



Forbion Portfolio company Tessellate BIO emerges from stealth

- The company aims to become a global leader in precision oncology by redefining Synthetic Lethality to treat large unserved patient populations
- Lead program targets Alternative Lengthening of Telomeres (ALT) through the FANCM protein complex

Amsterdam, the Netherlands and London, UK – 17 October 2023 – Forbion, a leading European life sciences venture capital firm, today announces the un-stealth of its portfolio company Tessellate BIO. The company, which was founded by BioGeneration Ventures (BGV), focuses on novel Synthetic Lethality approaches. Its lead program is focused on cancers that depend on Alternative Lengthening of Telomeres (ALT). In 2021, Forbion joined BGV to build out Tessellate and provide the €8m in seed funding.

Tessellate BIO aims to become a global leader in precision oncology by redefining Synthetic Lethality. While Synthetic Lethality approaches targeting Homology Recombination Deficiency (HRD) have been successfully validated in the clinic by PARP inhibitors, there remains a vast and largely unexplored space in Synthetic Lethality beyond HRD.

Forbion General Partner Rogier Rooswinkel added, “ We are delighted to have built an innovative company from the ground up with our joint venture partners BGV in less than three years. Developing innovative precision oncology drugs requires the right scientific and business direction, and at Tessellate BIO, we have assembled world class management by attracting an impressive leadership team of highly experienced entrepreneurs in the life sciences space.”

Tessellate BIO will be led by CEO, Andree Blaukat, previously SVP and head of Oncology Research at Merck KGaA, CSO Jürgen Moll, previously Head of Molecular Oncology Unit at Sanofi; entrepreneur Andrew Lightfoot, as COO, who initially established the company, and Eliot Forster, most recently former CEO of NASDAQ-listed F-STAR has joined as Chair of the Board of Directors. The company is headquartered in The Netherlands with research labs in the UK at the Stevenage Bioscience Catalyst.

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Notes for Editors:

About Forbion

Forbion is a dedicated life sciences venture capital firm with offices in The Netherlands, Germany and Singapore. Forbion invests in life sciences companies that are active in the (bio-) pharmaceutical space. Forbion manages €3 billion across multiple fund strategies that cover all stages of (bio-) pharmaceutical drug development. Forbion's current team consists of over 30 life sciences investment professionals that have built an impressive performance track record since the late nineties with investments in over 95 companies across 8 funds. Forbion's record of sourcing, building and guiding life sciences companies has resulted in many breakthrough therapies and valuable exits. Portfolio company successes include NewAmsterdam Pharma (NASDAQ: NAMS), Gyroscopic (acquired by Novartis) and Replimune (NASDAQ: REPL). Besides financial objectives, Forbion selects investments that will positively affect the health and well-being of patients. The firm is a signatory to the United Nations Principles for Responsible Investment. Forbion operates a joint venture with BGV, the manager of seed and early-stage funds, especially focused on Benelux and Germany.

For more information, please visit: www.forbion.com

About Tessellate BIO

Tessellate BIO discovers and develops novel precision oncology medicines with the mission to turn cancer patients into cancer survivors. A private preclinical stage biotechnology company, Tessellate BIO is redefining Synthetic Lethality by developing drugs that target unexplored or difficult to drug pathways beyond HRD.

The company's strategy is to drive small molecule drug discovery towards novel, validated oncology targets and, critically, the parallel development of associated companion diagnostics, including a potentially best-in-class diagnostic to detect ALT positive cancers for identification of treatment-eligible patients. The company also has follow-on programs in tumor suppressor Loss-of-Function (LoF) settings.

Led by an experienced team of drug hunters, the company is building a pipeline of first-in-class medicines based on cutting-edge research sourced from international world-renowned laboratories including Children's Medical Research Institute (CMRI), Australia and Instituto de

Medicina Molecular (iMM), Portugal. Its lead program targets complexes that are critical for the ALT mechanism including the FANCM protein complex.

Headquartered in the Netherlands and with research labs at the Stevenage Bioscience Catalyst, UK, Tessellate BIO is supported by top-tier life science investors BioGeneration Ventures (BGV) and Forbion. For more information, please visit: www.tessellatebio.com | follow us on [LinkedIn](#)

About Tessellate BIO's lead program - ALT

ALT is a critical mechanism to maintain the integrity of telomeres, which is essential for the unlimited replicative potential of tumor cells that is a key hallmark of cancer. Many cancers with high unmet medical need and poor prognosis rely on ALT for proliferation. For example, several types of sarcomas have over 60% ALT dependency, and substantial subgroups of many solid tumors are ALT dependent. The lead program targets the FANCM protein complex and is based on the discoveries of Tessellate BIO co-founders Prof. Hilda Pickett (CMRI) and Prof. Claus Azzalin (iMM).