The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society (LLS) Therapy Acceleration Program® (TAP)

LLS TAP is a strategic venture philanthropy funding initiative to accelerate high-risk, innovative blood cancer therapeutics and change the standard of care in leukemia, lymphoma, and multiple myeloma.

LLS TAP co-funds first-in-human and registration-enabling clinical trials ($500,000 - $9 Million equity or asset funding not to exceed 50%). Applications are accepted year-round and due diligence takes 3-6 months.

Since its establishment in 2007, three LLS TAP-supported therapies have been approved by the FDA: Vyxeos™, Yescarta® and Elzonris™. Currently, there are more than 20 LLS-supported assets in clinical development including 5 ongoing or planned registration-enabling studies. LLS TAP portfolio companies have a higher probability of partnering/M&A evidenced by Gilead’s 2020 acquisition of Forty Seven Inc. for $4.9 Billion.

Key Criteria

- High Unmet Medical Need – indications without any or an unsatisfactory standard of care
- Innovative Science – first-in-human studies to validate new targets and technologies or registration-enabling studies to change the treatment paradigm with novel therapies
- High Potential to Impact Clinical Practice – competitive in the future treatment landscape
- Strong Intellectual Property Position
- Competent Management Team – able to manage development and a record of success in raising capital
- Solid Corporate Finance – adequate funding to next inflection point

First-in-Class Areas of Interest (examples)

- Niche indications where standard of care is associated with high relapse or unfavorable toxicity
- Therapies with patient selection strategy to address the unmet medical need in sub-populations
- Therapies that delay or prevent disease progression
- Novel immune-oncology approaches
- Off-the-shelf cell therapies for new targets or indications
- Innovative approaches, such as PROTACs, RNA-based therapies, gene editing, oncolytic viral therapies, therapeutic vaccines, and transcription factor control

LLS TAP Value-Added

- Scientific due diligence and investment credibility enabling biotech companies to raise additional funds
- Research insight from extensive knowledge of all blood cancer indications, the competitive landscape, and staff industry experience
- LLS KOL network access to obtain clinical and drug development advice, and increase asset visibility
- Introduction to LLS patient services including the LLS Clinical Trial Support Center and the Information Resource Center
- Increased partnership visibility with biotech or pharmaceutical companies

LLS leverages its over 70-year commitment to cures for blood cancers and has funded over 4000 academic grants and 60 TAP assets since its inception amounting to a $1.3 Billion of support toward disease control and cures. LLS knowledge and know-how in blood cancer drug development is unparalleled, underscored by LLS support for over 85% of the new blood cancer therapies approved in the past 20 years.

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