

Press release

January 28, 2015

Fina Biotech, S.L. (Spain) and EMD Millipore Corporation (USA) – known as Merck Millipore outside USA and Canada - announced today that they have entered into an agreement for the non-exclusive license of a hybridoma developed by the former that secretes an antibody that binds to a specific antigen, the β -F1-ATPase protein. EMD Millipore will include the antibody in their catalogue of research antibodies once certain validation tests have been performed. Fina will receive future royalties on sales achieved by EMD Millipore.

The mitochondrial H⁺-ATP synthase is a multimeric protein complex of the inner membrane. The H⁺-ATP synthase has two main sections; the soluble F1-ATPase complex and the membrane embedded F0-H⁺-channel. The F1 section consists of five subunits with the following stoichiometry, $\alpha_3 \beta_3 \gamma_1 \delta_1 \epsilon_1$. The β -subunit is the catalytic protein of the F1-ATPase complex. It catalyzes the terminal step of oxidative phosphorylation, generating ATP from ADP and inorganic phosphate.

This protein H⁺-ATP synthase is involved in the metabolic activity of the cell and also with cell death metabolism. Alterations in expression level of β -subunit H⁺-ATP synthase have been linked to several types of human cancers and to cancer prognosis and drug response. EMD Millipore and Fina expect that the antibody will be used as a reagent in life sciences studies.

Consulting firm MetasBiotech has advised Fina Biotech in the licensing discussions.

Fina Biotech S.L. (www.finabiotech.es) is a spin-off of Laboratorios Indas (www.indas.com), with a strong pipeline of biotechnology projects and a proven track record in product development. Fina Biotech has invested close to €12 million in 28 projects in the diagnostics and cell therapy fields, most of them in partnership with public and private institutions, laboratories and universities. A product developed by Fina Biotech, a diagnostic test for male infertility (Halosperm[®]) is already marketed. A bladder cancer diagnostic test based on RT-qPCR technology has already been validated in clinical studies and has proven to have better sensitivity (82%) and specificity (91%) than competitive products.

EMD Millipore (www.emdmillipore.com) offers solutions that enable scientists to conduct life science research easily, efficiently and economically.

Metas Biotech, S.L. (www.metasbio.com) is a consulting firm specialized in providing business development support and financial advisory services to companies in the life sciences industry.

