



Caelus Health announces first closing of a Series A financing round to advance microbiota-based therapeutics for cardio-metabolic disorders

Amsterdam, the Netherlands, January 26th 2017 – Caelus Health has secured EUR 2.5 million in a Series A investment round, enabling the company to advance its pipeline of microbiota-based products for early intervention in cardio-metabolic disease.

Caelus Health is one of the first companies fully dedicated to the clinical development of microbiota-based products for early intervention in cardio-metabolic disease. Caelus was founded in 2014 by prof. Max Nieuwdorp (Academic Medical Centre, AMC, Amsterdam) and prof. Willem M. De Vos (Wageningen University), based on the initial work with fecal transplant studies in the AMC.

In recent years it has been demonstrated that alterations in intestinal microbiota are associated with obesity and insulin resistance. Caelus is developing a pipeline of clinical products for the early treatment and prevention of cardio-metabolic diseases including metabolic syndrome, fatty liver disease and diabetes mellitus.

The investment round is led by Johnson & Johnson Innovation - JJDC, Inc. (JJDC) and supported by founding investor Life Sciences Fund Amsterdam (LSFA). In addition, Caelus obtained a EUR 1.9 million innovation credit from the Dutch Ministry of Economic Affairs. Caelus will set-up capabilities to support its product development platform and advance its pipeline of microbiota-based products.

Luc Sterkman MD, CEO of Caelus states: *“We are delighted to announce the support from a leading strategic life sciences investor and to have the continued support from our founding investor. This allows Caelus to boost the efforts of the company in developing a new class of products based on microbiota and addressing a strong need for early interventions in diabetes and other metabolic diseases.”*

Caelus is amongst the first companies joining Johnson & Johnson Innovation, JLINX, managed and supported by Bioqube Ventures and is leveraging the full potential of this new investment and incubation model: venture financing by JJDC, the access to microbiome subject matter expertise through the Janssen Human Microbiome Institute (JHMI) and access to the capabilities at the Janssen Research & Development, LLC site in Beerse, Belgium.

Dirk Gevers, Global Head of JHMI, will join the Scientific Advisory Board of Caelus.

About Johnson & Johnson Innovation – JJDC

Johnson & Johnson Innovation – JJDC, Inc. is the venture capital subsidiary of Johnson & Johnson that has been investing since 1973 in the medical device, diagnostic, pharmaceutical, and consumer health areas. JJDC’s goal is to create opportunities that meet the strategic needs of its operating affiliates while providing visibility to innovative emerging technology, businesses and business models. JJDC invests in companies across the continuum from early stage seed investments to advanced stages of series venture management. For more information, please visit: www.JJDC.com

About Life Sciences Fund Amsterdam

Life Sciences Fund Amsterdam is an independent venture capital fund aiming to capitalize on new technological developments in the life sciences sector. It provides investment capital to fund high tech entrepreneurial activity in the Amsterdam Metropolitan Area in general and at the academic medical centres in particular. The fund is part of the Innovation industries group of funds (www.innovationindustries.com) and has founded companies such as Caelus and Sigmascreening and has further invested in leading biotech companies like AIMM Therapeutics, ACS Biomarker, Regenesance, and MirNext.

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