

Dynavax picks up ISS Stimulatory Sequence for treatment of asthma and COPD

On August 5, 2009, NIAID, a division of NIH sent an email indicating that Dynavax may have picked up the ISS Stimulatory Sequence for treating and curing asthma and COPD. When a member of the Stem Cells Pioneers forum contacted Dynavax, their response (attached below) shows just why the FDA – Big Pharma alliance is great for business, and terrible for patients.

Dear Mr. _ _ _ _;

First off, please let me state that we regret that you are suffering from this debilitating disease. Please note that DVAX has a collaborative program with AstraZeneca in which we aim to develop Immunostimulatory CpG-containing DNA sequences for the treatment of Asthma and COPD. These sequences are stimulating the TLR9 pathway in the airways and have indeed been shown in mouse models to heal the asthma phenotype (both in our hands and in the hands of others, such as the study you refer to in your email below). This collaboration between DVAX and AstraZeneca started in September 2007 and is progressing well with the nomination of a Clinical Candidate in 2008. However, as you may be aware, it may take 10-15 years for such a compound to enter the market, and the actual time for this particular compound is hard to predict and subject to possible failure in during the clinical trial path. In spite of this, we have a lot of faith in our current approach and believe it may potentially make a big difference to patients, if it should reach the market.

With the best wishes for your health,

With kind regards,

Lxxx Cxx
Project Manager Asthma Program
<http://www.dynavax.com/asthma.html>
<http://www.dynavax.com/contact.html>

From: _ _ _ _
Sent: Thursday, August 06, 2009 1:15 PM
To: Cxx, Lxxx
Subject: Re: Asthma Project

Dear Lxxx Cxx:

Thanks for getting back with me. I was referred to you by NIAID in the NIH. I had approached them to pick up an in house study of the ISS Stimulatory Process (DNA Vaccine) for versing asthma and asthma related COPD <http://health.dailynewscentral.com/c...iew/000196/74/>. Although NIAID's response was pretty vague, their mention of your company's name appeared to imply that you picked up this study. Would you please confirm as to whether or not you are

picking it up? If you are going to do this, please indicate your estimated commencement of enrollment for a phase I human trials.

If you are not picking it up, I will continue my search for someone in the public and/or private sector to do this study. NIAID also mentioned that the treatment appeared to offer mixed results in Ragweed sufferers. However, I am not sure where they are going with this. It is a well established fact that a good percentage of all patients who die from asthma or asthma related COPD are not allergic to anything. I am one of them. I lost the use of my right lung following the flu in May 2009. I am one of those people that has trouble with infection in the presence of asthma.

Drop me a line and let me know what your thoughts are. I won't continue my calling if I know for sure someone is going to pick it up. Also, let me know if anything may be posted on a patient website concerning this. I participate in <http://www.stemcellpioneers.com> and <http://www.copdliving.com> There are many COPD patients involved with these sites and the medical community hasn't offered them much.

Sincerely,
XXX