

Faron Pharmaceuticals Ltd

10:30 26 Oct 2020

Faron Pharma right in middle of fight against cancer and coronavirus

What it does

Faron Pharmaceuticals Oy (LON:FARN)(NASDAQFIRSTNORTH:FARON) is a Finnish drug discovery firm focusing on two programmes: Clevegen and Traumakine.

Clevegen

Immunotherapy treatment Clevegen is in a phase I/II trial (MATINS) for metastatic cutaneous melanoma as well as hepatobiliary/hepatocellular, pancreatic, ovarian and colorectal cancers.

Tumour cells are adept at creating a shield around themselves to evade detection by the immune system, therefore staving off destruction.

Clevegen has been designed to recognise cancer and break the tumour's protective shell.

The treatment is an anti-Clever-1 antibody which causes changes in the immune environment of solid tumours by switching Clever-1 positive immune suppressive macrophages to immune active macrophages.

Ultimately, if it is successful, this new breed of treatment will be used in combination with PD-1 inhibitors to tackle the killer disease.

Faron was also given the green light to broaden the scope of its phase I/II cancer trial after a review of the interim data.

The MATINS study of the immunotherapy Clevegen will now take in seven further strains of the disease besides the two already assessed - colorectal and ovarian.

In June it confirmed the generic name, bexmarilimab.

Traumakine

Traumakine has been rejuvenated following the disappointment over its phase III trial result.

As a treatment for lung inflammation condition ARDS its missed its target with no benefit against the placebo.

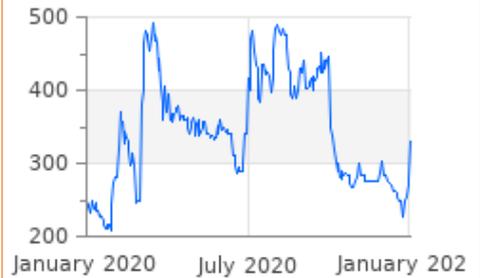
However, since then Faron has identified that it was steroids used alongside the drug that led to the unexpected result.

Traumakine is an interferon-beta that helps to stop lung inflammation and has come to the fore as a way potentially to help severe coronavirus sufferers.

Price: 345

Market Cap: £161.79 m

1 Year Share Price Graph



Share Information

Code: FARN

Listing: AIM

52 week	High	Low
	595	205

Sector: Pharma & Biotech

Website: www.faron.com

Company Synopsis:

Faron is a clinical stage biopharmaceutical company developing novel treatments for medical conditions with significant unmet needs. The Company currently has a pipeline focusing on acute organ traumas, vascular damage and cancer immunotherapy.

action@proactiveinvestors.com

The latest development has seen Traumakine admitted to a large-scale global programme (REMAP-CAP) that will assess its potential in treating severe pneumonia, including patients with coronavirus (COVID-19).

Faron said its interferon beta-1 formulation will be delivered intravenously, which the company reckons offers the best "delivery route" for critically ill patients.

It will also be compared in the study with other treatments, including hydrocortisone medications. These steroid-based interventions, used in patients in respiratory distress, were seen as the potential root cause of a failed Faron phase III study of Traumakine.

It was also added to the HIBISCUS (Human Interferon Beta In Severe CoronavirUS) trial will focus on intensive care patients with ARDS caused by viral infection such as coronavirus and influenza.

The phase II/III pivotal, randomised, placebo controlled study aims to recruit 350 patients over six to eight months throughout the US with "many significant hospitals participating".

How it is doing

In October, Faron said it was disappointed by results from a study that showed little impact from interferon Beta-1a injected under the skin in halting coronavirus-related deaths.

The World Health Organisation's (WHO) Solidarity trial compared 1412 patients who received IFN beta-1a and 2050 control subjects not receiving IFN beta-1a.

The results show that subcutaneous interferon (IFN) beta-1a was found to be safe, but ineffective to reduce overall mortality in hospitalised patients with COVID-19.

Faron's IFN Beta-1a candidate Traumakine was part of the Solidarity trial, but the company said it only became available very late in the observation period and its understanding was that it had seldom been used.

Meanwhile, cancer drug development Clevegen is also making good progress through phase I/II of the ongoing MATINS trial.

This trial was recently expanded to ten types of the disease, though the next part will focus on four types - colorectal, ovarian, cutaneous melanoma and uveal melanoma.

What the boss says: Markku Jalkanen, chief executive

"These first results from the Solidarity Trial are disappointing, given the need for new therapeutics to support the global response to COVID-19."

"They do support our long-held view that IFN beta-1a is likely to be ineffective when given subcutaneously."

"The science behind Traumakine and its potential to prevent multi-organ failure, through the upregulation of the key endothelial enzyme CD73, is compelling."

"We continue to believe that an intravenous formulation of IFN beta-1a is what patients need, to strengthen the body's own IFN beta signalling - the first line of defence against viral infection - and provide optimal exposure to the lung vasculature."

"Compared to subcutaneous IFN beta-1a, the same amount of intravenous IFN beta-1a achieves over 150x higher peak concentration in the lung vasculature without higher systemic exposure, which we believe makes this method of administration highly effective and safe... We will continue to pursue the science behind this."

Latest video

Proactive Investors facilitate the largest global investor network across 4 continents in 4 languages. With a team of analysts, journalists & professional investors Proactive produce independent coverage on 1000's of companies across every sector for private investors, private client brokers, fund managers and international investor communities.

Contact us +44 (0)207 989 0813 action@proactiveinvestors.com

No investment advice

The Company is a publisher. You understand and agree that no content published on the Site constitutes a recommendation that any particular security, portfolio of securities, transaction, or investment strategy is suitable or advisable for any specific person. You understand that the Content on the Site is provided for information purposes only, and none of the information contained on the Site constitutes an offer, solicitation or recommendation to buy or sell a security. You understand that the Company receives either monetary or securities compensation for our services. We stand to benefit from any volume which any Content on the Site may generate.

You further understand that none of the information providers or their affiliates will advise you personally concerning the nature, potential, advisability, value, suitability or profitability of any particular security, portfolio of securities, transaction, investment, investment strategy, or other matter.

You understand that the Site may contain opinions from time to time with regard to securities mentioned in other products, including Company-related products, and that those opinions may be different from those obtained by using another product related to the Company. You understand and agree that contributors may write about securities in which they or their firms have a position, and that they may trade such securities for their own account. In cases where the position is held at the time of publication and such position is known to the Company, appropriate disclosure is made. However, you understand and agree that at the time of any transaction that you make, one or more contributors may have a position in the securities written about. You understand that price and other data is supplied by sources believed to be reliable, that the calculations herein are made using such data, and that neither such data nor such calculations are guaranteed by these sources, the Company, the information providers or any other person or entity, and may not be complete or accurate.

From time to time, reference may be made in our marketing materials to prior articles and opinions we have published. These references may be selective, may reference only a portion of an article or recommendation, and are likely not to be current. As markets change continuously, previously published information and data may not be current and should not be relied upon.

The Site does not, and is not intended to, provide investment, tax, accounting, legal or insurance advice, and is not and should not be construed as providing any of the foregoing. You should consult an attorney or other relevant professional regarding your specific legal, tax, investment or other needs as tailored to your specific situation.

In exchange for publishing services rendered by the Company on behalf of Faron Pharmaceuticals Ltd named herein, including the promotion by the Company of Faron Pharmaceuticals Ltd in any Content on the Site, the Company receives from said issuer annual aggregate cash compensation in the amount up to Twenty Five Thousand dollars (\$25,000).