

AdvantiGen Biosciences Partners with UW's Andes Lab to Develop Antibodies for Fight Against COVID-19

MADISON, WI, May 20, 2020 – A Madison-based collaboration has joined the fight to develop antibodies to combat COVID-19. Scientists at AdvantiGen Biosciences (Madison WI) and Dr. David Andes' laboratory at the University of Wisconsin-Madison are teaming up to develop novel monoclonal antibodies (mAbs) against the SARS-CoV-2 virus that causes COVID-19. The AdvantiGen – Andes Lab collaboration recently received one of only ten research COVID-19 Response grants from the Wisconsin Partnership Program at the University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health to lessen the impact of COVID-19 through development of improved testing and treatment against the virus. The AdvantiGen team brings more than 100 years of combined experience in antibody and assay development to aid in the fight against COVID-19. AdvantiGen will use its patented technology to create highly specific antibodies to the virus. “AdvantiGen’s antibodies could be manufactured on a large scale to replace convalescent plasma, currently the only available and approved therapy - using recovered patient plasma, which is very limited in supply”, explains AdvantiGen CEO, Mark Jackson. AdvantiGen’s antibodies can also be used as a research tool to learn more about the virus and detect viral particles in samples such as surface swabs and patient samples. “If AdvantiGen’s monoclonal antibodies are proven effective at treating COVID-19 in animals in my lab at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, we anticipate these mAbs can be rapidly humanized and fast-tracked to clinical trials for use as therapies via the FDA's Emergency Use Authorization,” said Dr. David Andes, Chief of the Division of Infectious Disease, Department of Medicine at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. “Reopening our country is dependent upon reliable antibody testing. AdvantiGen’s patented antibody generation method yields up to 10-fold more specific clones to SARS-CoV-2 (vs. standard antibody development), when combined with our patented near-infrared imaging technology (WiPhy), it will improve the sensitivity of COVID-19 detection.”

#advantigenbio, #wisconsin, #covid19, #Wispartnership

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About AdvantiGen Biosciences (www.advantigenbio.com)

Founded in 2015, AdvantiGen Biosciences has more than 100 years of combined experience in antibody and assay development. The company enables drug discovery and medical device development that improve the human condition by leveraging its uniquely empowering proprietary technologies. AdvantiGen's patented antibody generation technology yields up to 10-fold the number of target specific clones (vs. standard antibody development) and has the ability to generate both mouse and human antibodies. AdvantiGen's patented fluorophore technology allows tracking of targets and cells *in vitro* and *in vivo* via conjugation or co-translational fusion. AdvantiGen's fluorophores emit in both anaerobic and aerobic environments in the near infrared (NIR) region of the spectrum where assay background is extremely low, ultra-sensitive detection of the desired target is enabled on commonly used commercial devices culminating in rapid development of important diagnostic and therapeutic molecules and assays. For questions or additional information please contact Mark Jackson at mjackson@advantigenbio.com or 608-516-9134.

About Andes Lab (www.medicine.wisc.edu/infectious-disease/dr-andes-research-main-page)

Dr. David Andes is Chief of the Division of Infectious Disease within the Department of Medicine and also has an appointment in the Department of Medical Microbiology and Immunology at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Dr. Andes is board-certified in internal medicine and infectious disease, and cares for patients with a wide variety of infectious diseases in both inpatient and ambulatory settings. Historically, Dr. Andes' Lab has focused on combating antimicrobial drug resistance. Study approaches include defining the molecular basis for antimicrobial drug resistance, antimicrobial drug target development, pharmacodynamic investigation, and clinical trial study of diagnosis, epidemiology, and therapy. The Andes lab utilizes *in vivo* infection models and pharmacodynamic approaches to aid in the early development of lead compounds. They work closely with several drug discovery groups and biotechnology companies to identify promising molecules and define dosing strategies to study these drugs in clinical trials.

[About Wisconsin Partnership Program \(www.med.wisc.edu/wisconsin-partnership-program/\)](http://www.med.wisc.edu/wisconsin-partnership-program/)

The Wisconsin Partnership Program is an endowment within the University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health that is committed to improving health and advancing health equity through investments in community partnerships, education and research. Established in 2004, the Wisconsin Partnership Program has awarded more than 500 research, education and community partnership grants totaling more than \$245 million to improve the health of the people of Wisconsin.

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