



Borea Therapeutics launches with seed investment from Sofinnova Partners

Next generation AAV-based gene therapies to enable targeting of specific tissues and cells, making treatment safer and more effective for patients

Milan, Italy – June 30, 2021 - [Borea Therapeutics](#), (“Borea”) a Milan-based biotechnology company advancing a new generation of gene therapies to enable targeting of specific tissues and cells, announced a successful seed financing from the Sofinnova Telethon Fund, the largest fund entirely dedicated to biotechnology in Italy.

Borea is developing next generation adeno-associated virus-based platforms (AAV), a key viral vector technology used in gene therapies. The Borea platform is designed to enable viral vectors to reach areas like the central nervous system (CNS) and peripheral nervous system (PNS), thus opening the door to new therapeutic options. The company was co-founded in 2020 by Professor Paul Heppenstall and EMBLEM Technology Transfer GmbH (EMBLEM), the technology transfer arm of the European Molecular Biology Lab (EMBL), an intergovernmental research organization with six research sites throughout Europe, including one in Rome. The company’s research activities are performed in collaboration with *Scuola Internazionale Superiore di Studi Avanzati* (SISSA), a scientific center of excellence in Trieste.

Paul Heppenstall, Borea’s Founder, said: “The work that Borea is doing, of translating the science from the bench and bringing it to the clinic to develop therapies for patients, is critical. Patients suffering from rare genetic diseases today have very few therapeutic options. Borea’s gene therapy developments have the potential to bring significant impact to patients’ lives.”

Juergen Bauer, Deputy Manager of EMBLEM, noted: “This company, a startup based on innovations created at EMBL Rome, demonstrates the outstanding science in the field and the importance of being supported by a leading life science investor like Sofinnova Partners to identify the best acceleration path to validate the technology and move it forward to the clinical, bringing it closer to patients.”

“The importance of training and exposing scientists to the entrepreneurial mindset is key,” said **Professor Stefano Ruffo, Director of SISSA**. “Institutions like SISSA are proud to support their scientists in developing their own companies, which is an opportunity to create jobs and job growth for scientists. We are very happy to recognize Borea as an official SISSA-startup.”

Lucia Faccio, Partner at Sofinnova Partners and a board member of Borea Therapeutics, said: “Borea is the perfect example of the kind of company we seek to support through the Sofinnova Telethon Fund: It has developed world-class science with the potential to impact patient lives. Prof. Heppenstall is not only a neurobiologist with more than 25 years of experience in the domain, he is also an entrepreneur with a vision. We are proud to support this exceptional company as it advances groundbreaking research in the field of rare, genetic diseases.”

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About Borea Therapeutics

Borea Therapeutics is a Milan-based biotechnology company advancing a new generation of gene therapies to enable targeting of specific tissues and cells. It was co-founded in 2020 by Professor Paul Heppenstall and EMBLEM Technology Transfer GmbH (EMBLEM), the technology transfer arm of the European Molecular Biology Lab (EMBL), an intergovernmental research organization with six research sites throughout Europe. The company's research activities are performed in collaboration with *Scuola Internazionale Superiore di Studi Avanzati* (SISSA), a scientific center of excellence in Trieste. Borea was created with seed financing from the Sofinnova Telethon Fund, the largest fund entirely dedicated to biotechnology in Italy. For more information, visit: www.boreatherapeutics.com.

Sofinnova Partners

Sofinnova Partners is a leading European venture capital firm in life sciences, specializing in healthcare and sustainability. Based in Paris, London and Milan, the firm brings together a team of professionals from all over the world with strong scientific, medical and business expertise. Sofinnova Partners is a hands-on company builder across the entire value chain of life sciences investments, from seed to later-stage. The firm actively partners with ambitious entrepreneurs as a lead or cornerstone investor to develop transformative innovations that have the potential to positively impact our collective future.

Founded in 1972, Sofinnova Partners is a deeply-established venture capital firm in Europe, with 50 years of experience backing over 500 companies and creating market leaders around the globe. Today, Sofinnova Partners has over €2 billion under management. For more information, please visit: www.sofinnovapartners.com

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