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## **CARsgen Therapeutics Holdings Limited**

**科濟藥業控股有限公司**

*(Incorporated in the Cayman Islands with limited liability)*

**(Stock Code: 2171)**

### **VOLUNTARY ANNOUNCEMENT COLLABORATION WITH MODERNA, INC. TO EVALUATE CT041 IN COMBINATION WITH AN MRNA CANCER VACCINE**

This announcement is made by CARsgen Therapeutics Holdings Limited (the “**Company**”, together with its subsidiaries and consolidated affiliated entities, the “**Group**” or “**CARsgen**”) on a voluntary basis to inform the shareholders and potential investors of the Company about the latest business update of the Group.

The board of directors of the Company (the “**Board**”) announces that CARsgen and Moderna, Inc. (Nasdaq: MRNA, “**Moderna**”) have initiated a collaboration agreement (the “**Agreement**”) to investigate of CARsgen’s investigational Claudin18.2 CAR T-cell product candidate (CT041) in combination with Moderna’s investigational Claudin18.2 mRNA cancer vaccine.

CT041 (satricabtagene autoleucel), is CARsgen’s autologous CAR T-cell product being investigated for the potential treatment of gastric, pancreatic and other specified digestive system cancers and is currently in multiple ongoing clinical studies in China and North America. Moderna is developing an investigational off-the-shelf mRNA cancer vaccine that encodes for the Claudin18.2 protein, a tumor associated antigen. Pursuant to the Agreement, the collaboration contemplates conducting preclinical studies and a phase I clinical trial to evaluate CT041 in combination with Moderna’s Claudin18.2 mRNA cancer vaccine.

## **ABOUT CT041**

CT041 is an autologous CAR T-cell product candidate against the protein Claudin18.2 that has the potential to be the first-in-class globally. CT041 targets the treatment of Claudin18.2 positive solid tumors with a primary focus on gastric cancer/gastroesophageal junction cancer (GC/GEJ) and pancreatic cancer (PC). Trials in CARsgen include investigator-initiated trials (NCT03874897), a Phase Ib clinical trial for advanced GC/GEJ and PC and a confirmatory Phase II clinical trial for advanced GC/GEJ in China (CT041-ST-01, NCT04581473), a Phase I clinical trial for PC adjuvant therapy in China (CT041-ST-05, NCT05911217), and a Phase 1b/2 clinical trial for advanced gastric or pancreatic adenocarcinoma in North America (CT041-ST-02, NCT04404595). CT041 was granted Regenerative Medicine Advanced Therapy (RMAT) Designation by U.S. FDA for the treatment of advanced GC/GEJ with Claudin18.2-positive tumors in January 2022 and was granted PRIME eligibility by the EMA for the treatment of advanced gastric cancer in November 2021. CT041 received Orphan Drug designation from the U.S. FDA in 2020 for the treatment of GC/GEJ and Orphan Medicinal Product designation from the EMA in 2021 for the treatment of advanced gastric cancer.

## **ABOUT CARSGEN**

CARsgen is a biopharmaceutical company with operations in China and the U.S. mainly focused on innovative CAR T-cell therapies for the treatment of hematologic malignancies and solid tumors. The Company has established a comprehensive CAR T-cell research and development platform, encompassing target discovery, innovative CAR T-cell development, clinical trials, and commercial-scale production. CARsgen has internally developed novel technologies and a product pipeline with global rights to address major challenges of CAR T-cell therapies, such as improving the safety profile, enhancing the efficacy in treating solid tumors, and reducing treatment costs. Our vision is to become a global biopharmaceutical leader that brings innovative and differentiated cell therapies to cancer patients worldwide and makes cancer curable.

## **ABOUT MODERNA**

In over 10 years since its inception, Moderna has transformed from a research-stage company advancing programs in the field of messenger RNA (mRNA), to an enterprise with a diverse clinical portfolio of vaccines and therapeutics across seven modalities, a broad intellectual property portfolio and integrated manufacturing facilities that allow for rapid clinical and commercial production at scale. Moderna maintains alliances with a broad range of domestic and overseas government and commercial collaborators, which has allowed for the pursuit of both groundbreaking science and rapid scaling of manufacturing. Most recently, Moderna's capabilities have come together to allow the authorized use and approval of one of the earliest and most effective vaccines against the COVID-19 pandemic.

Moderna's mRNA platform builds on continuous advances in basic and applied mRNA science, delivery technology and manufacturing, and has allowed the development of therapeutics and vaccines for infectious diseases, immuno-oncology, rare diseases, cardiovascular diseases and auto-immune diseases. Moderna has been named a top biopharmaceutical employer by Science for the past eight years. To learn more, visit [www.modernatx.com](http://www.modernatx.com).

## DEFINITIONS AND GLOSSARY OF TECHNICAL TERMS

“CAR T cell”	chimeric antigen receptor T cell
“Claudin18.2”	a protein found on the cells of certain solid tumors such as gastric cancer and pancreatic cancer, which makes the protein an attractive target for treatment
“confirmatory trial” or “pivotal trial”	the controlled trial or study intended to demonstrate the required clinical efficacy and safety evidence before submission for drug marketing approval
“EMA”	European Medicines Agency
“FDA” or “U.S. FDA”	United States Food and Drug Administration
“Phase II clinical trial”	a study in which a drug is administered to a limited patient population to identify possible adverse effects and safety risks, to preliminarily evaluate the efficacy of the drug for specific targeted disease, and to determine dosage tolerance and optimal dosage
“PRIME”	PRiority MEdicine. A scheme launched by the EMA to offer early and proactive support to medicine developers to optimize the generation of robust data on medicine’s benefits and risks, and accelerate assessment of medicines applications, for medicines that target an unmet medical need with advantages over existing treatments
“regenerative medicine advanced therapy” or “RMAT”	a special status granted by the FDA to regenerative medicine therapies, including cell therapies, intended to treat a serious or lifethreatening disease or condition, and preliminary clinical evidence indicates that the drug has the potential to address unmet medical needs for such disease or condition
“solid tumor(s)”	an abnormal mass of tissue that usually does not contain cysts or liquid areas
“United States” or “U.S.”	the United States of America, its territories, its dependencies and all areas subject to its jurisdiction

**Cautionary Statement required by Rule 18A.05 of the Rules Governing the Listing of Securities on The Stock Exchange of Hong Kong Limited:** The Company cannot guarantee that it will be able to develop, or ultimately market, CT041, successfully. Shareholders and potential investors of the Company are advised to exercise caution when dealing in the shares of the Company.

### **Cautionary-Language Regarding Forward-Looking Statements**

All statements in this announcement that are not historical fact or that do not relate to present facts or current conditions are forward-looking statements. Such forward-looking statements express the Group's current views, projections, beliefs and expectations with respect to future events as of the date of this announcement. Such forward-looking statements are based on a number of assumptions and factors beyond the Group's control. As a result, they are subject to significant risks and uncertainties, and actual events or results may differ materially from these forward-looking statements and the forward-looking events discussed in this announcement might not occur. Such risks and uncertainties include, but are not limited to, those detailed under the heading "Principal Risks and Uncertainties" in our most recent annual report and interim report and other announcements and reports made available on our corporate website, <https://www.carsgen.com>. No representation or warranty is given as to the achievement or reasonableness of, and no reliance should be placed on, any projections, targets, estimates or forecasts contained in this announcement.

By order of the Board  
**CARsgen Therapeutics Holdings Limited**  
**Dr. Zonghai LI**  
*Chairman*

Hong Kong, August 21, 2023

*As at the date of this announcement, the board of directors of the Company comprises Dr. Zonghai LI, Dr. Huamao WANG and Dr. Hua JIANG as executive Directors; Mr. Bingsen GUO, Mr. Huaqing GUO and Mr. Ronggang XIE as non-executive Directors; Dr. Guangmei YAN, Dr. Huabing LI and Ms. Xiangke ZHAO as the independent non-executive Directors.*

*In the case of inconsistency, the English text of this announcement shall prevail over the Chinese text.*