

Oncopeptides confirms blood-brain-barrier penetration based on data from first patients in glioblastoma Window-of-Opportunity study

STOCKHOLM – October 9, 2026 – Oncopeptides AB (publ) (Nasdaq Stockholm: ONCO), a biotech company specializing in difficult-to-treat cancers, today announces data from the first patients in its ongoing clinical Window-of-Opportunity (WoO) study, OP-701 (INSULA), evaluating its proprietary Peptide Drug Conjugate (PDC) platform in glioblastoma. Data from the first three treated patients demonstrate successful penetration of the human blood-brain barrier (BBB) with intra-tumoral drug concentrations in line with preclinical models, alongside good tolerability where the first patient has received five monthly doses to date without any major drug-related toxicity.

The blood-brain barrier represents one of the greatest hurdles in neuro-oncology, causing more than 90 percent of conventional systemic cancer drugs to fail because they cannot reach the brain. By confirming meaningful, BBB penetration and delivery of a cytotoxic payload into brain tumor cells in the first patients, the findings provide a strong indication of a clinical proof-of-concept for the PDC platform's mechanism in solid brain tumors.

"Reaching our primary objective to confirm that our PDC technology successfully crosses the human blood-brain barrier is a major breakthrough for Oncopeptides," says **Sofia Heigis, CEO of Oncopeptides**. "For decades, the blood-brain barrier has locked out effective treatments for glioblastoma patients. Demonstrating meaningful drug penetration in resected brain tumors in patients after a single dose validates the fundamental strength and versatility of our platform, transforming our brain cancer program from an ambitious basic scientific premise into a true, clinically justified, opportunity."

The open-label INSULA study, conducted at Oslo University Hospital in Norway, utilizes the EMA approved drug melflufen from Oncopeptides' PDC platform in patients scheduled for surgery due to recurrent glioblastoma. By administering the drug prior to surgery, researchers can directly measure drug uptake and cytotoxic activity in resected tumor tissue.

Key highlights:

- **Confirmed blood-brain barrier penetration:** Analysis of resected tumor tissue from three evaluated patients showed clear and consistent presence of active compound (the primary endpoint in this part of the study), indicating efficient penetration across the human blood-brain barrier.
- **Safety and tolerability:** The treatment has so far been well tolerated across evaluated patients with no major drug-related toxicity observed to date. The first treated patient has continued into the study's open-label extension and received a total of five monthly doses to date, with no new tumor-related neurological symptoms observed. Postoperative paresis related to the surgical procedure was observed and is improving under ongoing treatment.

- **Drug concentrations within the tumor tissue:** Intra-tumoral drug concentrations in the brains of the three patients, as measured by pharmacokinetic analysis, were in line with data from our preclinical studies.
- **Surgical complications:** No unexpected surgical complications were observed.

"Crossing the blood-brain barrier in patients diagnosed with Glioblastoma is an important step for any systemic brain cancer therapy," says **Prof. Petter Brandal, MD, PhD, Oslo University Hospital, and primary investigator in the WoO study**. "These initial tissue findings demonstrate that Oncopeptides' lipophilic PDC molecules behave in human tumors just as anticipated, delivering significant concentrations in tumor cells where standard treatments historically fall short."

Patient recruitment in the INSULA study continues, to reach the target of approximately 10 patients to further characterize pharmacokinetics and pharmacodynamics. The positive data from the first three patients will serve as the biological and clinical foundation to guide further clinical progression and the future development of next-generation PDC assets.

Glioblastoma is the most aggressive and common form of primary brain cancer, with a median overall survival of only 12–15 months and virtually no effective treatment options. The global glioblastoma market is characterized by severe unmet medical needs.

Webcast for investors

Oncopeptides will host a webcast for investors, tentatively on Monday, October 12 at 08.00 CET, to provide further details regarding this scientific breakthrough. An invitation will be sent out separately.

For more information, including questions and answers for investors, please visit www.oncopeptides.com

For more information, please contact:

David Augustsson, Director of IR and Communications, Oncopeptides AB (publ)
E-mail: ir@oncopeptides.com
Cell phone: +46 76 229 38 68

This information is information that Oncopeptides is obliged to make public pursuant to the EU Market Abuse Regulation. The information was submitted for publication, through the agency of the contact persons set out above, at 2026-10-09 11:53 CEST.

About Oncopeptides

Oncopeptides is a Swedish biotech company focusing on research, development and commercialization of targeted therapies for difficult-to-treat cancers.

The company uses its proprietary Peptide Drug Conjugate platform (PDC) to develop compounds that rapidly and selectively deliver cytotoxic agents into cancer cells. Its flagship drug is currently being commercialized in Europe with partnership agreements for South Korea, the Middle East and Africa and elsewhere.

Oncopeptides is also developing several new compounds based on its two proprietary technology platforms PDC and SPiKE.

The company was founded in 2000, has about 70 employees with operations in Sweden, Germany, Austria, Spain and Italy. Oncopeptides is listed on Nasdaq Stockholm with the ticker ONCO.

For more information see: www.oncopeptides.com

Attachments

[Oncopeptides confirms blood-brain-barrier penetration based on data from first patients in glioblastoma Window-of-Opportunity study](#)