



Absci and Caltech Join Forces, Bolstered by Major Grant, to Accelerate Affordable HIV Therapeutic Vaccine Development

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VANCOUVER, Wash., Aug. 10, 2023 (GLOBE NEWSWIRE) -- Absci Corporation (Nasdaq: [ABSI](#)), a generative AI drug creation company, today announced that leading researchers at the California Institute of Technology (Caltech) in conjunction with Absci, a leader in AI drug creation, received a grant from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. The grant supports the joint effort of Caltech and Absci to discover affordable HIV therapeutic vaccinations, with the goal of making a significant step forward in the fight against the global HIV/AIDS epidemic.

The collaboration between Caltech and Absci, led by Dr. Pamela Bjorkman, brings together cutting-edge research capabilities and advanced technological expertise in structural biology and immunology, protein design, synthetic biology, and generative AI. By leveraging their combined strengths, the teams will work towards the development of a novel HIV therapy that first exposes and then binds to a highly conserved epitope binding site on HIV-1 to potentially both treat and protect against infection from all strains of HIV-1.

More than 40 years after the AIDS pandemic began, there is no vaccine or cure for HIV. Antiretroviral therapies (ARTs) help many people live longer, healthier lives, but they do not completely eliminate the virus and must be taken for life. Additionally, the cost and inaccessibility of these drugs disproportionately affect millions of people from low-income and marginalized communities. This new partnership between Caltech and Absci, facilitated by the generous grant from the Gates Foundation, aims to address this disparity by focusing on the affordability, scalability, and accessibility of HIV therapeutic vaccinations. Combining the latest advances and expertise across their respective fields, Caltech and Absci aim to confront a challenge facing millions worldwide.

"We are thrilled to receive this grant from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation," said Dr. Stephen Mayo, Bren Professor of Biology and Chemistry and Merkin Institute Professor at Caltech and project co-leader. "We're committed to making transformative contributions to society through research and innovation, and we are excited to partner with Absci, who has developed a powerful *de novo* AI antibody platform that is helping to unlock new therapeutic possibilities. This collaboration with Absci allows us to combine our expertise and work towards a common goal of developing affordable HIV therapeutic vaccinations that can save lives and bring hope to millions."

"We are honored to be partnering with Caltech on this critical project," stated Sean McClain, Founder and CEO of Absci. "At Absci, we are driven to transform lives through the power of generative AI and synthetic biology. By joining forces with Dr. Pamela Bjorkman and Dr. Stephen Mayo, and with support from the Gates Foundation, we believe we can make significant strides towards developing affordable HIV therapeutic vaccinations and positively impacting global health."

About Absci

Absci is a generative AI drug creation company that combines AI with scalable wet lab technologies to create better biologics for patients, faster. Our Integrated Drug Creation™ platform unlocks the potential to accelerate time to clinic and increase the probability of success by simultaneously optimizing multiple drug characteristics important to both development and therapeutic benefit. With the data to learn, the AI to create, and the wet lab to validate, Absci can screen billions of cells per week, allowing it to go from AI-designed antibodies to wet lab-validated candidates in as little as six weeks. Absci's vision is to deliver breakthrough therapeutics at the click of a button, for everyone. Absci's headquarters is in Vancouver, WA, its AI Research Lab is in New York City, and its Innovation Center is in Zug, Switzerland. Visit www.absci.com and follow us on LinkedIn (@absci), Twitter (@AbsciBio), and YouTube.

Availability of Other Information about Absci

Investors and others should note that we routinely communicate with investors and the public using our website (www.absci.com) and our investor relations website (investors.absci.com), including without limitation, through the posting of investor presentations, SEC filings, press releases, public conference calls and webcasts on these websites, as well as on Twitter, LinkedIn, and YouTube. The information we post on these websites and social media outlets could be deemed material. As a result, investors, the media, and others interested in Absci are encouraged to review this information regularly. The contents of our website and social media postings, or any other website that may be accessed from our website or social media postings, shall not be deemed incorporated by reference in any filing under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended.

Absci Forward-Looking Statements

Certain statements in this press release that are not historical facts are considered forward-looking within the meaning of Section 27A of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, and Section 21E of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, including statements containing the words "will," "may," "pursues," "anticipates," "plans," "believes," "aims," "potential," "forecast," "estimates," "extends," "expects," and "intends," or similar expressions. We intend these forward-looking statements, including statements regarding technology development efforts and the application of those efforts, including acceleration of drug development timelines, reducing the time and costs related to drug development, improving clinical and patient outcomes, advancements toward in silico drug design, drug discovery and development activities, and the effective incorporation of our technology in drug design, and research and technology development collaboration efforts, to be covered by the safe harbor provisions for forward-looking statements contained in Section 27A of the Securities Act and Section 21E of the Securities Exchange Act. We make this statement to comply with those safe harbor provisions. These forward-looking statements reflect our current views about our plans, intentions, expectations, strategies, and prospects, which are based on the information currently available to us and on assumptions we have made. We can give no assurance that the plans, intentions, expectations, or strategies will be attained or achieved. Furthermore, actual results may differ materially from those described in the forward-looking statements and will be affected by a variety of risks and factors that are beyond our control, including, without limitation, risks and uncertainties relating to our ability to effectively collaborate on research, drug discovery and development activities with our partners or potential partners; along with those risks set forth in our most recent periodic report filed with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission, as well as discussions of potential risks, uncertainties, and other important factors in our subsequent filings with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission. Except as required by law, we assume no obligation to update publicly any forward-looking statements, whether as a result of new information, future events, or otherwise.

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