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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES National Institutes of Health
Larta Institute
National Institutes of Health Commercialization Assistance Program (NIH-CAP)

Company Profile

Industry Sector: Biotech

Overview: Aronora is a biotechnology company established for the commercialization of proprietary anticoagulant ("blood thinning") products that do not cause bleeding.

Target Markets: Worldwide market for drugs that prevent or treat thrombotic vascular disorders is over $40 billion per year. Their limited safety is a significant obstacle to their efficient and safe use. E-WE Thrombin is intended to provide a safe alternative to current drugs in acute ischemic stroke and heart disease (>2M patients per year in the US), with an estimated market potential exceeding $10 billion per year. XISOMAB and AXIMAB are intended to provide safe anticoagulation during septic related coagulopathy and to limit venous thrombosis, respectively. The current market leaders for these indications (Xigris® and Lovenox®) generate over $4 billion in revenue annually, even though only a subset of patients receive these drugs due to bleeding side-effects. (*Xigris® has recently been withdrawn from the market)

Key Value Drivers

Technology: The lead product candidate is an injectable anticoagulant biologic agent, recombinant ***E-WE Thrombin***, a bioengineered protein C activator enzyme that inhibits blood clotting only inside blood vessels. The first batch of manufactured cGMP-grade E-WE Thrombin will enter pre-IND toxicology evaluation in early 2012.

Competitive Advantage

Direct competition: All current anticoagulant drugs cause bleeding and are not safe at their effective doses.

Our product candidates: 1) No bleeding or other side effects. 2) Antithrombotic efficacy in large primates at lower doses than market leaders.

Plan & Strategy: Unlike typical start-up biotech companies, Aronora develops product candidates only if they have already demonstrated safety and efficacy in large primates. The company intends to develop both E-WE Thrombin, AXIMAB, and XISOMAB to phase 1/2 clinical stage and then secure a strategic alliance or acquisition.

Management

Andras Gruber, M.D. President/CEO
Dr. Gruber is General Manager and Co-Founder of Aronora, Inc. and is an Associate Professor of Biomedical Engineering and Medicine at Oregon Health & Science University (OHSU), and adjunct faculty at The Scripps Research Institute and the Oregon National Primate Research Center. He has clinical, academic research, and pharma industry management experience.

Erik I. Tucker, Ph.D. Vice President/COO
Dr. Tucker has directed all R&D operations since 2009, advancing Aronora's exciting product candidates towards clinical testing and ultimate FDA approval. Dr. Tucker is a Co-Founder of Aronora, Inc. and the Primary Investigator on several NIH and Bayer Healthcare funded projects to develop E-WE Thrombin, XISOMAB, and AXIMAB.

Product Pipeline