

VaxNewMo Chief Executive Officer/Chief Business Officer/Business Co-Founder

The Company:

Conjugate vaccines have become an important part of the vaccine landscape, demonstrating an ability to provide protection against multiple prevalent bacterial diseases and to create substantial business franchises. The first wave of conjugate vaccines has relied on chemical conjugation techniques to link pathogen surface polysaccharides to deactivated bacterial toxins. The limits of these chemical techniques are becoming apparent. They are “restricted to certain targets, may induce suboptimal efficacy, are difficult to develop, and are costly to produce”. [Veronica Reference]

A major breakthrough came with the advent of bioconjugation techniques, i.e. the ability to produce conjugate vaccines recombinantly using *E. coli* as a host platform. This expands the range of targets and potential efficacy, and offers multiple factor improvements in development speed, production economics, and quality.

GlycoVaxyn was a company created around this capability. Founded in 2005 out of ETH Zurich in Switzerland, it raised cumulatively \$31m and was acquired by GSK in 2015 for \$190m. Reconfigured as LimmaTech Biologics AG, it has advanced multivalent vaccines for *Shigella* and *E. coli* through clinical development leveraging R&D contracts from GSK and Johnson and Johnson as well as venture financing. But first generation bioconjugation technology has also run into limitations, particularly around the oligosaccharyltransferase enzymes at the center of its platform, which limit the range of addressable pathogens.

VaxNewMo represents the next wave of bioconjugation technology, formed around the discovery of an even more powerful oligosaccharyltransferase enzyme with very few limits to addressable pathogens. VaxNewMo has an exclusive license to worldwide patents on the technology. The founding PI (Mario) was in the original team at ETH Zurich and the current first author and co-inventor of the technology (Christian) is the founding entrepreneur and keen to build out the company. The company has leveraged federal funding to develop this next generation of bioconjugation technology, having raised over \$1.2m in translational grants (SBIR/STTR), with another \$9m in the pipeline, generating proof-of-concept with a multivalent Pneumococcal vaccine, a bivalent Klebsiella vaccine, and a pentavalent Group B Streptococcus (GBS) vaccine.

VaxNewMo’s goal is to be the next bioconjugate vaccine platform company. It is seeking a business co-founder to help shape a clinical development, fund-raising, and partnership strategy that can maximize its impact and value.

Critical Tasks

Map and interview all the likely interested parties in the vaccine marketplace to determine:

- optimal positioning of the technology to achieve maximum impact and value
- first indication
- financing strategy
- partnering strategy

As appropriate, work with founders to establish optimal role.

As appropriate, close financing or partnerships or help the VaxNewMo founders to do so.

Qualifications:

The new CEO/CBO/Business Co-Founder must have a demonstrated track record in the domains of:

- fund-raising
- business development and partnering
- vaccines
 - o this could be in one or more of for-profit/non-profit, large or small company, foundation or NGO roles
 - o familiarity with conjugate vaccines ideal

The individual we seek should have:

- Literacy in corporate affairs including finance, governance and administration, organizational development, human resources, and the management of intellectual property.
- An understanding of the dynamics of a small company environment and the ability to drive an organization to success with limited resources;

The individual we seek must be viewed as a leader. Leadership traits will be evident in her or his:

- Record of accomplishment
- Ability to form and communicate an appropriate vision for the Company
- Ability to influence, organize, and direct the behavior of others in the collaborative attainment of shared goals and objectives; and
- Executive “presence” and personal reputation for judgment and integrity

Desirable traits and characteristics:

- Capable of working effectively with the current founders. He or she should be capable of integrating effectively into the existing efforts and taking maximum advantage of the existing external relationships.
- Prior experience in the biotech C-suite, of working with venture or private equity backers, of one or more successful exits.
- A capital efficiency mindset.
- Able to deal both with ambiguity and with complexity and be able to interact effectively with experts outside the candidate’s own area of expertise.

- A superior work ethic tempered with a sense of humor, and a strong personal desire for success. He or she must also possess a strong sense of personal and professional ethics and hold a legitimate and pronounced professional need to make an impact through the Company's technology and products.

Location: CEO/CBO location is flexible. The founding scientists are in St. Louis MO.

Compensation: The successful candidate will be eligible for Entrepreneur-in-Residence status with BioGenerator, which will permit some level of compensation and coverage of expenses for the fund-raising process. Once the Company is funded, the compensation package will be competitive and consistent with a founding role in an early stage high-potential start-up.

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