



## Press Release

For Immediate Release

### Immuno Cure Kicks off Phase IIa Clinical Trial in Hong Kong

#### Key Takeaways

- Immuno Cure BioTech has been granted HK\$7.1 million funding from HKSTP to kick off a clinical trial of booster DNA vaccine against COVID-19 in collaboration with the University of Hong Kong.
- The clinical trial, which will be conducted in Gleneagles Hospital Hong Kong, is designed as an open-label study to evaluate the immunogenicity and safety of ICCOV (a COVID-19 DNA vaccine candidate) as a booster vaccine.
- This trial, with an aim to provide reliable clinical data for future vaccine research to enhance treatment against cancers and infectious diseases, showcases the huge potential for Hong Kong as a hub for clinical trial projects and translational medicine.

**(Hong Kong, 21 June 2023)** - Immuno Cure BioTech (“Immuno Cure”) is pleased to announce today the initiation of a Phase IIa clinical trial of ICCOV, a COVID-19 DNA vaccine candidate. The clinical trial is initiated by Immuno Cure in collaboration with the University of Hong Kong (“HKU”) and will be conducted in Gleneagles Hospital Hong Kong (“Gleneagles”).

The clinical trial is designed as an open-label study to evaluate the immunogenicity and safety of ICCOV as a booster vaccine in a total of 60 healthy adult volunteers between 18 and 75 years of age.

Immuno Cure has been granted HK\$7.1 million funding under the Clinical Translational Catalyst Programme of the Institute for Translational Research (“ITR”) of the Hong Kong Science and Technology Parks Corporation (“HKSTP”).

“Booster vaccination is essential to provide protection against infectious diseases in both individual and public levels. I hope this clinical trial could provide scientific evidence for future immunization strategy,” said **Professor Ivan HUNG Fan-ngai**, the Principal Investigator of this clinical trial, Ru Chien & Helen Lieh Professor in Health Sciences Pedagogy, Clinical Professor and Chief of Infectious Diseases, Department of Medicine, School of Clinical Medicine, Assistant Dean (Admissions), LKS Faculty of Medicine, the University of Hong Kong (HKUMed).

“We are pleased to be part of this clinical trial and contribute to the efforts to combat the COVID-19 pandemic. We hope that this clinical trial could provide valuable clinical data for future vaccine research to enhance health protection for people,” said **Dr Kenneth TSANG**, CEO of Gleneagles.

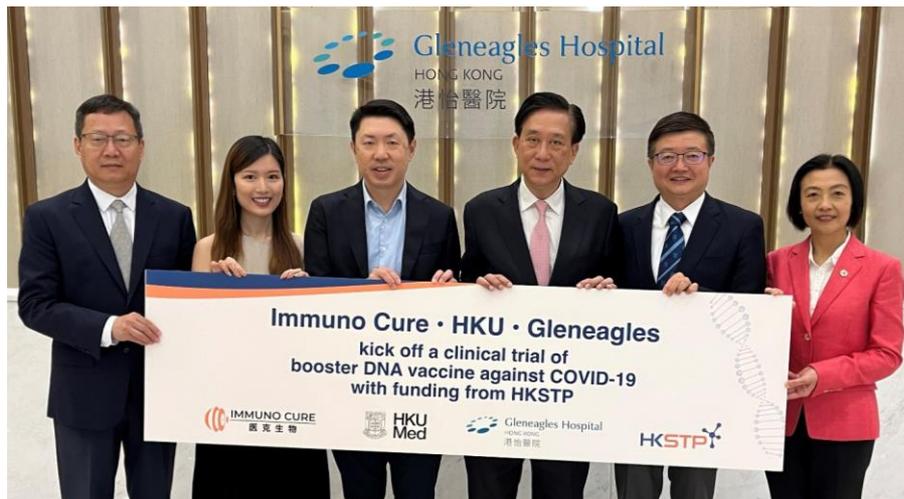
“ICCOV is a DNA vaccine candidate which is designed and developed based on an innovative vaccine technology invented locally in The University of Hong Kong. I hope this clinical trial could strengthen and promote local vaccine research,” said the inventor of the PD1-Enhanced DNA vaccine technology, **Professor Zhiwei CHEN**, Director of AIDS Institute of HKU and the Principal Scientific Advisor of Immuno Cure.

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“The kick-off of this clinical trial is a landmark in Immuno Cure’s vaccine research and development. Research on novel and effective vaccine technologies will enhance our arsenal against cancers and infectious diseases. Immuno Cure will continue to be at the frontier of DNA medicines and innovative immunotherapies,” said **Dr Xia JIN**, CEO of Immuno Cure.

“The progress of Immuno Cure in reaching this critical milestone is testament to the pioneering vision and collaborative spirit of the Immuno Cure, HKU, and Gleneagles. This is a great showcase of strength for the growing biomedical technology ecosystem at Science Park and the huge potential for Hong Kong as a hub for clinical trial projects and translational medicine,” said **Dr Grace LAU**, Head of ITR of HKSTP.

Please [click here](#) to learn more about the study.



**Photo 1:** (From left to right) **Dr. Xia JIN**, CEO of Immuno Cure; **Ms. Carol CHOW**, Head of Pharmacy, Gleneagles Hospital Hong Kong; **Professor Ivan HUNG Fan-ngai**, Ru Chien & Helen Lih Professor in Health Sciences Pedagogy, Clinical Professor and Chief of Infectious Diseases, Department of Medicine, School of Clinical Medicine, Assistant Dean (Admissions), LKS Faculty of Medicine, the University of Hong Kong; **Dr. Percy CHENG**, Chairman of Immuno Cure; **Professor Zhiwei CHEN**, Director of AIDS Institute of the University of Hong Kong and Principal Scientific Advisor of Immuno Cure; **Dr. Grace LAU**, Head of Institute for Translational Research, Hong Kong Science and Technology Parks Corporation.

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### **About Immuno Cure BioTech**

Immuno Cure BioTech is a clinical stage biotechnology group based in the Hong Kong Science Park, focusing on research and development of vaccines and immunotherapies for cancers, inflammatory and infectious diseases based on its patented PD1-Enhanced DNA vaccine and Anti- $\Delta$ 42PD1 Antibody technology platforms invented by the AIDS Institute of The University of Hong Kong.

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To learn more about Immuno Cure BioTech, please visit <http://www.immunocure.hk>.

#### **About Gleneagles Hospital Hong Kong**

Located in Wong Chuk Hang in Hong Kong Island South, Gleneagles Hospital Hong Kong (Gleneagles) is a multi-specialty private hospital, providing 500 beds, cutting-edge medical technologies and a comprehensive range of clinical services spanning more than 35 specialties and subspecialties. As Hong Kong's top-notch private teaching hospital, Gleneagles also contributes to the training and development of healthcare professionals and advancement of clinical research. Gleneagles is a joint venture between IHH Healthcare and NWS Holdings Limited, with The University of Hong Kong as its exclusive clinical partner.

Gleneagles is a member of IHH Healthcare, one of the largest healthcare groups in the world. IHH Healthcare is devoted to providing comprehensive medical services with its dedicated team, influential group and scale, as well as commitment to quality and safety, and hopes to become the most trusted medical service organization in the world. IHH Healthcare upholds the belief: to touch lives and transform care.

More information on Gleneagles Hospital Hong Kong can be found at <https://gleneagles.hk>.

#### **About The University of Hong Kong and AIDS Institute of HKUMed**

The University of Hong Kong (HKU), founded in 1911, is the first and oldest institution of higher learning in Hong Kong. HKU has an established worldwide reputation for being a research-led comprehensive university. The AIDS Institute of HKU was established in November 2007 to take HKU in a new strategic direction in fighting this global epidemic and help to make it a leader in the region in AIDS research, education and prevention. Scientists at the AIDS Institute are fully committed to conducting basic and applied research that facilitates the understanding of AIDS pathogenesis and the development of effective AIDS vaccines. Currently, the Institute is leading the Hong Kong Theme-based Research Scheme entitled "Potentiating Host Immunity for HIV-1 Functional Cure".

To learn more about HKU and AIDS Institute of HKU, please visit <https://www.hku.hk/> and <https://www.med.hku.hk/aidsinst/>.

#### **About Hong Kong Science and Technology Parks Corporation**

Hong Kong Science and Technology Parks Corporation (HKSTP) has for over 20 years committed to building up Hong Kong as an international innovation and technology hub to propel success for local and global pioneers today and tomorrow. HKSTP has established a thriving I&T ecosystem that supported 14 unicorns and Hong Kong's leading R&D hub with over 13,000 research professionals and over 1,400 technology companies focused on healthtech, AI and robotics, fintech and smart city technologies.

Established in 2001, we attract and nurture talent, accelerate and commercialise innovation and technology for entrepreneurs on their journey of growth in Hong Kong, to the Greater Bay Area, Asia

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and beyond. Our growing innovation ecosystem is built around our key locations of Hong Kong Science Park in Shatin, InnoCentre in Kowloon Tong and three modern InnoParks in Tai Po, Tseung Kwan O and Yuen Long. The three InnoParks are realising a vision of new industrialisation for Hong Kong. The goal is sectors like advanced manufacturing, electronics and biotechnology are being reimaged for a new generation of industry.

Through our infrastructure, services, expertise and network of partnerships, HKSTP will help establish innovation and technology as a pillar of growth for Hong Kong, while reinforcing Hong Kong's international I&T hub status as a launchpad for global growth at the heart of the GBA innovation powerhouse.

More information about HKSTP is available at [www.hkstp.org](http://www.hkstp.org).

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