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Joining us today is Jeremy Skillington the CEO of Poolbeg Pharma that trades on our OTCQB Venture Market under the ticker POLBF. Based in London, Poolbeg Pharma is a clinical stage infectious disease pharmaceutical company with a capital light clinical model, which is looking to develop multiple products faster and more cost effectively than the conventional biotech model, Poolbeg Pharma aims to become a one-stop shop for pharma and Biotech seeking a range of infectious disease products ready for development and commercialization. Jeremy, thanks so much for joining us today.

Jeremy Skillington

Thank you and it's great to be on, Cecilia.

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Excellent so to start Jimmy tell us about your background in the pharma and biotech industry and then how you got involved in Poolbeg Pharma.

Jeremy Skillington

Sure happy to do that. Yeah so interesting I'm a scientist by training I was doing part of my Ph.D. work to USC San Francisco back in the late 90's and I finished up that work and stayed on and did some more research in the academic lab and then made the leap to biotech from the bench took off my lab coat. And went into business development at Genentech and it was a fantastic experience in again. The bay area in California where from day one we were doing deals. We were assessing external opportunities to you know to in-license bring into genetics pipeline. So I got great training in the biotech industry Drug Discovery Drug Development you know the key aspects for building biotech pipelines and so that went very well I did return back to Ireland you can tell by my accent Irish originally returned to Ireland in 2009 to work with. . startup company here in Ireland up soa therapeutics and I proceeded over the next ten years or so to work with you know, essentially early stage companies. We spun a company out of opsona I worked with a German VC for a while working on a company with mRNA technologies that was great. Interest. more recently I worked with a company called infosome that was founded in and we were acquired by Rosh so it was kind a bit of a kind of full circle as Genentech were acquired by Rosh as well. So. infosome was acquired by Russian 2020 and as a terrific outcome for for the investors and for the for the company in general and you know so that was my yeah play like you of as I say generally started and then Poolbeg came along in the middle of a pandemic here's a new company focusing on infectious diseases. So it was a fantastic opportunity then to jump into that and I thought it was a great

opportunity. A very interesting company. They already had say assets that they were willing to build up. We were also focused on bringing programs into our pipeline so leaning on my in licensing experience at Gen Endeck so we're up and running we upped just about a year ago and we've been moving our pipeline forward very rapidly and it's been a very exciting and challenging year.

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Yeah, so expand on that talk about the different pipelines of assets that you mentioned and how they work together.

Jeremy Skillington

Yeah, yeah, so when we spun out of Openorphan that's our parent company last year we had a range of technology as our lead program is a small molecule immunomodulator for severe influenza that's power and we just received notification yesterday that we got full regulatory approval to move that into clinical testing and a challenge study. So I maybe speak about that later on but a great milestone for the company as I say within a year of founding we'll be yeah, starting a clinical trial. Essentially the kickoff is later this week so very exciting time for the company. But we've also been in you know, active as I said of in licensing programs. We have pod which is a broad spectrum or a-based immunotherapy for respiratory viral infections. So influenza and beyond so very exciting technology out of the university of warwick so it's late preclinical so a bit of work to do to move that forward. And on the back of that then another in licence program. We have an option to a vaccine for a bacterial disease called meleodossis which is very prominent in tropical subtropical regions where there's very yeah, there's no therapeutics available. It affects about people a year but there's 54% fatality so it's quite a devastating disease infection for those who get it so we've been aggressive as you say bringing these programs forward and so that's on the product side. We also have some technologies some platform technologies we're developing one of which is an oral vaccine delivery platform. We also have two collaborations in the artificial intelligence space that we're moving forward to look for do drugs and targets in respiratory viral infection. So as you can see we. We've been quite busy quite active but this is cutting edge science this is at the front end of infectious diseases and we're hoping to make a difference in that space.

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Yeah, and I mean on that note like we can pivot you know obviously to everything that we've been through the last years the covid 19 pandemic so how did this impact your research you know in this area and what do you think? how did this change the public's perception of pandemics. Yeah, it's an interesting one I mean

you know as a panner girl was unrolling and you know as you say as a scientist I'm on the one hand you know terrified on the other hand intrigued of yeah how this is going to you know to play out. Let's say. But I do think we've learned a lot. Obviously you know covid 19 Sarrus Cov two is another respiratory viral infections. So we've learned a lot about you know the transmission you know, maybe how to block the transmission. We've also learned a lot about how to cope you know how to you know the development of vaccines within ten months was quite remarkable I think everyone was. And the industry was quite. You know surprised but delighted that that was the case but I think interestingly from a scientific standpoint. We have a much better understanding of how the body responds and reacts to viral infections and I think that again, not yeah, which can go across not just you know sarrus cov 2 but across other infectious diseases. So from a pool big standpoint. We can take that as a springboard you know looking at how the body you know the immune system in particular responds to these viral infections and then how to come up with therapeutics against them and I think you've heard I mean it's a well-wor statement now about the cytokine storms that have occurred in you know for those who get severe disease. in the of covid nineteen but that goes across you know the spectrum as well for disease like influenza and indeed our lead program apoll 1 is an immuno modulator that blocks that severe response. So interestingly the body responds to the virus and in most cases they get rid of the virus but sometimes the body. Overreacts and the immune system itself causes damage and that's where you have tissue damaged lung damage vascular damage etc. So we've learned a lot of how the body you know responds to and reacts to infections that we can use that knowledge as I say beyond your covid 19 infections.

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Yeah, and what is pool bag Pharma's strategic advantage. Would you say in a highly competitive. You know this in this Pharma Biotech space.

Jeremy Skillington

Yeah, yeah. Yeah I think it's a great question. We see ourselves as having quite a unique model. We. We said we're kind of we're capitalized and we plan to run early human clinical studies now or as I say we spun out of open orphan that run challenge studies and. That's where you get healthy volunteers. You infect them with a virus and again you know some will have vaccines some will have therapeutics and you're testing directly the impact of the effect of these therapeutics so you can have these studies on really quickly and that's whereas I say on my last company infizone. We had early human clinical data. Which was enough to be acquired by rush so similarly at Poolbeg we want to generate that early human clinical efficacy data and then partner and then that we out-licensed

pharma who take it forward into the later more expensive clinical trials and then onto the market so we want to have this convey belt of assets where we have early proof of concept. We've de-risked the program. We haven't spent too much to do that again because these are short term trials. But again the partnering is where we'll generate our revenue and allow a farmer to move it. Forward. So it's somewhat unique in that regard. We're not having product or product that we plan to bring all the way to the market ourselves so we will be an out licensing entity. On very exciting as you say cutting edge infectious disease assets.

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And what's on the horizon for the second half of the year and even into 2023

Jeremy Skillington

Yeah, it's been a remarkably busy your twelve months and it's not going to stop so as I said we just announced the start of our Ips challenge study which we'll begin later on this week we have I mentioned earlier on. artificial intelligence. collaborations going on one would accompany one 3 based in New York who have access to a very unique data set from the challenge studies that we have provided and they're analyzing and interrogating that data using ai because there's so much data there. It's very difficult to do it as a. You know from a person-to-person standpoint so we expect to have outputs from that before the end of the year and these are novel targets novel disease targets for another respiratory infectious disease called orsv or respiratory syncytial virus. And we have data on that by day and the era are outputs and there so maybe new drugs to add to our pipeline then to move forward and so we'll have the results 2 from our podzerozero one Ips challenge study. So it's about to start and we'll have data by the end of the year which again as I say this is where you can have a you know rapid progression of . Of the studies and get the data very early and partnering that begin later on and you know one of our benefits as well being capital light and maybe indie infectious disease spaces. We're very aggressive looking for nondiluted funding. So we've have grants that applied for. And we hope to have positive outcomes at that from the end of the year again essentially where you know government bodies or somebody has funds the work that we're going to do which again goes in line with our with our capital life model and we're also going to you know continue with the in licensing and bringing programs into our pipeline as I mentioned we have access to a. A vaccine against measles for colleagues here at university college dublin and they too have other infectious disease programs. We're looking into a bit earlier but we're looking into it potentially in licensing goals as well. So expanding your portfolio from that standpoint. So . As I say it's going to be a very exciting and very busy. rest of the year for sure.

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Very exciting okay so you guys just started trading on the OTCQB Venture Market earlier this year. So why was it important for the company and your investors to trade on a premier market here in the US.

Jeremy Skillington

Yeah again, glad you asked that question we started off in the London market so we feel that we've got kind of UK essentially access to Europe covered but we do want access to one of the world's largest investment markets and obviously that's in the US. So do we get a broader pool of investors. I think that'll be important to you know to Poolbe as well to enable greater liquidity from our pool bag shares as I say starting off the market or we want to go cross-border trading to improve our liquidity but I think we have kind of long-term ambitions you know we do yeah believe that. You know this listing will enable us institution and retail investors to share in our growth. We're essentially you know relatively young but I think there's a good story here to move forward with and as we know with the infectious diseases I think pharma have pivoted back to being interested and focused on infectious diseases. And I think that would be an area where pool bike can contribute significantly and I think you know also I mean the action fits with our long-term strategy and our ambitions to be dual listed on national securities exchange in the US such as Nasdaq but of course subject to meeting their listing requirements and we see this OTC. You know as a step in that right direction. You know so again, very excited about the potential future. And lastly I will say that you know from a partnering standpoint. We will be looking to the US to you know us biotech and pharma companies to partner our programs with so we think this will give us good exposure to that US market to put us on their radar with the work that we're doing. And ultimately we're you know available for partnering once we have our human early human proof of concept proof of efficacy data that we should have in the near term for one and later on than for the other programs but just to get more recognition as I say you know infectious diseases. It's a global issue so we see we see ourselves as a growing but plan to be global companies. So great to get on the U.S markets.

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Well we look forward to all the exciting you know updates of the future with you and thanks again for your time today. Jeremy it's been great talking with you

Jeremy Skillington

Thank you, I appreciate it.

OTC Markets Group:

Poolbeg Pharma trades under the symbol POLBF on our OTCQB Venture Market

**This is an autogenerated transcript and may contain typos.*