

ScandiBio Therapeutics' chairman and co-founder, Mathias Uhlén, interviewed by *Life Science Sweden*

Life Science Sweden published an article (in Swedish) on 4 November, reporting that “a new type of Alzheimer's treatment is being developed by Swedish researchers.” “At first, it sounded too good to be true, but after ten years of work, we've gotten used to the idea,” Mathias Uhlén told the magazine.

The article explains: “Quietly, completely under the radar, Swedish company Scandibio Therapeutics, with well-known researchers such as Mathias Uhlén and Henrik Zetterberg on its board, has developed a drug candidate that is now to be tested in a phase III clinical trial.”

As the piece continues: “It is a treatment called CMA (Combined Metabolic Activator), which aims to boost the mitochondria, the powerhouses of cells, in the brain and thereby improve memory. A growing body of research suggests that impaired mitochondrial function contributes to cognitive decline in Alzheimer's patients.”

The interview quotes Uhlén: “We are not attacking the cause of the disease, but we are attacking what is the biggest problem, namely memory loss. We want to provide substrates that improve mitochondrial function in a situation where they have difficulty providing energy to the cells, it's not hard to understand that Alzheimer's patients have a rather tired brain.”

The article notes: “The new Alzheimer's drugs that have been approved recently, including the Swedish-developed Leqembi, are aimed at breaking up the beta-amyloid plaques that form in the brains of patients. ScandiBio has a different approach.”

Uhlén adds: “We have been working on a combination preparation, where instead of inhibiting a target protein, we try to activate an entire process by providing several components that improve a specific process in the cells in a more systemic way. And the nice thing about this treatment is that it is completely complementary to existing drugs.”

The article continues: “CMA consists of four different components that are already in production in the form of supplements or drugs. The treatment, which is taken orally, has been developed to improve metabolism, stimulate fatty acid oxidation, and reduce oxidative stress.”

“According to the company, phase II studies have shown that it improves cognitive function and has a positive effect on systemic metabolic pathways.”

It further details: “A Phase III study has now been initiated at nine hospitals in Turkey to test the treatment for Alzheimer's patients with mild, moderate, and severe symptoms. So far, around 60 participants have been recruited, and the goal is to include 600 patients in the study.”

The story adds: “The idea is to expand the study to Europe and Asia, and an investment round is currently underway to finance this. Mathias Uhlén makes no secret of the fact that hopes are high.”

Uhlén comments: "Now we need to complete phase III, hopefully by the end of next year, and then we have to prepare for what happens if it looks good, as it did in phase II. Because then this will be a very, very attractive drug. The potential is frighteningly large, if I may say so.”

Finally, the article notes: “ScandiBio Therapeutics was founded by researchers at the Royal Institute of Technology, the Karolinska Institutet, and the Sahlgrenska Academy, and is part of Navigare Ventures' venture capital portfolio.”

“The company's scientific foundation comes from research at SciLifeLab, led by Mathias Uhlén, Adil Mardinoglu (professor at King's College London and associate professor at KTH) and Jan Borén (professor at Sahlgrenska Academy).”

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