New lab facility gives growing Neuroplast production independence and accelerates clinical pipeline expansion

Maastricht, The Netherlands, 20 April 2022 – **Only a few months after moving to their new premises, Neuroplasts' new lab facilities are already fully operational and the first major milestone has already been met: the first patients are enrolled in a combined Phase II/III clinical trial on Traumatic Spinal Cord Injury. What is so special about this lab? What opportunities does it bring and what are Neuroplasts' plans moving forward?**

Expand quality control and R&D

The new Maastricht facility enables a wider range of lab activities than the primary location in Geleen. Marco Schaaf, Quality Control Manager at Neuroplast: "In Geleen, we exclusively perform measurements that are required for our GMP-license[1]: to safeguard product quality and consistency. In Maastricht, we have the space, materials and conditions to significantly increase engagement in other areas of quality control and R&D."

Research on broader clinical pipeline

The expansion is fueled by the company's current growth and strong ambitions to extend the clinical pipeline from Traumatic Spinal Cord Injury to multiple neurodegenerative diseases, such as Traumatic Brain Injury and Frontotemporal Dementia. There is existing preclinical evidence that Neuroplasts' stem cell technology has broader applicability. Schaaf: "We can now study the modus operandi in even more detail than before, to determine future application areas of our Neuro-Cells® technology."

The team, to which several researchers were added recently, is currently prioritizing the research agenda. "The fundamental research lines focus on more detailed product descriptions and determining relevant components that influence the neurological condition," Schaaf elaborates. "Other research lines contribute to quality control or process improvements." According to the quality control manager, the lab is an ideal playground to explore and test, after which the findings can be implemented seamlessly into the quality control processes.

Independence enables quick and stable production in higher volumes

Neuro-Cells® is developed for acute treatments, because at that stage, irreversible damage can still be prevented. Furthermore, co-founder and Neuroplast CEO Johannes de Munter strongly believes that treatment derived from the patient's own bone-marrow could better activate regenerative abilities of the human body than traditional cell therapies. This is a radically distinctive approach, as cell therapies for acute treatments were always dependent on donors.

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[1] Good Manufacturing Practice: Standards in production processes that a medicines manufacturer must meet

As the Neuro-Cells® treatments need to be administered quickly and cannot be prepared when the patient is still unknown, it is of pivotal importance to have full autonomy over all patient safety controls, without having to rely on external parties in this time-sensitive process.

“This lab gives us the independence to comply to the latest regulatory requirements, in Europe and beyond, in clinical trial trajectories towards market authorization,” Schaaf states. “We perform our own sterility tests, for example, which are crucial in safeguarding patient safety.”

According to Schaaf, the improved control and continuity over the analyses also enables Neuroplast to increase its production volume: “More productions per week speed up the flow in our clinical trials.”

Neuroplast is currently executing a combined Phase II/III clinical trial for Traumatic Spinal Cord Injury and running investment rounds to advance the fast-track clinical pipeline to Traumatic Brain Injury and Frontotemporal Dementia.

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About Neuro-Cells®

Neuro-Cells® is a transformative stem cell technology under GMP in the crucial first phase after sustaining damage to the central nervous system, during which irreversible impact can be radically reduced. Traumatic Spinal Cord Injury is the first targeted therapeutic area in a wider clinical development agenda. It contains non-substantially manipulated bone marrow-derived hematopoietic and mesenchymal stem cells, manufactured from a patient’s own bone marrow (donor and receiver are the same person). Inflammatory inducing components and pathogens are removed during this process. The combination of a) autologous treatment and b) intrathecal application in c) acute setting is what makes Neuro-Cells® unique.

About Neuroplast

Neuroplast is a Dutch stem cell technology company focusing on fast-track development programs using autologous cell products for treatment of neurodegenerative diseases, with the aim of giving back perspective to people who suffer from those conditions.

The company was founded in August 2014 by physician Johannes de Munter and neurologist Erik Wolters. Current funders are Lumana Invest, Brightlands Venture Partners, LIOF and the Netherlands Enterprise Agency. Neuroplast is located at Brightlands Chemelot Campus in The Netherlands.

About Lumana Invest

Investment company Lumana was established by entrepreneurs and unique due to not having a predetermined investment horizon. The Lumana founders showcase strong commitment to their portfolio companies by actively supporting management in strategic decision making.

About Brightlands Venture Partners

Brightlands Venture Partners (BVP) is the fund manager of Chemelot Ventures and is a so-called ecosystem investor. BVP invests in companies benefiting from and contributing to the Brightlands campuses in the south of The Netherlands. Other funds under management are BVP Fund IV, Brightlands

Agrifood Fund and Limburg Ventures. The funds of BVP focus on sustainability and health; together the funds have made over 40 investments.

About LIOF

LIOF is the regional development agency for Limburg and supports innovative entrepreneurs with advice, network and financing. Together with entrepreneurs and partners, LIOF is working towards a smarter, more sustainable and healthier Limburg by focusing on the transitions of energy, circularity, health and digitalization.

About The Netherlands Enterprise Agency

The Netherlands Enterprise Agency operates under the auspices of the Dutch Ministry of Economic Affairs and Climate Policy. It facilitates entrepreneurship, improves collaborations, strengthens positions and helps realize national and international ambitions with funding, networking, know-how and compliance with laws and regulations.

Forward looking statements

All statements other than statements of historical facts, including the statements about the clinical and therapeutic potential and future clinical milestones of Neuro-Cells®, the indications we intend to pursue and our possible clinical or other business strategies, and the timing of these events, are forward-looking statements. Forward-looking statements can be identified by terms such as “believes”, “expects”, “plans”, “potential”, “would” or similar expressions and the negative of those terms. These forward-looking statements are based on our management’s current beliefs and assumptions about future events and on information currently available to management. Neuroplast B.V. does not make any representation or warranty, express or implied, as to the improper use of this article, accuracy, completeness or updated status of above-mentioned statements. Therefore, in no case whatsoever will Neuroplast B.V. be legally liable or liable to anyone for any decision made or action taken in conjunction with the information and/or statements in this press release or for any related damages.

In case of any further questions, please contact:

Neuroplast
Johannes de Munter, CEO
T: +31 (0)85 076 1000
E: h.demunter@neuroplast.com