ascenion

Technology transfer for academic research
A company of the LifeScience Foundation

Annual Review 2021/22

FOCUS TRANSLATIONAL FUNDING

Life Sciences into Business

The Ascenion team

Ascenion is an independent knowledge and technology transfer company supporting over 30 European partners with a life-science focus: research institutes, universities, university hospitals and associated institutions.

We are committed to transferring excellent research into profitable applications that benefit society. This demands interdisciplinary cooperation – and money. Financing early-stage translation projects can be particularly challenging, and we are therefore delighted to have created new financing instruments, notably the CARMA FUND, over the past year.

Together with our partners and their scientists, we have already launched more than 50 start-ups and 20 new products, from which millions of people are now benefitting.

Our team comprises over 30 members of staff at seven locations with headquarters in Munich. We are interdisciplinary, international and industry experienced. Many of us have a life-science background and experience in start-ups, medium-sized companies or global concerns.

We are

- **Technology managers and project developers**
- **Lawyers and negotiation experts**
- **Start-up coaches and equity managers**
- **Analysts and industry liaison managers**

More funding for start-ups than ever before

Ascenion's portfolio companies attracted venture capital of more than EUR 170 million in 2021, making them some of the most successful start-ups in Europe.

Notably, more than two thirds of this investment came from overseas. It remains extremely difficult to provide mezzanine financing in the German biotech sector with German capital. An adjustment in fiscal policy framework conditions would facilitate matters, but suitable proposals have yet to be adopted. Instead, we and our partners are under increasing political pressure to transfer patents to start-ups without economically fair compensation. If we were to give in to this pressure, and in the event a start-up is successful, there would be no profit-sharing revenue generated to distribute back to the research institutes in whose labs the inventions originated with the help of taxpayers' money. This makes no sense from a market and economic point of view, as experience shows in the leading start-up nations, the USA and England. Deal structures that are in line with the market, fair and 'back-loaded', do not create obstacles for start-ups. On the contrary, they strengthen the local start-up ecosystem because financial returns from successful projects can be reinvested in public research and translation, from which more new ideas emerge. This gives research institutes and universities further motivation to provide funding for translation and start-ups.

One bright spot on the start-up landscape is the CARMA FUND, with a target volume of EUR 60 million, initiated by Ascenion and the Goethe University Frankfurt, with capital provided by the European Investment Fund (EIF), Evotec and further investors. It is the first German early-phase fund not to have arisen from a research association or a state initiative. The German and European investors were convinced by the immense pool of ideas and inventions from Ascenion's nearly 30 academic partners and our founding partner, the Goethe University Frankfurt. With CARMA, Ascenion hopes to finance fascinating and promising projects from its partners at the Helmholtz and Leibniz Associations, and from leading medical schools in Germany and Austria, leading them to financial success. For Ascenion and its partners, the CARMA FUND is a vital tool for improving start-up support and bringing inventions from academia to the market more quickly and efficiently.

As of now, entrepreneurs benefit from even more services at Ascenion. Apart from the CARMA FUND, we offer a new convertible loan and a roadmap providing professional support on the path to independence.

You can discover more in this report. I hope you enjoy reading it, and would like to thank all the colleagues, clients and partners who helped us make so much progress in 2021.

Dr Christian A. Stein
General Manager
Ascenion GmbH

CARMA FUND: up to EUR 60 million for translation

CARMA FUND initiators Dr Christian Stein and Dr Martin Raditsch, with the support of the LifeScience Foundation, Goethe University Frankfurt, the European Investment Fund, Evotec SE and additional investors, have succeeded in launching a new financing instrument that will accelerate the translation of life-science innovations. EUR 47 million were committed in the first closing, over EUR 50 million have already been raised, and the target volume is EUR 60 million.

BROAD LIFE-SCIENCE & HEALTHCARE SPECTRUM

The fund will invest in scientifically excellent projects that promise financial success and outstanding societal benefits – in the entire life-science and medical spectrum. The aim is to build a balanced portfolio, with 60% of funding going to academic institutions in Germany, e.g. the partner institutes of Ascenion, and those of Goethe University's technology transfer organization, Innovectis.

FLEXIBLE INVESTMENT MODEL: START-UPS & PROJECTS

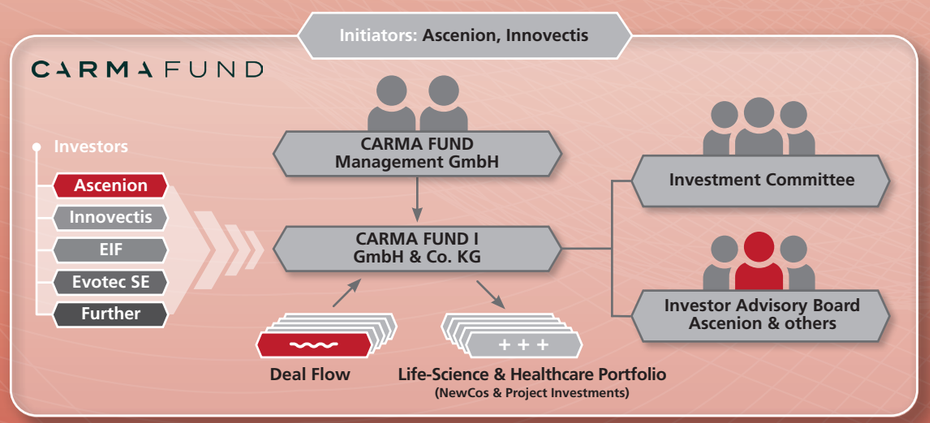
CARMA not only offers entrepreneurs an attractive option for financing early product development: researchers looking to advance a promising project towards application without founding a start-up can also benefit from CARMA funding. CARMA's objective is the efficient and effective support of promising projects – regardless of their route to commercialization, and free from bureaucratic hurdles.

'In this way, we are addressing an urgent need,' says Christian Stein. 'Thanks to CARMA, entrepreneurs, researchers and their technology transfer partners can act quickly and flexibly, as necessitated by the dynamics of early-stage projects.'

15+ YEAR INVESTMENT TIMEFRAME

The long investment timeframe is tailored to the requirements of biomedical research and development. It gives early-stage projects sufficient time to mature, and investors and the institutes involved the chance to participate in revenues. The resulting income can be reinvested into research, in turn generating new translation projects.

'This makes CARMA a key component in a sustainable transfer landscape,' says Martin Raditsch, who manages the fund together with Christian Leikert. 'Given the track records of the technology transfer companies involved and the superb quality of research at our partner institutes, we have excellent prospects for success.'



A flying start with Ascenion

Thanks to two new financing instruments – the CARMA FUND and convertible loans – Ascenion now offers everything entrepreneurs need to get their start-ups off the ground and on the road to success: know-how, experience, contacts, information, templates, tools, contacts and access to financing.

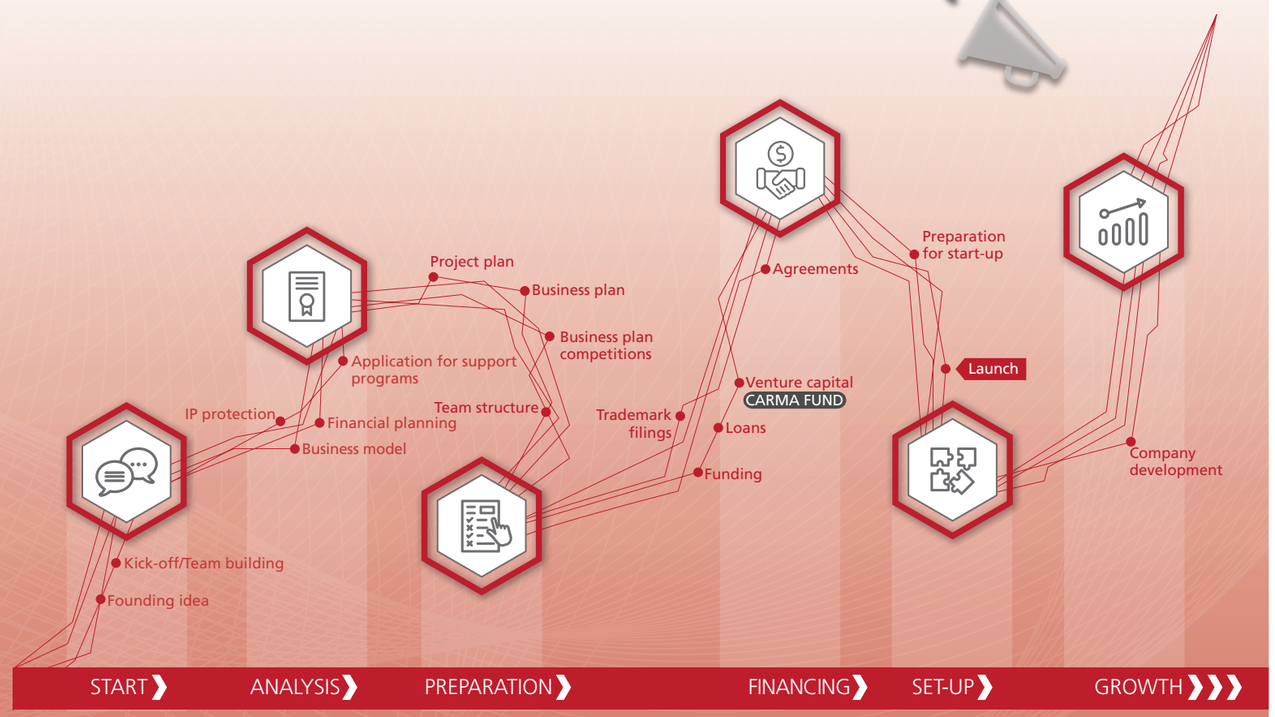
CONVERTIBLE LOANS FOR AN EASY START

The convertible loan is intended to facilitate the very first steps in founding a start-up. Entrepreneurs with promising projects can borrow up to EUR 25,000 to prepare seed financing in a professional manner. A draft budget is a sufficient starting point. The conditions are extremely founder-friendly: no collateral is required, no interest is payable, and the loan does not have to be repaid. Instead, at completion of seed financing the loan is converted into company shares according to the current valuation. This gives company founders breathing room at a critical stage for which hardly any funding is available. Their risk is minimal, and research benefits in the event of success, as most of the proceeds from the sale of Ascenion's shares flow to the LifeScience Foundation to be made available as grants for research projects.

A ROADMAP FOR SUCCESSFULLY NAVIGATING THE START-UP JUNGLE

Ascenion's Roadmap additionally supports core processes in each phase of a start-up project, from the initial idea to company growth. Tried and tested structures, guidelines, strategic tools and practical templates help start-up teams keep their focus in this multi-layered process, efficiently mastering every step of the way.

Simply contact your technology manager directly – we'll see how we can best support you.



GO-Bio initial: from the initial idea to the initial plan

Normally, a meaningful body of data and sound research results are required in order for a translational research project to qualify for a funding programme. Not so with GO-Bio initial. This German Federal Ministry of Education and Research funding programme deliberately targets innovative ideas that are still in a very early and rough phase of development. It offers support in order to prepare and develop these ideas and advance them into practice.

TWO PHASES FOR EXPLORATION AND VALIDATION

A project outline is sufficient for the initial application. If this is successful, up to two project phases follow. In the first year, the idea is explored and continually refined with respect to the market, competitors, and commercialization options. If the results are convincing, an application for a further two years' funding can be made, in order to validate the approach experimentally and acquire patent protection.

SUPPORT AND NETWORKING

Professional support is provided during both funding phases: various events are organized as part of the programme, and individual support is provided by technology transfer companies sponsored by GO-Bio initial, including Ascenion. The mainstay of Ascenion's support for GO-Bio initial is the Life Science Digital Hub, which pools a variety of services. Via workshops, webinars and the Digital Techtransfer Academy, scientists can participate in further training interactively, together or independently, according to their own schedule and interests. Networking opportunities also abound: several times a year there are expert talks with industry representatives, idea challenges, science slams and many other events at which valuable contacts can be forged and ideas exchanged.

SPONSORED BY THE

Federal Ministry of Education and Research

Ascenion's Life Science Digital Hub is supported by the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research as part of the GO-Bio initial programme. Project number: 161B1002.

GO-Bio-initial projects from Ascenion's partners

In 2021, Ascenion accompanied 18 applications for exploratory projects, eight of which have received confirmation of funding for the first phase. In addition, two projects from the year before have secured two-year follow-up funding. Two examples of exploratory projects from 2021 are described below.

PROTECTING CHILDREN FROM ASTHMA

HELMHOLTZ MUNICH

Children who grow up on farms are far less likely to suffer from asthma and allergies than children who don't. A crucial factor in this 'farm effect' is exposure to animal sheds. In comprehensive studies, the paediatrician and epidemiologist Prof. Erika von Mutius has shown that the diversity of the environmental microbiome confers protection against asthma. In the Go-Bio initial project PreventAsthma, Prof. von Mutius and her colleagues at Helmholtz Munich are investigating the elements that need to come together in order to achieve this protective effect. The long-term goal is to develop a simple and safe drug for the prevention of asthma. The team is working closely with Ascenion to set the right course towards product development.

'We particularly valued our numerous conversations with Ascenion in which we discussed market-influencing factors. This gave us important impulses for our product development,' comment Prof. Erika von Mutius and her colleague Bettina Rankl, who is supporting the project and contributing her extensive experience in drug development.

RECOGNIZING ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE IN TIME

DZNE - GERMAN CENTER FOR NEURODEGENERATIVE DISEASES

Alzheimer's disease is extremely emotionally debilitating – for those who suffer from it and for their relatives. There is no effective therapy to date, but late diagnosis is the bigger problem. Usually, by the time a diagnosis has been made, so many nerve cells have died that interventions to limit the degenerative process are no longer effective. Dr Farah Sananbenesi and her colleagues at the German Center for Neurodegenerative Diseases (DZNE) want to change this. Their research has shown that certain molecular markers in the blood – so-called microRNAs – are indicative of future loss of cognitive ability. Based on this, they are developing a rapid test to measure 'cognitive reserve'. It is not intended to replace the diagnosis of Alzheimer's disease, but to increase awareness and help to identify those at risk as early as possible, so that they can still benefit from medical support and lifestyle changes.

"The cooperation with Ascenion is really helpful, especially when it comes to intellectual property, market analysis and regulation of diagnostic products. The team's support is outstanding, even under time pressure", comments Dr Farah Sananbenesi.

Start-up milestones in 2021

3 new participations

Eximmium
Innovative platform technology for generating precisely matched antibodies to hitherto unknown tumour antigens.

Bodyclock
RNA hair test for our internal clock: determine your own sleep type – get to sleep and sleep through more easily – recognize reasons for sleep problems.

Zelltechs
CAR-T cell therapies for the treatment of Epstein-Barr virus (EBV)-associated tumors.

Financing at record levels

T-knife
Ascenion's portfolio company T-knife receives USD 110 million to develop innovative T cell therapies for cancer.

Cardior Pharmaceuticals
Ascenion's portfolio company Cardior receives EUR 64 million to develop RNA-based therapies for heart disease.

Product progress

Heparegenix
In August 2021, Heparegenix commenced a Phase I trial of their MKK4-inhibitor HRX-0215 for improved liver regeneration. With its approach, the start-up hopes to improve the prognosis of patients with advanced liver disease, for whom there are currently very few therapeutic options.

x-cardiac
In July 2021, x-cardiac GmbH was certified as a medical device manufacturer in the EU, as well as receiving approval for its first medical device, x-c-bleeding. The medical start-up develops AI-based software for the prediction of post-operative complications following major heart surgery.

Equity portfolio end of 2021

At the end of 2021, Ascenion held equity in 26 spin-offs from their partner institutions.

BIOVARIA 2022

A platform for translation

'It's almost like coming home,' commented one sponsor and participant at the 14th BioVaria, which took place live in Munich once again, after a two-year gap. This was a fitting description of the mood, as innovators from industry, research and technology transfer arrived from all over Europe – and beyond – to discuss new developments and forge partnerships. They appreciate BioVaria not only for the exceptional quality of the technologies and start-ups presented, but also for the trusting, almost homely atmosphere.

StartUp Pitch & Partner Award winners this year were Exactmer and Lymphatica Medtech, who convinced the jury with their innovative approaches to the synthesis of drug candidates and the treatment of lymphatic disease, respectively.

- **230** Participants from industry, technology transfer, academic research and venture capital
- **60** Contributing European research institutions and universities
- **65** Commercial opportunities presented
- **30** 10-min technology presentations, countless discussions and one-on-one meetings
- **15** Technology transfer organizations as BioVaria partners
- **14** European Start-ups presenting their business models

2021 in figures

LIFESCIENCE FOUNDATION

EUR **0.36** m from Ascenion's revenues distributed to the Foundation

EUR **0.98** m made available as grants for projects at endowing institute

PARTNERS IN SCIENCE

26 research institutes, universities and university hospitals

12 of which are endowing members of the LifeScience Foundation

PROTECTING IDEAS

120 invention disclosures assessed

69 patent applications managed

860 patent families and research materials managed in total

TRAINING

8 training courses held for scientists on topics in knowledge and technology transfer

TRANSLATION

71 technologies supported in the project development phase

EUR **9.9** m in funding acquired for translation

LICENCES & COOPERATIONS

32 revenue-generating agreements closed with industry partners

150 further agreements relating to commercial exploitation supported

EUR **4.33** m in revenue for our partner institutes through agreements supported by us: including licences, options and sales of materials

> 1,500 active contacts to industry and investors

START-UPS

26 start-up projects accompanied by us

EUR **170.54** m in venture capital investment for 10 portfolio companies

PRODUCT PROGRESS

1 clinical milestone
Phase I commenced for drug HRX-0215 against liver diseases

1 product approval
Approval x-c bleeding for predicting risk of postoperative bleeding

Certification

Ascenion is certified for its quality management in accordance with the European standard DIN EN ISO 9001:2015. The certification comprises the areas of consulting, evaluation and support for start-ups in life-science technology transfer, and also equity management.

Tolerance rather than suppression: hope for transplant patients

Hannover Medical School

Our immune response operates in a state of balance between defence and tolerance. Effector T cells (Teff) are responsible for immune defence, whereas regulatory T cells (Treg) regulate immune tolerance to the body itself. An imbalance towards Teff has serious consequences: the unregulated immune response attacks the body's own cells and can destroy them, as seen, for example, in autoimmune disease.

Transplant patients receive a donated organ that is foreign to their immune system, and is recognized as being non-self. Rejection of the organ can only be prevented by massive suppression of the immune response. This comes at the price of significantly higher susceptibility to infections and even cancer.

Immunologists Dr Fatih Noyan and Dr Elmar Jäckel from the Hannover Medical School (MHH) are therefore pursuing another strategy: instead of supressing the whole immune response, they hope to generate specific immune tolerance to transplanted organs. The idea is to modify Treg cells to recognize and migrate to the donor organ, protecting it from rejection. Together with Prof. Michael Hust from the Technische Universität Braunschweig, the immunologists have developed a chimeric antigen receptor (CAR) for Treg cells specific to the antigen HLA-A*02. They have demonstrated in a model system that this approach prevents the rejection of HLA-A*02-positive organs without supressing the immune system.

'Our hope is to be able to translate our CAR-Treg cells into everyday clinical use. The goal is to achieve a drastic reduction in the need for immunosupression after CAR-Treg cell transfer and thereby extend life expectancy for patients. The long-term survival of the transplanted organ could also be increased significantly,' comment Dr Noyan and Dr Jäckel.

Ascenion accompanied the patent application and supported licence agreement negotiations between the MHH, TU Braunschweig and the London company Quell Therapeutics. Quell Therapeutics will develop the approach in close collaboration with the scientists and prepare and conduct clinical studies.

Preventing recurrence: radioimmunotherapy of glioblastoma

Helmholtz Munich

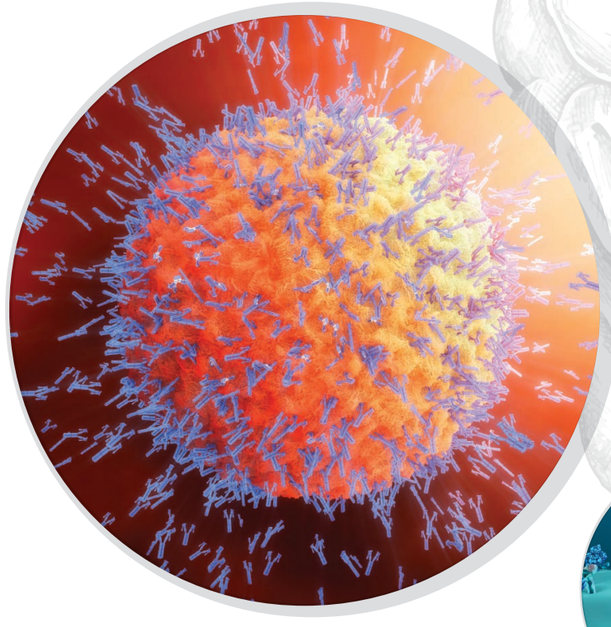
While successful tumor surgery can be reassuring for cancer patients, the risk of recurrence remains. This arises when individual cancer cells that migrated into adjacent tissues before surgery later develop into metastases. These cells cannot be removed surgically, but can be removed using antibodies.

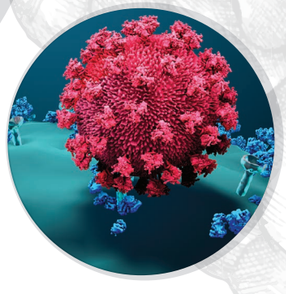
An antibody fragment specific for carbonic anhydrase (CA) XII is being developed by Prof. Reinhard Zeidler's team at Helmholtz Munich to combat these residual cancer cells in glioblastoma – a particularly aggressive brain tumour. CA-XII is an antigen expressed by glioblastoma cells, but not by healthy brain cells. In cooperation with the Munich biotech company ITM and experts from the University Hospital of the Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität Munich, Prof. Zeidler's team has developed and evaluated an anti-CA-XII fragment coupled to a therapeutic radioisotope.

In a clinical trial at the University Hospital Münster, the fragment will be applied to the wound following standard tumour surgery, in order to destroy any remaining glioblastoma cells in the surrounding tissue.

'I do cancer research so that one day, patients can benefit from it,' says Prof. Zeidler. 'If we manage to reduce the risk of recurrence, this really would be a milestone in glioblastoma therapy.'

Ascenion has been working together with Prof. Reinhard Zeidler for many years and, together with the Department for Innovation Management at Helmholtz Munich, played a significant role in negotiating a licensing agreement between Helmholtz Munich and ITM, giving the company an exclusive option to license the therapeutic agent and associated world-wide patents and know-how for the production and application of the CA-XII fragment. ITM exercised its option in the second half of 2022.





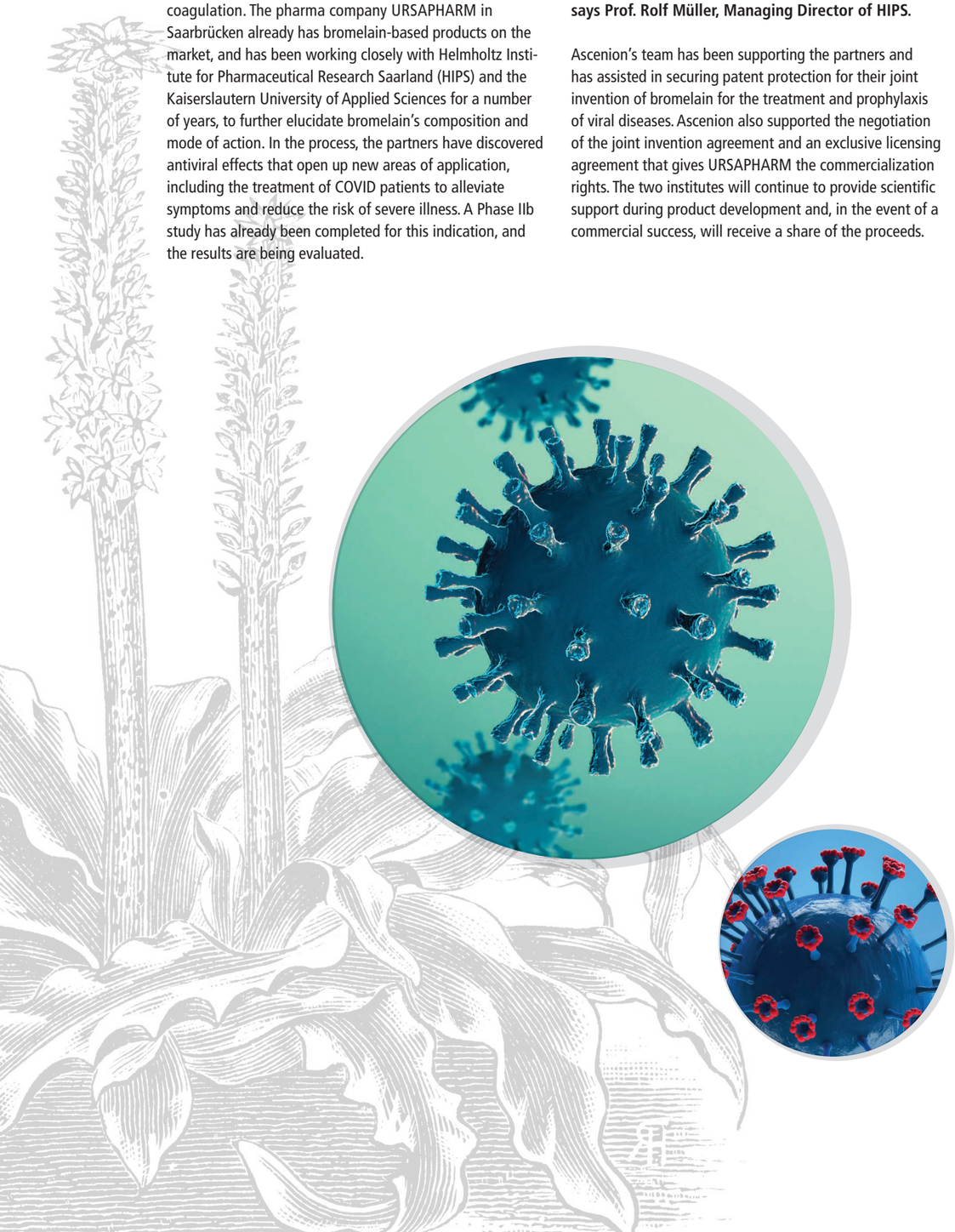
Pineapple against COVID

Helmholtz Centre for Infection Research

Bromelain is a mixture of enzymes extracted from the stem of the pineapple plant. It is highly proteolytic and has several effects, including inhibition of inflammation and coagulation. The pharma company URSAPHARM in Saarbrücken already has bromelain-based products on the market, and has been working closely with Helmholtz Institute for Pharmaceutical Research Saarland (HIPS) and the Kaiserslautern University of Applied Sciences for a number of years, to further elucidate bromelain's composition and mode of action. In the process, the partners have discovered antiviral effects that open up new areas of application, including the treatment of COVID patients to alleviate symptoms and reduce the risk of severe illness. A Phase IIb study has already been completed for this indication, and the results are being evaluated.

'This is what motivates us: the opportunity to discover new applications for natural substances with the potential to improve disease therapy,' says Prof. Rolf Müller, Managing Director of HIPS.

Ascenion's team has been supporting the partners and has assisted in securing patent protection for their joint invention of bromelain for the treatment and prophylaxis of viral diseases. Ascenion also supported the negotiation of the joint invention agreement and an exclusive licensing agreement that gives URSAPHARM the commercialization rights. The two institutes will continue to provide scientific support during product development and, in the event of a commercial success, will receive a share of the proceeds.



Zebrafish for drug discovery

Leibniz Institute on Aging – Fritz Lipmann Institute

Zebrafish are vertebrates and as such surprisingly similar to mammals in terms of their genetics. Over 80 per cent of all disease-relevant human genes can be found in the zebrafish genome. Zebrafish are therefore well suited for investigating basic mechanisms of organ development. Prof. Christoph Englert and his team at the Leibniz Institute on Aging – Fritz Lipmann Institute (FLI) have developed a zebrafish line that is particularly suited to investigating kidney development. The fish express a fluorescent protein (GFP) under the control of the Wilms tumour protein (WT1b), which plays an important role in kidney morphogenesis. Organ development can easily be observed in the transparent zebrafish embryos and larvae using non-invasive imaging techniques. The FLI scientists primarily use the model to investigate the effect of age on the ability of kidneys to regenerate.

Furthermore, this fluorescent zebrafish model also has many advantages in other research areas – for example as a tool to evaluate nephrotoxicity in drug development. To this end, the US Novartis subsidiary, Novartis Institutes for BioMedical Research (NIBR), closed a licensing agreement with the FLI last year. This allows the company to use the fish in their own drug development projects. **'I am delighted that our model is being applied in this area, and is making a small contribution to our understanding of the potential effects of new drugs on the kidney,' says Prof. Christoph Englert.**

Ascenion works closely with the FLI team, and assisted in drawing up the licensing agreement.

A new member of the Board: exciting interactions and a worthwhile task

Last year, the LifeScience Foundation for the Promotion of Science and Research welcomed Dr Manfred Baier as a new member of the Board. At the same time, Dr Ronald Mertz, who has been on the Board since 2013, agreed to continue in his role.

Their commitment and immense experience are valued greatly by the Foundation, the endowing institutes and Ascenion, which is a 100% subsidiary of the Foundation. Dr Baier has worked in the life-science industry for several decades, most recently as head of Roche Diagnostics' globally operating business unit, Roche Applied Science. Dr Mertz, retired former Head of the Department of Innovation, Research and Technology at the Bavarian Ministry of Economic Affairs, has gained considerable knowledge of politics and the world of public funding bodies during his long and varied career.

Both appreciate working at the intersection between publicly funded research and business, as well as having the opportunity to be instrumental in establishing technology start-ups that contribute to medical advances.

'Through Ascenion, the Foundation ensures that more research results are utilized and more start-ups launched,' says Roland Mertz. 'It's a very worth while and fulfilling task.' Most of the proceeds made by Ascenion from these activities are distributed to the Foundation.

'These funds are used by the Foundation to support further research projects that in turn provide the basis for new applications and start-ups,' explains Manfred Baier. 'I'm extremely excited to be involved – with the Foundation as well as with the people. The team built by Ascenion and the Foundation comprises diverse personalities with varied experience in research and industry, which is immensely enriching for me.'

EUR 0.9 million for research projects at endowing institutes

In 2021, the LifeScience Foundation provided funding for six projects at four of its endowing institutes to a total of EUR 0.9 million. One of these is the 'Oligo-seq' project at the Max Delbrück Center (MDC) in Berlin, which received a grant of EUR 300,000.

Detecting gene activity in single cells

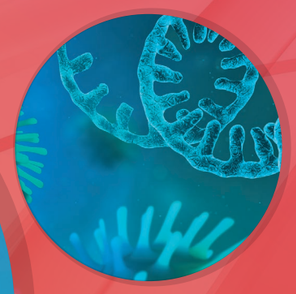
Max Delbrück Center

Nearly every cell in the body contains the same set of genes, but each one uses only a fraction of them at any given time. These ever-changing patterns of gene expression govern the body's development over time. They make the difference between liver and muscle cells, and between health and disease. The monitoring of these patterns can provide new insights into the onset and development of diseases.

Over the long term, such results may pave the way for novel medicines. Over the midterm, the detection of gene activity could improve clinical diagnostics, e.g. by characterizing cancer subclones within biopsies or differentiating blood cancer subtypes. With a new, patent-protected sequencing approach called Oligo-seq, Prof. Ana Pombo, Thomas Sparks and their colleagues at the Max Delbrück Center (MDC) are poised to exploit this potential. Their method overcomes key limitations of traditional RNA detection methods because it involves neither RNA extraction, nor reverse transcription or costly fluorescence-based imaging techniques. Moreover, it works with minimal sample sizes – down to the single-cell level – and is applicable to a wide range of sample types, including cells in suspension and tissue slices, even if formalin-fixed and paraffin-embedded (FFPE).

The funding provided by the LifeScience Foundation enables the team to advance its approach towards clinical practice. Key goals include the transformation of the Oligo-seq method into a simple-to-use system that is compatible with standard lab equipment, and its validation in FFPE samples. In parallel, the scientists are working with Ascenion on start-up preparations.

'We are really grateful for the support,' Prof. Ana Pombo says. 'The rapid and cost-efficient molecular phenotyping of FFPE samples could really make a difference in clinical diagnostics and help guide therapeutic decision making. And there are many more potential applications, e.g. for target discovery and drug development.'



Ascenion's partners

Ascenion is part of the global technology transfer ecosystem. We connect science and business and help to create framework conditions for more efficient and successful transfer.

Our scientific partners are academic and translational institutes, mainly in Germany and Austria, but also worldwide. In 2021 we supported 26 institutes as part of long-term partnerships, together with many more individual projects.

Our partners in business comprise over 1,500 industry representatives and investors with whom we are in personal contact. This network forms the basis from which successful licensing agreements, financings and start-ups are initiated.

HELMHOLTZ ASSOCIATION

- DZNE, German Center for Neurodegenerative Diseases
- **HZDR, Helmholtz-Zentrum Dresden-Rossendorf**
- **HZI, Helmholtz Centre for Infection Research**
- **Helmholtz Zentrum München, German Research Center for Environmental Health**
- **MDC, Max Delbrück Center for Molecular Medicine in the Helmholtz Association**

LEIBNIZ ASSOCIATION

- ATB, Leibniz Institute for Agricultural Engineering and Bioeconomy
- **DIfE, German Institute of Human Nutrition Potsdam-Rehbruecke**
- **DPZ, German Primate Center - Leibniz Institute for Primate Research**
- FLI, Fritz Lipmann Institute - Leibniz Institute on Aging
- **FZB, Research Center Borstel - Leibniz Lung Center**
- **HKI, Hans Knöll Institute - Leibniz Institute for Natural Product Research and Infection Biology**
- LIN, Leibniz Institute for Neurobiology Magdeburg
- LIV, Leibniz Institute of Virology

UNIVERSITIES, UNIVERSITY HOSPITALS AND FURTHER PARTNER INSTITUTES

- CAU, Kiel University
- **Charité - Universitätsmedizin Berlin**
- **MHH, Hannover Medical School**
- MUI, Medical University of Innsbruck
- EKFS, Else Kröner-Fresenius-Stiftung
- **FBN, Research Institute for Farm Animal Biology**
- iba, Institute for Bioprocessing and Analytical Measurement Techniques
- IMB, Institute of Molecular Biology
- IMBA, Institute of Molecular Biotechnology
- LIFE & BRAIN
- MGC, Mouse Genetics Cologne Foundation
- TWINCORE, Centre for Experimental and Clinical Infection Research
- UMG, University Medical Center Göttingen

Endowing institutes of the LifeScience Foundation are highlighted.

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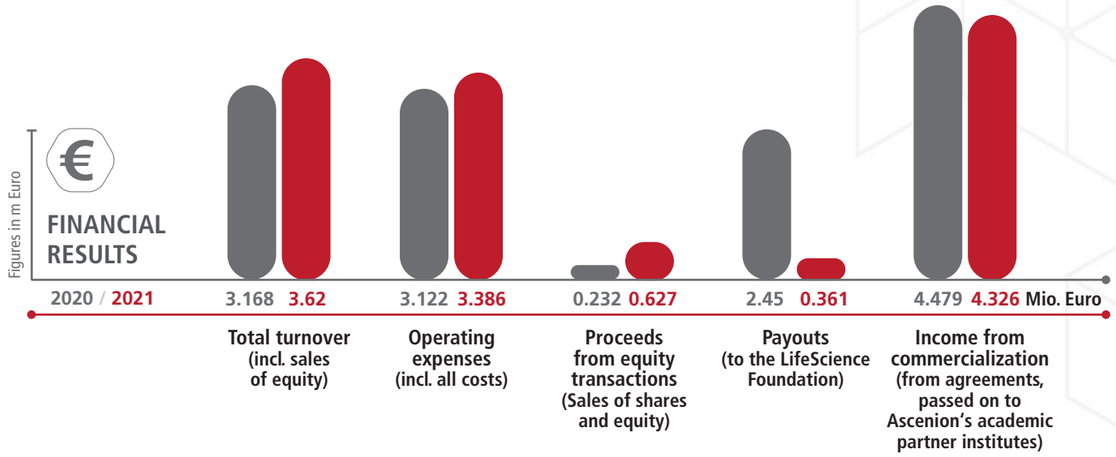
Financial results 2021

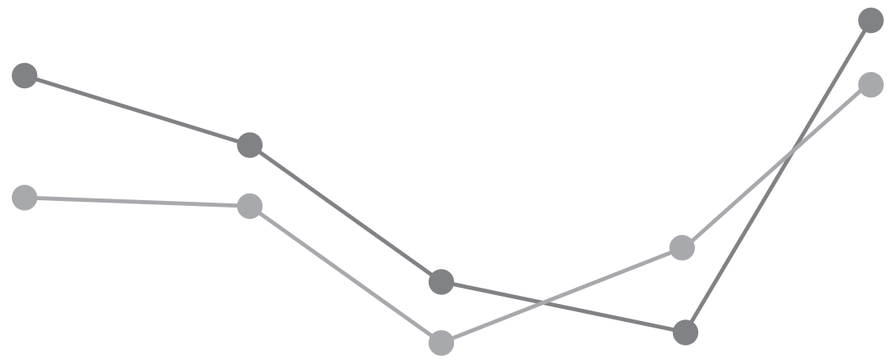
Ascenion helps its partner institutes transfer their research results into applications that benefit society. Its company structure as a 100% subsidiary of the LifeScience Foundation ensures that the majority of the revenue generated by Ascenion is made available for further research projects.

Ascenion's revenue consists of consulting fees, performance-related bonuses, and income from its investment business. The latter arises from the sale of equity acquired by Ascenion in spin-offs from its partner institutes. Income from this source is subject to natural yearly fluctuations.

Revenue from the licensing business stagnated in 2021, the pandemic also having left its mark on Ascenion and its partners.

The outlook is nevertheless positive, with gains in the number of licensing agreements and financing for start-ups seen last year (see overview on pp. 10 and 11).
'Another reason for optimism that particularly pleases us, is that the CARMA FUND is now up and running. This is also due to our parent company, the LifeScience Foundation, who enabled us to invest in the fund,' says Dr Christian Stein.





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