

## With the recruitment of Esbjörn Melin, CombiGene further strengthens the company's scientific position

CombiGene's epilepsy project CGO1 is in late preclinical phase and the company is currently intensifying preparations for the clinical program, where the Phase I study is scheduled to begin in 2022. For the clinical program, CombiGene will use GMP-produced material and for the later phases a more advanced method is needed to analyze the biological activity. As the development of such an analytical method takes a relatively long time, the UK Medicines Agency (MHRA) at the last advisory meeting recommended that CombiGene start this work as soon as possible. CombiGene has therefore recruited Esbjörn Melin to the position of industrial post-doc so that this work begins immediately.



Esbjörn Melin has been a PhD student with Professor **Merab Kokaia**, one of CombiGene's scientific founders, and in the autumn of 2020 received his PhD with the dissertation *Advancing gene therapy for epilepsy. Translational pre-clinical studies with neuropeptide Y and glial cell-line derived neurotrophic factor*. Esbjörn thus has

deep knowledge of CombiGene's epilepsy project and was, among other things, responsible for the practical execution of the chronic study with CGO1 that was conducted in collaboration between Professor Kokaia and Associate Professor **David Woldbye**, CombiGene's other scientific founder.



Esbjörn will be responsible for the development of an analytical method to measure the biological activity of CGO1 and in parallel with this also conduct other studies to establish further evidence around neuropeptide Y and its receptor Y2, the two active substances encoded in CGO1.

"I am very pleased with the recruitment of Esbjörn Melin", says Karin Agerman, CombiGene's Chief Research & Development Officer. "Through his research, he has built up a deep scientific understanding of epilepsy and CGO1's mechanism of action and will thus contribute to the development of CGO1 and further strengthen the company's scientific position."

### About CombiGene AB

CombiGene's vision is to offer patients affected by severe life-changing diseases opportunities for a better life through innovative gene therapies. CombiGene's business concept is to develop effective gene therapies for serious diseases that today lack adequate treatment methods. Research assets are taken in from a network of external researchers and developed further up to clinical concept verification. Drug candidates for common diseases will be co-developed and commercialized through strategic partnerships, while CombiGene may drive the development and commercialization in-house for medicines aimed at limited patient populations. The company is public and listed on the Nasdaq First North Growth Market and the company's Certified Advisor is FNCA Sweden AB, +46 (0)852 80 03 99, [info@fnca.se](mailto:info@fnca.se).

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