Restore Health – Therapies that cure. A project funded with 1 million euros to obtain 1 billion euros.

Shifting from treating symptoms to curing diseases and making Europe the world leader in Advanced Therapies is the aspiration of RESTORE – the Large-Scale Research Initiative, led by Charité and Berlin Institute of Health (BIH). On Febr. 09, 2019, the European Commission (EC) backed that vision and announced that RESTORE will receive initial funding of EUR 1 Million, and invited the consortium to develop fully their concept and to expand further the community that strives to propel Europe to the forefront in Advanced Therapies.

With Large-Scale Research Initiatives (LSRI), formerly called FET Flagships, the EC has created a new approach for cooperative research in Europe: They are science- and technology-driven, large-scale multidisciplinary research initiatives. The aim is to attract the best scientists and to establish long-term centers of excellence in Europe and associated countries that are world leaders in their field. After a competitive 3-step process, EC selected six candidates in three different fields for the preparatory phase. RESTORE is one of two final candidates in the Life Science field.

As a successful Large-Scale-Research Initiative RESTORE will eventually disburse up to EUR 1 billion over ten years from the EC (as part of the research framework program Horizon Europe) to deliver a pipeline of transformative cures for the benefit of struggling patients. RESTORE will promote groundbreaking research, nurture innovative companies and engage the public; its concept is supported by a broad international and interdisciplinary community of stakeholders, who united behind the mission to make patient-centered value at high ethical and quality standards a reality.

The implementation of newly developed Advanced Therapies (Advanced Therapy Medicinal Products, such as cell therapy, gene therapy, tissue engineering and combination with each other or with devices), frequently called “living drugs”, in clinical routine holds tremendous promise and is the unifying goal of the RESTORE initiative. Formed by eminent leaders from European academia, clinics and industry, RESTORE is coordinated by Professor Hans-Dieter Volk, a clinical immunologist and his team at the BCRT and the Berlin Center for Advanced Therapies (BeCAT) of Charité – Universitätsmedizin Berlin and BIH.

The RESTORE core team are world leaders from basic and clinical research and biotech industry: Charité – Universitätsmedizin Berlin (Germany), INSERM including Labex IGO and INSERM UMR1064-CRTI (France), University of Zurich (Switzerland), Miltenyi Biotec GmbH (Germany), TissUse GmbH (Germany), Cell and Gene Therapy Catapult (United Kingdom), Pluristem Ltd (Israel), Innovation Acta S.r.l. (Italy), Fondazione Telethon Milan (Italy) and University Minho (Portugal). More than 250 stakeholders from basic and clinical science, industry, non-profit organizations and patient advocates throughout Europe and beyond have pledged support for RESTORE’s urgent mission, underlining the potential of Advanced Therapies for science, the economy and public health.

Please visit the RESTORE website (www.restore-h2020.eu) for more details on the activities of the initiative and to become supporters.