

PRESS RELEASE

Gracell Bio Announces FasT CAR-T, a Breakthrough Technology for Hematological Malignancies

Gracell conquers effective, low cost, and high speed manufacturing of cellular gene therapeutics

April 23, 2019 -- SUZHOU and SHANGHAI, China -- Gracell Biotechnologies, Co., Ltd. ("Gracell"), an immune cell gene therapy company, announced it has developed FasT CAR-T, a revolutionary platform that shortens the manufacturing time of CAR-T treatments from two weeks to one day. FasT CAR-T also lowers manufacturing costs to a fraction of previous CAR-T therapies, while showing higher potency of CD19-directed FasT CAR-T ("CD19-FasT CAR-T") in B-Cell acute lymphoblastic leukemia (B-ALL) and non-Hodgkin Lymphoma (NHL), both in vitro and in vivo.

With a first-in-human clinical study of CD19-FasT CAR-T ongoing, Gracell said early clinical results show the therapy is safe and significantly more (20-40 times) potent than conventionally-manufactured CAR-T agents (C-CAR-T) for treating B-ALL. Gracell released the data of FasT CAR-T during a presentation at the Global CAR-T Cell Therapy Development Shanghai Forum, held April 16-17, 2019.

FasT CAR-T requires only one day for manufacturing (plus 7 days for releasing tests per regulatory requirement), while C-CAR-T manufacturing takes about two weeks plus 7 days for testing. Hence, FasT CAR-T reduces vein-to-vein time by an average of 12 days, which is critical for patients with rapidly progressing disease. More importantly, CD19- FasT CAR-T has demonstrated superior expansion capability, with a younger and less exhausted phenotype, according to the Company.

Dr. William Wei Cao, founder, chairman and CEO of Gracell, said, "Lengthy manufacture, high cost, relapse, and ineffectiveness in solid tumors of CAR-T products are the major challenges the CAR-T industry is facing. Gracell's mission is to develop highly effective but low cost CAR-T cancer therapies for large unmet needs. Without support from patients, their families, and clinical scientists, we wouldn't be able to advance the very promising FasT CAR-T technology."

Gracell has been developing a series of highly effective and low-cost CAR-T products, including Dual-CAR-T, Off-the-shelf CAR-T, and Enhanced-CAR-T products for treating solid tumors, two of which will be entering IND filing in the end of this year.

Led by Dr. Cao, who previously served as co-founder and CEO of a Nasdaq-listed cell therapy company, Gracell was founded in 2017. In February, the company announced an \$85 million Series B financing led by Temasek, joined by Lilly Asia Ventures, Kington Capital, King Star Capital and Chengdu Miaoji.

About Gracell

Established in 2017, Gracell Biotechnologies Co., Ltd. ("Gracell") is headquartered in Suzhou, China, with additional locations in Shanghai and Hong Kong. Gracell is dedicated to resolving the cellular gene therapy industry's major challenges including high production costs, lengthy manufacturing process, lack of off-the-shelf products, and short duration of therapeutic effects. Gracell's mission is to bring best-in-class and affordable cellular medicines to cancer patients.

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