



Production of a new generation immunomodulator.

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“It is heart-warming that the product received the prize as the best invention of 2013 “

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FAST FACTS

Country or Region:

LATVIA

University:

Riga Stradins University (RSU)

Business partners:

- ANIMA LAB Ltd
- HONESTUM Ltd

Area of UBC:

- RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT
- COMMERCIALISATION

Project start date: 2007

Project end date: On going

Keywords:

- Pharmacy
- Food supplement
- Microbiology
- Oncology
- Virology

PROJECT SUMMARY

This case study is closely related to UBC case study “The making of functional food product “Labdaris””. That is, here the researchers from RSU’s August Kirchnerstein Institute of Microbiology and Virology embarked on research to find a technology to source glycopeptides from lactobacillus, and to design a product where these glycopeptides could be used. With the help of project’s business partners as well as financial backing from EU funds, a new product has been developed – “Glycomune”. The work of joint work of university and business partners has been praised by Latvian Academy of Sciences, which, in 2014, proclaimed the invention to be the best of 2013.

CASE STUDY IN DETAILS

Project Background and Needs

Researchers at the RSU’s August Kirchnerstein Institute of Microbiology and Virology discovered how to naturally obtain glycopeptides from lactobacillus. The challenge was to devise a product where this discovery could be put into effect.

Project Solution

University’s researchers combined glycopeptides with beta-glucans (obtained from shiitake and chanterelle mushrooms) and with vitamin C, the result of which was a new product (named “Glycomune”) that could significantly improve person’s immune system.

In 2010 researchers together with ANIMA LAB participated in an ERAF project to produce a prototype, the final product and to test the efficiency of this product on patients suffering from oncological or virus-related diseases. The total budget of the project was approximately 170 thousand Euros, of which around 60 thousand Euros came from the university and the project partner. The project lasted for two years and during this time Glycomune was tested on patients. The end result was a success, namely, it was shown that by using this product the process of recovery, for example, after chemo therapy, was much better than otherwise.

Achievements and Impact

As a result of the cooperation, there is a new product in the

Key Objectives:

- To create a product that would contain glycopeptides.
- To find a cooperation partner – a manufacturer – so that the product could be brought to the market.

Lessons learned:

- From the outset of the project it is important to agree on the terms of cooperation, by setting roles and responsibilities, results to be achieved and ownership of the outcomes.
- External financing from EU structural funds was crucial for cooperation between university and the business side.
- The whole project cannot be based on the knowledge and expertise of one person. It is important to have a team where the knowledge is spread, so that the project does not fall apart if the main person leaves the project.

University profile:

Riga Stradins University (RSU) acquired its status as a university in 2002, however its historical roots extend back to Riga Medical Institute, founded in 1950. Today RSU trains not only doctors, dentists, pharmacists and nurses, but also specialists in rehabilitation, public healthcare, social sciences and law. RSU has a total of 7,096 students, the majority of which are full-time students, and 423 academic staff members. There are 5,656 undergraduates studying at RSU, while the number of those studying in master's degree and doctoral programmes is 1,440. The vast majority of medical professionals working in various fields in Latvia have acquired their education at Riga Stradins University.

market, "Glycomune", which helps patients to recover from serious disease. The success of the cooperation has increased the recognisability of RSU and August Kirchnerstein Institute of Microbiology and Virology.

Quantifiable Outputs for University

The outputs for university have been the following:

1. 3 academic papers
2. In 2014, Latvian Academy of Sciences declared Glycomune to be the best invention of 2013.
3. 2 patents (jointly owned by RSU and the project partner)

Quantifiable Outputs for Partner (s)

The most important output for the partner is a unique product, "Glycomune" that is being commercialised.

CHECKLIST OF PREREQUISITES TO SUCCESS

Formal aspects

- Formal practical level Co-operation Agreement is signed between University and Partner(s) which defines particular roles, outputs, reporting mechanisms and other relevant aspects.
- Project is related to at least one strategic priority of the University.

Financial and/or Infrastructure aspects

- University invests financial resources in the project.
- Co-operation Partner invests financial resources in the project.
- University invests infrastructure and/or material type (in kind) resources in the project.
- Co-operation Partner invests infrastructure and/or material type (in kind) resources in the project.
- University gains monetary benefits from the project.
- Co-operation Partner gains monetary benefits from the project.
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- Co-operation Partner gains monetary benefits from the project.

project.

- University gains non-monetary but measurable and verifiable benefits from the project.
- Co-operation Partner gains non-monetary but measurable and verifiable benefits from the project.

Human capital aspects

- University is devoting its human capital, know-how, competence to the mutual cooperation, specifically, academic staff, R&D staff, students, and administrative staff.
- Co-operation Partner is devoting its human capital, know-how, competence to the mutual cooperation.

Marketing and communication aspects

- Project and/or project results are communicated within mass media channels.
- Project and/or project results are communicated within social media channels.
- Project and/or project results are presented in trade-shows, conferences, seminars, other marketing events.
- Project and/or project results are communicated within academic and/or scientific communication channels (research papers, scientific conferences and activities).
- Project and/or project results are communicated within internal marketing and/or communication channels within the University and/or Partner institution.

For More Information

For more information about the case study contact Linda Gabrusenoka on linda.gabrusenoka@rsu.lv.

For more information about the project "FROM BRIDGING TO SUCCEEDING. University and Business Co-operation Through Success Stories." and for more case studies visit www.university-business.net

For more information about the Nordplus Horizontal programme visit www.nordplusonline.org

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