

Bringing a new therapeutic treatment to the market is a long and costing adventure for any pharmaceutical company. Let me inaugurate you about the beginnings of Oblita Therapeutic's molecule D121. The story of D121, a "best-in-class" molecule, started back in 2009 with Dr Jansen, Founder of Dafra Pharma, Belgium.

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A serendipitous encounter

A serendipitous encounter in 2009 between Dr. Frans Herwig Jansen and Professor Hansjörg Eibl sparked the renaissance of D121, a molecule "forgotten by industry" however with a pioneering potential in treating leishmaniasis and other parasitic and fungal infections. Despite being overshadowed by the industry preference for repurposing the drug miltefosine, primarily used for oncology, D121 now emerges as the most promising candidate in development for one of the most challenging infectious diseases in tropical regions characterized by high temperatures and high humidity.

Dr. Jansen, a medical doctor specialized in internal medicine and holding a Ph.D. in analytical biochemistry, had previously developed about 40 molecules in major pharmaceutical companies. Among his most notable contributions to global society was the development of an artemisinin combination therapy in suspension for children afflicted with malaria under Dafra Pharma R&D.

Collaborating with Prof. Eibl, Dr. Jansen embarked on a collaborative research endeavour aimed at developing D121 for the benefit of humanity in 2011 under Dafra Pharma R&D.



Prof Dr H Eibl



Dr FH Jansen

Dr Jansen likes a challenge

Dr Jansen liked chemical formulation challenges by molecules with complicated properties for developing a stable drug.



With the assistance of Hans Platteeuw, a very talented Dutch chemist, the manufacturability work advanced at Dafra Pharma.

A breakthrough occurred with the development of an exceptionally stable drug substance in capsules and tablets engineered to withstand the harshest

climate conditions, including extreme temperatures and humidity prevalent in tropical and subtropical regions where the drug is needed most.



This research culminated with the initiation of the first clinical trial for D121 in healthy volunteers at the Kenya Medical Research Institute (KEMRI) in 2014.

Tragically, Dr Jansen's untimely passing in 2013 disrupted the project's momentum.

TT4CL – a project under Horizon (2020-2024)

Thanks to a grant from the European Union's Horizon 2020 programme for research and innovation, the D121 drug development project was revitalized: TT4CL stands for Targeted Treatment for Cutaneous Leishmaniasis.

Hans Platteeuw and his team at Avivia resumed their work for D121 aiming to refine and enhance the manufacturing, formulation, and storage processes of the drug substance as well as the finished drug product.

Cutaneous leishmaniasis is an endemic disease in tropical regions and therefore the drug product needed to be further optimized to withstand the climatic conditions and cultural environment.

Recently, Hans and his team achieved a new significant discovery by developing a novel capsule for administering D121 : an optimised formulation filled in vegetable capsules. The latter are safe for human consumption and offer further unrivalled advantages in terms of stability and usability.



Interested in the next development steps?

[Please follow TT4CL](#)

Or have a look at the website:

www.tt4cl-h2020.eu



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TT4CL

TARGETED TREATMENT FOR CUTANEOUS LEISHMANIASIS