

# developing novel immuno-oncology therapeutics – combining high specificity and potency to counter tumour diversity

Accession Therapeutics' elegant Trocept platform has potential to treat some of the most intractable and widespread forms of cancer. Based in Oxford, UK, it is developing a pipeline of products to the early clinical trial stage. Led by Bent Jakobsen, PhD FMedSci, a pioneer of T cell receptor therapy for cancer, the team is highly experienced in taking immuno-oncology products to the clinic.

Accession Therapeutics' Trocept technology, which is being developed by its Trocept Therapeutics subsidiary, is based on over a decade's work at the Cardiff University. It has generated exceptional preclinical data and the first drug candidate generated by the Trocept platform is expected to be IND stage by late 2023. The pipeline may be enhanced by Accession Therapeutics through the acquisition of additional intellectual property in due course.



[film] **How trocept works**

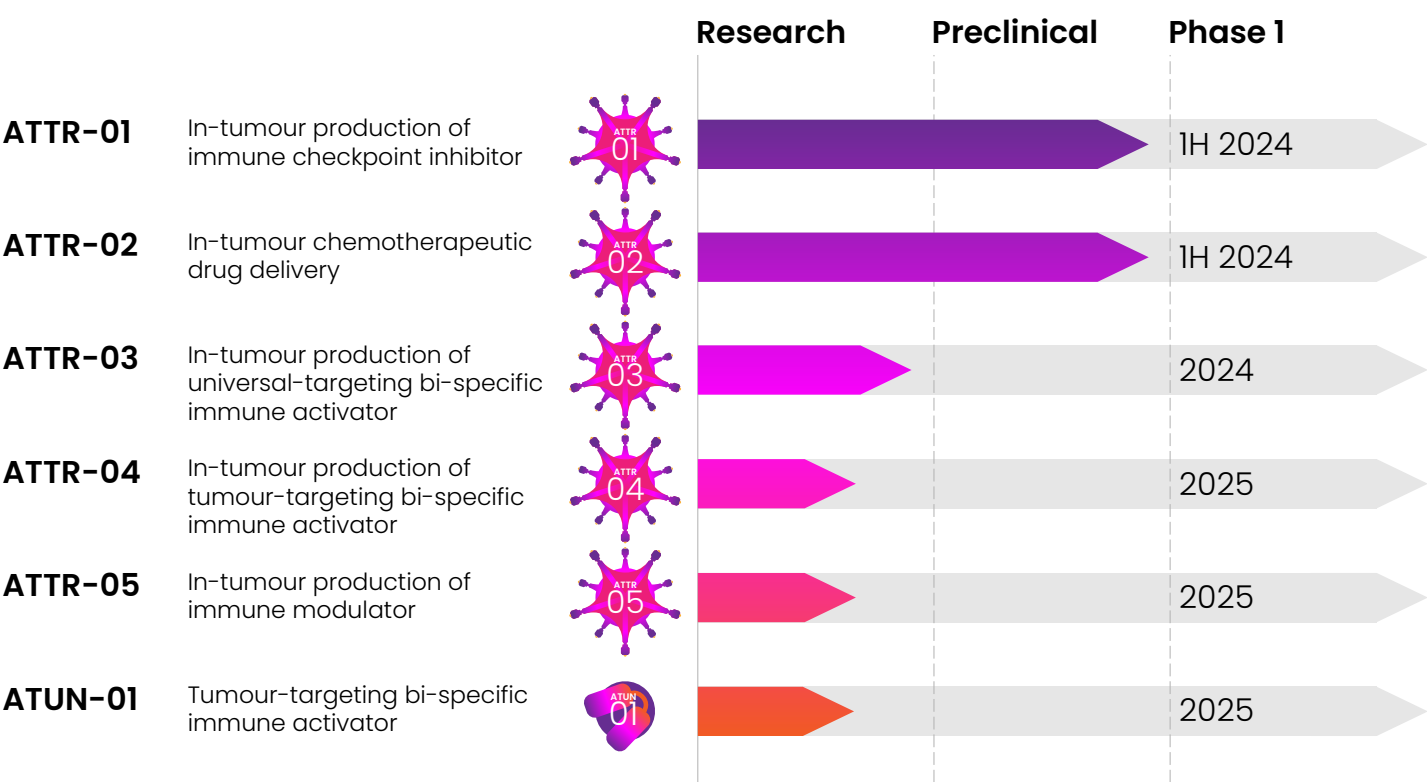
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GbvNngZXG9g>

**“ The past decade has shown the promise of harnessing the immune system against cancer but, in the majority of patients, current treatments fail to deal with the huge diversity of cancer cells leading to transient responses followed by progressive disease. ”**

**“Accession Therapeutics’ Trocept approach enables us to design novel treatments with the potential to deal radically with the full variety and escape mechanisms of tumour cells. ”**

Bent Jakobsen, PhD FMedSci, CEO

trocept pipeline



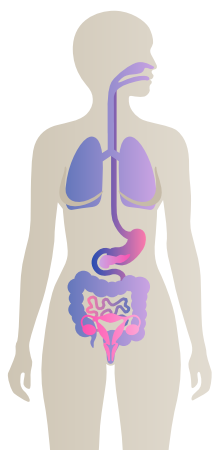


## creating the ideal immunotherapy

The ideal immunotherapy should have three characteristics - highly specific, broad in action to kill all cancer cell variants present, and potent in activating the full immune system arsenal local to the tumour.

By developing products exclusively directed to cancer cells carrying a transgene coding for one or more antitumour or immune activator drugs, Trocept is the first approach that meets these three requirements.

Watch the animation below to see **how Trocept works**.  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GbvNdgZXG9g&t=1s>

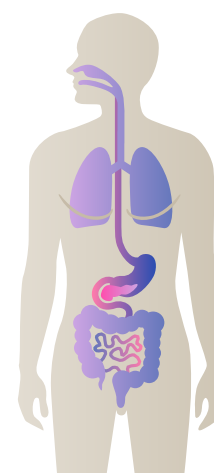


Accession Therapeutics' proprietary technology incorporates cancer-tropic viruses, the first time that viruses have been genetically modified to exclusively target cancer cells.

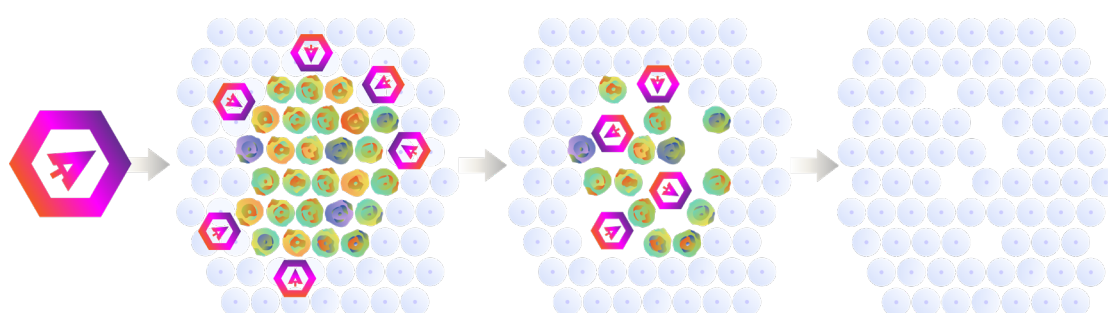
As non-cancerous cells are not targeted by Trocept, systemic toxicity is eliminated meaning the drugs can be delivered intravenously and traffic to the tumour.

Trocept's highly potent and local activity gives it potential in some of the hardest to treat and most widespread forms of cancer. This includes breast, cervical, colorectal, gastric, head and neck, lung, oral, ovarian and pancreatic cancer.

The first drug candidate generated by the Trocept platform is expected to be IND stage by late 2023.



## harnessing the immune system to tackle tumour cell diversity



Trocept engineered for cancer specificity and to carry transgene

Trocept enters cancer cells and replicates

Cancer cell breakdown generates strong localised immune response

Transgene expression of immune activators or antitumour drugs

Potent local immune response eradicates all cancer cell variants with minimum toxicity

## a team with purpose

Accession Therapeutics' mission is to eradicate cancers by harnessing the immune system more powerfully than ever before. It is built around successful biotech entrepreneurs experienced in taking projects through to the clinic.

This team is supported by a Board comprising experienced international healthcare investors.

### management



Ranjeet Babbra, BSc (Hons), MSc  
**Head of Quality Assurance (QA)**

Ranjeet has over 15 years' experience of Quality Assurance across the biotechnology and pharmaceutical industry and the NHS, with significant additional experience in project management, quality management and process improvement. A Chartered Biologist, Ranjeet has numerous QA qualifications plus a BSc (Hons) and MSc from the University of Westminster.



Dave Cole, D.Phil  
**Head of Molecular Science**

Dave is a recognised expert in immune-oncology with over 13 years' experience, including research leading to the discovery and validation of novel drug candidates plus development of collaborations with academia and industry. In his academic career Dave worked as a principal investigator and Wellcome Trust Fellow at Cardiff University, where he also carried out postdoctoral work after he received his D.Phil in Molecular Immunology from the University of Oxford.



Andrew 'Jez' Gerry, PhD  
**Head of Preclinical Development**

Jez is a leading immune-oncologist with expertise in preclinical safety and efficacy testing strategies for engineered cell therapies, engineered T cell receptors and novel immunotherapies for cancer, with over 14 years' experience at Adaptimmune Therapeutics. Jez obtained his PhD from The University of Reading in Cell and Molecular Biology.



Bent Jakobsen, PhD, FMedSci  
**CEO, co-founder and Board Director**

Bent is a pioneer of T cell receptor therapy for cancer with over two decades' experience of establishing and providing scientific direction to leading T cell receptor companies such as Adaptimmune Therapeutics and Immunocore (both now listed on NASDAQ). In his academic career, Bent was Head of the Immune Receptor Group at the Oxford Institute of Molecular Medicine (1993 to 2000) and prior to this worked for the Danish Natural Research Council and at the Laboratory of Molecular Biology of the Medical Research Council in Cambridge.



Alan Parker, PhD  
**Chief Scientific Officer, Trocept Therapeutics**

Alan is an expert in viral gene delivery, particularly in the oncology setting, having worked in the field for almost two decades following a PhD at the University of Birmingham. He is Professor of Translational Virotherapies at the School of Medicine, Cardiff University, where his work is funded by Cancer Research UK, Cancer Research Wales and Tenovus Cancer Care amongst others.

## board



Nick Cross

**Executive Chairman**

Nick is a serial entrepreneur and investor with considerable Board experience in both the biotech and high tech sectors. Nick has co-founded and served as the Chairman of a number of companies including Immunocore PLC, Adaptimmune PLC, Oxford Asymmetry International PLC (now part of Evotec) and Oxford Semiconductor Ltd (now part of Toshiba).



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Hans Ivar Robinson

**Board Director**

Hans Ivar is a Director of Accession Therapeutics and CEO/ Chairman of Birk Venture, a Norwegian investment company focused on the life sciences sector. He brings broad industrial and investment experience from the pharmaceutical and biotechnology industry.



Johnny Zou

**Board Director**

Johnny is a Director of Accession Therapeutics and Co-Head of Primavera Venture Partners, the VC arm of Primavera Capital Group, focusing on early-stage innovative tech companies in artificial intelligence, the industrial internet, and healthcare. He has led investments in some of the world's and China's most innovative companies in areas such as AI drug discovery, genomics and next generation immunotherapies.

## careers

Accession Therapeutics is now recruiting a world-class team to establish its R&D facility in Oxfordshire, UK.  
Go to our LinkedIn page for more details.

If you are interested in joining a highly creative, dynamic and fast-developing organisation with an open, friendly non-hierarchical culture, please send your cover letters and CVs to:  
joinus at [accessiontherapeutics.com](https://accessiontherapeutics.com).

Salaries are competitive; Other benefits include pension scheme, life insurance and private health insurance.  
We look forward to meeting you and discussing your future career.

## Bent Jakobsen starts novel immune-oncology firm Accession Therapeutics **Primavera Venture Partners and Birk Venture among first investors.**

**Oxford, UK, September 20 2021** – Accession Therapeutics, which is developing novel immune-oncology therapeutics combining high specificity and potency with the ability to counter tumour diversity, has closed the first tranche of a long-term funding round. With financing from Primavera Venture Partners and Birk Venture alongside an international syndicate of experienced biotech investors, the funding will enable the company to progress its lead programme into clinical trials and build a pipeline of new cancer therapies using its Trocept technology platform. The CEO of Accession Therapeutics is Bent Jakobsen, PhD FMedSci, the scientific founder of Adaptimmune and Immunocore and pioneer of T cell receptor therapy for cancer. He is joined on the company's Board by Johnny Zou of Primavera Venture Partners and Hans Ivar Robinson of Birk Venture.

The team joining Accession Therapeutics is highly experienced in taking products to the IND or early clinical trial stage rapidly and effectively. Hires will be announced shortly. Proceeds of the fundraising will also be used to establish the company's new headquarters in Oxford. The company's strategy is to partner its products at the IND or early clinical trial stage point.

Accession Therapeutics believes that the ideal immunotherapy should have three characteristics – highly specific, broad in action so as to kill all cancer cell variants present in a tumour, and potent in activating the full immune system arsenal. By engineering viruses exclusively directed to cancer cells and carrying a transgene coding for one or more antitumour or immune activator drugs, Trocept products meet these three requirements. The antitumour or immune activator drugs, and immune system activation caused by cancer cell lysis after viral infection, combine synergistically to give a broad and potent response with limited toxicity.

The company's lead product has shown encouraging data in in vivo models. Accession Therapeutics' elegant approach, based on over a decade's research, is believed to be the first time that a virus has been genetically modified to exclusively target cancer cells (cancer tropism). This engineered specificity targets some of the hardest to treat and most widespread forms of the disease, such as breast, cervical, colorectal, gastric, head and neck, lung, oral, ovarian and pancreatic cancer.

Bent Jakobsen, PhD FMedSci, CEO of Accession Therapeutics, said, 'The past decade has demonstrated the promise of harnessing the immune system against cancers but, in the majority of cancers and patients, current treatment concepts fail to deal with the huge diversity of cancer cells leading to transient responses followed by progressive disease. Accession Therapeutics' Trocept approach enables us to design novel treatments with the potential to deal radically with the full variety and escape mechanisms of tumour cells. We would like to thank Primavera Venture Partners, Birk Venture and our other investors for their endorsement and we look forward to working with them as we progress our lead programme towards the clinic and advance the portfolio.'

Johnny Zou, co-head of Primavera Venture Partners, said, 'Primavera Venture Partners is excited to be involved in a new venture with such promising technology managed by a team with an outstanding record in the immune-oncology field. Accession Therapeutics provides a unique opportunity for making a huge step change, and within a relatively limited time-frame, in the treatment of many cancers.'

Hans Ivar Robinson, CEO and Chairman of Birk Venture, said, 'We are very excited by the potential of Accession Therapeutics' elegant Trocept technology in hard-to-treat cancers. Birk Venture looks forward to using its expertise gained from extensive oncology investment to support the company's development of much needed novel cancer therapeutics.'

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### **About Accession Therapeutics**

Accession Therapeutics is developing novel immune-oncology therapeutics combining high specificity and potency with the ability to counter tumour diversity. Led by T cell receptor therapy pioneer Be

nt Jakobsen, PhD FMedSci, the company is leveraging its Trocept platform technology to develop a portfolio of next generation products to the IND/early clinical trial stage. By engineering viruses specifically directed to cancer cells and carrying a transgene coding for an antitumour or immune activator drug, Trocept products are expected to be highly specific, broad in action so as to kill all cancer cell variants present in a tumour, and potent in activating the full immune system arsenal.

The effect of the antitumour drug and immune system activation caused by cancer cell lysis after viral infection combine synergistically to give this broad and potent response. Dr Jakobsen is a founder of Adaptimmune and Immunocore which are both now listed on NASDAQ. Accession Therapeutics recently closed the first tranche of a long-term funding round, supported by Primavera Venture Partners, Birk Venture and other international biotech investors. It is establishing headquarters in Oxford, UK.

### **About Primavera Venture Partners**

Primavera Venture Partners (PVP) is the venture capital arm of Primavera Capital Group, a premier China-based global investment firm with portfolio companies including Alibaba, Ant Group, ByteDance, Junlebao, Kuaishou, Laobaixing, Xpeng, Yum China, among others. PVP focuses on early-stage innovative tech companies in artificial intelligence, industrial Internet, and healthcare etc.

### **About Birk Venture**

Birk Venture is a privately held Norwegian based Investment Company exclusively focusing on the life science sector. The company was founded by Hans Ivar Robinson in 2010. Our vision is to transform unique innovations and technologies into excellent businesses in the health care sector. We offer capital to young companies with significant growth prospects, and we take an active role in the development of our early stage investments. Our approach is always to take a long term view in our strategic investment decisions which are based on broad industrial experience from the pharmaceutical and biotechnology industry.



## Cancer leader Professor Alan Parker joins Accession Therapeutics Co-inventor of Trocept platform to guide immuno-oncology pipeline growth

**Oxford, UK, January 26 2022** – Accession Therapeutics, which is developing novel immune-oncology therapeutics combining high specificity and potency with the ability to counter tumour diversity, is pleased to announce that Alan Parker, Professor of Translational Virotherapies at Cardiff University, has joined the company. Professor Parker is co-inventor of its proprietary Trocept platform, and has been appointed Chief Scientific Officer of its Trocept Therapeutics subsidiary in which the technology is being developed. Based on over a decade of work, the first Trocept product is expected to enter the clinic within the next three years.

Based at the School of Medicine, Cardiff University since 2013, Professor Parker will continue to lead his group there alongside his role at Accession Therapeutics, with the two teams maintaining a close collaborative relationship. At the University he is Head of Solid Cancers and leads the targeted therapeutic programme of the Wales Cancer Research Centre (funded by Health and Care Research Wales). His laboratory is also supported by Cancer Research UK, Cancer Research Wales and Tenovus Cancer Care. Professor Parker received his PhD at the CRUK Institute for Cancer Studies at the University of Birmingham in 2003.

Accession Therapeutics recently closed the first tranche of a long-term funding round with Primavera Venture Partners, Birk Venture and an international syndicate of biotech investors. By engineering viruses specifically directed to cancer cells and carrying a transgene coding for an antitumour or immune activator drug, the company's Trocept products are expected to be highly specific, broad in action so as to kill all cancer cell variants present in a tumour, and potent in activating the full immune system arsenal.

Alan Parker, PhD, CSO of Trocept Therapeutics, said, 'As an immuno-oncology drug generation platform Trocept has the potential to transform the treatment of recalcitrant cancers. I'm delighted to join the expert team to help generate a pipeline of novel and effective cancer therapeutics with minimal side effects.'

Bent Jakobsen, PhD FMedSci, CEO of Accession Therapeutics, said, 'As we work to eradicate cancers by harnessing the immune system more powerfully than ever before, Alan's extensive knowledge of viral gene delivery in the oncology setting will be invaluable. He is an excellent complement to our existing skills base and we are delighted to welcome him to the company.'

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### About Accession Therapeutics

Accession Therapeutics is developing novel immune-oncology therapeutics combining high specificity and potency with the ability to counter tumour diversity. Led by T cell receptor therapy pioneer Bent Jakobsen, PhD FMedSci, the company is leveraging its Trocept platform technology to develop a portfolio of next generation products to the IND/early clinical trial stage. By engineering viruses specifically directed to cancer cells and carrying a transgene coding for an antitumour or immune activator drug, Trocept products are expected to be highly specific, broad in action so as to kill all cancer cell variants present in a tumour, and potent in activating the full immune system arsenal. The effect of the antitumour drug and immune system activation caused by cancer cell lysis after viral infection combine synergistically to give this broad and potent response, as illustrated in the animation here: <https://bit.ly/3r8WgPu>

Dr Jakobsen is a founder of Adaptimmune and Immunocore which are both now listed on NASDAQ. Accession Therapeutics recently closed the first tranche of a long-term funding round, supported by Primavera Venture Partners, Birk Venture and other international biotech investors. It is establishing its laboratory and office facilities at the Oxford Business Park, UK. [www.accessiontherapeutics.com](http://www.accessiontherapeutics.com)



## Key references for the Trocept platform

Please contact us for any further information

### Most relevant papers

Uusi-Kerttula, H., et al., Ad5(NULL)-A20: A Tropism-Modified,  $\alpha\beta_6$  Integrin-Selective Oncolytic Adenovirus for Epithelial Ovarian Cancer Therapies. Clin Cancer Res, 2018. 24(17): p. 4215-4224.

Davies, J.A., et al., Efficient Intravenous Tumor Targeting Using the  $\alpha\beta_6$  Integrin-Selective Precision Virotherapy Ad5(NULL)-A20. Viruses, 2021. 13(5).

### Related papers

Waddington, S.N., et al., Adenovirus serotype 5 hexon mediates liver gene transfer. Cell, 2008. 132(3): p. 397-409.

Parker, A.L., et al., Multiple vitamin K-dependent coagulation zymogens promote adenovirus-mediated gene delivery to hepatocytes. Blood, 2006. 108(8): p. 2554-61.

Alba, R., et al., Identification of coagulation factor (F)X binding sites on the adenovirus serotype 5 hexon: effect of mutagenesis on FX interactions and gene transfer. Blood, 2009. 114(5): p. 965-71.

Alba, R., et al., Biodistribution and retargeting of FX-binding ablated adenovirus serotype 5 vectors. Blood, 2010. 116(15): p. 2656-64.

Parker, A.L., et al., Effect of neutralizing sera on factor x-mediated adenovirus serotype 5 gene transfer. J Virol, 2009. 83(1): p. 479-83.

Parker, A.L., et al., Influence of coagulation factor zymogens on the infectivity of adenoviruses pseudotyped with fibers from subgroup D. J Virol, 2007. 81(7): p. 3627-31.

Waddington, S.N., et al., Targeting of adenovirus serotype 5 (Ad5) and 5/47 pseudotyped vectors in vivo: fundamental involvement of coagulation factors and redundancy of CAR binding by Ad5. J Virol, 2007. 81(17): p. 9568-71.

Uusi-Kerttula, H., et al., Incorporation of Peptides Targeting EGFR and FGFR1 into the Adenoviral Fiber Knob Domain and Their Evaluation as Targeted Cancer Therapies. Hum Gene Ther, 2015. 26(5): p. 320-9.

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### Relevant reviews and commentaries

Cunliffe, T.G., E.A. Bates, and A.L. Parker, Hitting the Target but Missing the Point: Recent Progress towards Adenovirus-Based Precision Virotherapies. Cancers (Basel), 2020. 12(11).

Teijeira Crespo, A., et al., Pouring petrol on the flames: Using oncolytic virotherapies to enhance tumour immunogenicity. Immunology, 2021. 163(4): p. 389-398.

Uusi-Kerttula, H., et al., Oncolytic Adenovirus: Strategies and Insights for Vector Design and Immuno-Oncolytic Applications. Viruses, 2015. 7(11): p. 6009-42.

Uusi-Kerttula, H. and A.L. Parker, Precision virotherapies: Coming soon. Oncotarget, 2018. 9(86): p. 35605-35606.

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