

# BIOCENTURY

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## Genentech adds to autoimmune pipeline with Parvus deal

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In its second deal based on its immunomodulatory platform, Parvus granted Genentech rights to develop and commercialize its Navacim nanoparticle therapeutics to treat inflammatory bowel disease (IBD), autoimmune liver diseases and celiac disease.

Parvus Therapeutics Inc. (Burlingame, Calif.) believes Navacims could offer a comprehensive solution for chronic inflammatory conditions. By transforming T cells targeting self-antigens into Tregs that dampen the immune response, the particles shut down antigen presentation and end autoimmune flares, providing a way to address autoimmunity that doesn't depend on the molecular pathway involved (see "Poacher Turned Gamekeeper").

Parvus will receive an undisclosed upfront payment and is eligible for milestones in each indication, plus additional milestones in other diseases as well as royalties. While financial terms were not disclosed, Parvus said it could receive more than \$800 million in upfront and milestone payments.

Parvus will be responsible for development through Phase I testing, after which the Roche (SIX:ROG; OTCQX:RHHBY) unit will be responsible for development and commercialization.

Genentech has at least three disclosed autoimmune disease therapies in its pipeline. Etrolizumab (RG7413), a recombinant humanized mAb targeting integrin  $\beta(7)$ , is in Phase III testing for ulcerative colitis and Crohn's disease; IL22-Fc (UTTR1147A, RG7880), a recombinant human protein against IL-22, is in Phase II testing for IBD; and fenebrutinib, a Btk inhibitor, is in Phase II testing for rheumatoid arthritis, systemic lupus erythematosus and chronic spontaneous urticaria.

In 2017, Parvus granted Novartis AG (NYSE:NVS; SIX:NOVN) exclusive, worldwide rights to develop and commercialize Navacims to treat Type I diabetes.

Parvus President and CEO Curtis Ruegg told BioCentury the company has raised \$14.5 million in equity from Novartis and angel investors, but has never raised a venture round. He said the company is also evaluating Navacims in other indications, including multiple sclerosis and RA.

Targets: Btk - Bruton's tyrosine kinase; IL-22 - Interleukin-22

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