



PRESS RELEASE Dec 18, 2020

Therapeutic proteins from nice bacteria combat infection

A new immunotherapeutic agent, produced by “nice” bacteria, has shown significant therapeutic potential against bacterial infections.

A publication describing these findings is now available online ([doi:10.1172/JCI140333](https://doi.org/10.1172/JCI140333)). The Journal of Clinical Investigation is one of the top journals in the Medicine, Research & Experimental Web of Science category and publishes international discoveries with clinical relevance. SelectImmune Pharma is developing this new immunotherapeutic agent for clinical trials.

The scientists at Lund University have identified a new mechanism that bacteria use to inhibit immune hyper-activation in the hosts. The protein responsible for these effects, NlpD, has been used successfully for therapeutic purposes in an animal model of infection. These proof-of-concept studies show that the bacterial protein reduces inflammation and promotes the clearance of bacteria from infected tissues. The findings suggest an intriguing, evolutionarily conserved mechanism for bacterial modulation of host gene expression, with a remarkable therapeutic potential.

“We are very excited to publish our findings in such a prestigious international journal,” says Ines Ambite, scientist and R&D coordinator, SelectImmune Pharma.

“This discovery illustrates the therapeutic potency of bacterial molecules that balance the immune system,” says Catharina Svanborg, founder and chairman of the board, SelectImmune Pharma.

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SelectImmune Pharma is a pharmaceutical company whose shares are traded on the Spotlight Stock Market. The company's goal is to develop new immunotherapies, which act as immune enhancers and offer alternatives to antibiotics.