulatable (or inducible) CAR-Ts, which have achieved *in vivo* proof-of-concept. Prior to joining Novartis, Li was Team Leader, Center for Computational and Integrated Biology, at the Massachusetts General Hospital (Massachusetts, US), from 2002 to 2009. His previous roles include research positions at Cereon Genomics, Monsanto Company (Massachusetts, US), and at the Department of Genetics, Harvard Medical School (Massachusetts, US). Li holds a PhD in Molecular and Cell Biology from the Beijing University (Beijing, China) and is the author of a number of patents and peer-reviewed publications.

### About TxCell – [www.txcell.com](http://www.txcell.com)

TxCell is a biotechnology company that develops platforms for innovative, personalized T cell immunotherapies for the treatment of severe chronic inflammatory and autoimmune diseases with high unmet medical need. TxCell is targeting a range of autoimmune diseases (both T-cell and B-cell-mediated) including Crohn's disease, lupus nephritis, bullous pemphigoid and multiple sclerosis, as well as transplantation-related inflammatory disorders.

TxCell is the only clinical-stage cellular therapy company fully dedicated to the science of regulatory T lymphocytes (Tregs). Tregs are a recently discovered T cell population for which anti-inflammatory properties have been demonstrated. Contrary to conventional approaches based on non-specific polyclonal Tregs, TxCell is exclusively developing antigen-specific Tregs. This antigen specificity may either come from pre-existing Treg T-Cell Receptor (TCR) or from genetic modifications with a Chimeric Antigen Receptor (CAR). TxCell is developing two proprietary technology platforms, ASTrIA, which is composed of non-modified naturally antigen-specific Tregs, and ENTrIA, which is composed of genetically-engineered Tregs.

Based in Sophia-Antipolis, France, TxCell is listed on Euronext Paris and currently has 49 employees.

### Next events

#### Financial and business conferences

Oct 26, 2016	GGs Equity Forum	Heilbronn (Germany)
Nov 3, 2016	ARM EU Advanced Therapies Investor Day	London (UK)
Nov 7-9, 2016	BIO Europe	Cologne (Germany)
Nov 16-17, 2016	Jefferies London Healthcare Conference	London (UK)
Nov 18-19, 2016	Actionaria	Paris (France)
Nov 21-23, 2016	German Equity Forum	Frankfurt (Germany)

## Scientific conferences

Oct 15-19, 2016	United European Gastroenterology Week 2016	Vienna (Austria)
Oct 18-21, 2016	European Society of Gene and Cell Therapy (ESGCT) Annual Meeting 2016	Firenze (Italy)
Nov 29-30, 2016	Cell Therapy Manufacturing & Gene Therapy Congress	Amsterdam (NL)

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This press release contains certain forward-looking statements relating to the business of TxCell, which shall not be considered *per se* as historical facts, including TxCell's ability to develop, market, commercialize and achieve market acceptance for specific products, estimates for future performance and estimates regarding anticipated operating losses, future revenues, capital requirements, needs for additional financing. In addition, even if the actual results or development of TxCell are consistent with the forward-looking statements contained in this press release, those results or developments of TxCell may not be indicative of their in the future.

In some cases, you can identify forward-looking statements by words such as "could," "should," "may," "expects," "anticipates," "believes," "intends," "estimates," "aims," "targets," or similar words. Although the management of TxCell believes that these forward-looking statements are reasonably made, they are based largely on the current expectations of TxCell as of the date of this press release and are subject to a number of known and unknown risks and uncertainties and other factors that may cause actual results, performance or achievements to be materially different from any future results, performance or achievement expressed or implied by these forward-looking statements. In particular, the expectations of TxCell could be affected by, among other things, uncertainties involved in the development of the Company's products, which may not succeed, or in the delivery of TxCell's products marketing authorizations by the relevant regulatory authorities and, in general, any factor that could affect TxCell capacity to commercialize the products it develops, as well as, any other risk and uncertainties developed or identified in any public documents filed by TxCell with the AMF, included those listed in chapter 4 "Risk factors" of the 2015 *document de référence* approved by the AMF on May 24, 2016 under number R.16-048. In light of these risks and uncertainties, there can be no assurance that the forward-looking statements made in this press release will in fact be realized. Notwithstanding the compliance with article 223-1 of the General Regulation of the AMF (the information disclosed must be "accurate, precise and fairly presented"), TxCell is providing the information in these materials as of this press release, and disclaims any intention or obligation to publicly update or revise any forward-looking statements, whether as a result of new information, future events, or otherwise.