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## Lonza and Ankyra Therapeutics Sign Agreement to Develop and Manufacture a Cytokine Fusion Protein

- Ankyra will leverage Lonza's expertise with next-generation modalities to take their first complex molecule targeting intratumoral administration in solid tumors into clinical development
- Lonza will deliver a program designed to reduce time to clinic, meeting a key milestone towards an IND filing
- Lonza will provide cell line optimization and stability assessment, process development, and drug substance and drug product manufacture for clinical supply in its Slough (UK) and Basel (CH) development and manufacturing facilities

### Quote from Jeetendra Vaghjiani, Director Commercial Mammalian Development, Lonza:

"We are excited to partner with Ankyra Therapeutics on their very first complex protein program. Their oncology expertise, excellence in protein design and early development, and intratumoral delivery capabilities find great support in the flexibility of our tailored offering. This integrated approach enables our customers to improve their speed to clinic, responding to the ever-increasing need for tailored programs that anticipate rapid market and regulatory changes. It is also a statement that demonstrates Lonza's continuing commitment to emerging biotech companies on their journey to the clinic."

### Quote from Tillman U. Gerngross, Co-Founder and President, Ankyra Therapeutics:

"As we develop our cancer therapy platform that is intended to improve both the safety and efficacy of cytokine immunotherapies, our goal is to advance potential life saving therapies to the clinic in an expeditious manner. Our mission is to translate our biological insights into superior clinical efficacy and safety compared to currently available options. We chose to partner with Lonza on this journey because of Lonza's deep experience and expertise in the development and manufacturing of biotherapeutics. This agreement marks a key milestone on our path to IND and beyond."

**Basel, Switzerland, and Boston, USA, 05 May 2021** – Ankyra Therapeutics, a biotechnology company developing cancer therapies based on localized cytokines that prime a systemic adaptive immune response, and Lonza announced today a collaboration to manufacture Ankyra's cytokine-based immunotherapy for cancer patients. Lonza will provide cell line

optimization and stability assessment, process development, and drug substance and drug product manufacture for clinical supply. Due to the nature and complexity of Ankyra's product, Lonza has tailored the analytical work, process development, and downstream processing to meet Ankyra's technical specifications and timeline.

The clinical success of cytokines and other immune agonists has been limited by on-target, off-tumor toxicity leading to narrow or non-existent therapeutic windows. Intratumoral (IT) administration can expand this therapeutic window, but most drugs injected IT quickly diffuse out of the tumor limiting efficacy and increasing systemic toxicity. Ankyra's platform has the potential to greatly enhance efficacy and safety of immune agonists by forming a stable drug depot within the tumor following IT administration.

Given its complexity, this modality often faces development and manufacturing challenges. With the product landscape evolving towards more complex protein formats, emerging biotech and pharma companies are increasingly having to adopt a solution that can facilitate the transition between scales as these companies continue to grow.

Ankyra will leverage the experience of Lonza's team in developing and manufacturing complex protein formats, as well as the extensive know-how of upstream and downstream processing. Lonza will carry out the cell line assessment and drug substance manufacture at its Slough, UK site. The early-stage drug product formulation and process development will be performed at Lonza's Drug Product Services facility in Basel, Switzerland. Drug product manufacturing will be carried out in Stein, Switzerland. The process transfer will begin in Q2 2021, with clinical batches expected in 2022.

## **About Lonza**

Lonza is the preferred global partner to the pharmaceutical, biotech and nutrition markets. We work to prevent illness and enable a healthier world by supporting our customers to deliver new and innovative medicines that help treat a wide range of diseases. We achieve this by combining technological insight with world-class manufacturing, scientific expertise and process excellence. These enable our customers to commercialize their discoveries and innovations in the healthcare sector.

Founded in 1897 in the Swiss Alps, today Lonza operates across five continents. With approximately 14,000 full-time employees, we are built from high-performing teams and of individual talent who make a meaningful difference to our own business, as well as to the communities in which we operate. The company generated sales of CHF 4.5 billion in 2020 with a CORE EBITDA of CHF 1.4 billion. Find out more at [www.lonza.com](http://www.lonza.com).

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## **About Ankyra Therapeutics**

Founded in 2019 by a team of biotech experts and MIT researchers, Ankyra is a Boston, Massachusetts-based company developing cancer therapies based on localized cytokines that prime a systemic adaptive immune response. Systemic dosing of these powerful immune stimulants has historically been limited by broad immune activation and toxicity: Ankyra has developed methods to localize cytokines

specifically and persistently within tumors thereby creating intense hot spots of inflammation that activate a comprehensive anti-tumor immune response.

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### **Additional Information and Disclaimer**

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Certain matters discussed in this news release may constitute forward-looking statements. These statements are based on current expectations and estimates of Lonza Group Ltd, although Lonza Group Ltd can give no assurance that these expectations and estimates will be achieved. Investors are cautioned that all forward-looking statements involve risks and uncertainty and are qualified in their entirety. The actual results may differ materially in the future from the forward-looking statements included in this news release due to various factors. Furthermore, except as otherwise required by law, Lonza Group Ltd disclaims any intention or obligation to update the statements contained in this news release.