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Kotak Altis invests Rs 20 Cr in Cellogen Therapeutics

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Investment will be used to advance Cellogen's CAR-T clinical programmes



Kotak Alternate Asset Managers Limited (Kotak Alts), through its Kotak Life Sciences Fund I (KLSF-I), which invests in early-to growth-stage life sciences and healthcare businesses, has made an investment of Rs 20 crore in Delhi-based startup Cellogen Therapeutics, a biotechnology company focused on cell and gene therapies.

The investment will be used to advance Cellogen's CAR[®]T clinical programmes, expand its gene therapy pipeline, and strengthen its GMP[®]-compliant manufacturing and regulatory capabilities.

Ashish Ranjan, Director, Kotak Alts, said, "India carries a high burden of blood cancers and genetic blood disorders, yet access to advanced therapies such as CAR[®]T and gene therapy remains limited, largely due to cost. Cellogen is working to address this gap through an indigenous, IP[®]-led platform that brings together next[®]-generation science and cost[®]-efficient development. Its bispecific CAR[®]T programme places the company among a small group working on advanced multi[®]-targeted CAR[®]T approaches globally. We see the potential for meaningful clinical impact and for building scalable, affordable cell and gene therapy capabilities from India."

Founded in 2021, Cellogen Therapeutics works in advanced cellular engineering and gene therapy. The company is led by Dr Gaurav Kharya and Dr Tanveer Ahmad and is backed by NATCO Pharma. Its core platform focuses on next[®]-generation CAR[®]T therapies, while early[®]-stage programs are being developed for beta thalassemia and sickle cell disease.

Cellogen's lead asset is a bispecific, dual[®]-antigen CAR[®]T therapy aimed at reducing relapse, one of the key challenges with current treatments. The company is working toward initiating Phase I human clinical trials, subject to regulatory approvals, in collaboration with CMC Vellore. Cellogen also operates an integrated, GMP[®]-compliant manufacturing facility in Noida, with in[®]-house capabilities in CAR design and lentiviral vector manufacturing, supporting significantly lower treatment costs compared to global benchmarks.