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**PROVIREX ESTABLISHES THERAPY HUB FOR HIV CURE
AT SCIENCE CITY HAMBURG BAHRENFELD**

HAMBURG, GERMANY, October 27 - Today, Thursday, October 27, 2022, at the Factory Hammerbrooklyn in Hamburg, the further development of PROVIREX'S efforts to develop an HIV cure was presented at an exclusive press event. Attended by Katharina Fegebank (Vice-Mayor and Senator for Science & Research of the Free and Hanseatic City of Hamburg), Michael Westhagemann (Senator for Economy and Innovation of the Free and Hanseatic City of Hamburg), Prof. Dr. Joachim Hauber (PROVIREX Genome Editing Therapies GmbH), Dr. Erik Hoppe (Bioventure Management GmbH), and numerous guests from politics and science, the official "GO" was given for establishing a therapy hub for curing HIV.

PROVIREX is a Hamburg-based biotech start-up focusing on life-threatening infectious diseases, primarily using a genome editing technology newly developed by its founders. PROVIREX relies on highly specific designer recombinases that enable error-free, and thereby absolutely precise editing of the human genome. This technology can be used, for example, to cure infection with the AIDS pathogen HIV. PROVIREX has now succeeded in winning over Bioventure, a well-known and successful life science investor, who will finance the company over the next four years together with IFB Innovationsstarter GmbH as a co-investor. The next milestones are the further development of the innovative technology and establishing the necessary GMP and biosafety infrastructure for clinical testing and subsequent market entry of the new technology in Hamburg.

The proprietary technology of Hamburg-based PROVIREX is based on the research conducted by Prof. Joachim Hauber and team at the Leibniz Institute of Virology in Hamburg and Prof. Frank Buchholz and team at the Technical University of Dresden and Max Planck Institute for Molecular Cell Biology and Genetics Dresden. The broad technology and patent portfolio has been built up over a period of more than 15 years and has been exclusively licensed to PROVIREX with the support of Ascenion GmbH as the technology transfer partner.

The designer recombinase Brec1 developed by the PROVIREX founders specifically removes the integrated genomic blueprint of the AIDS pathogen HIV from the human genome of infected cells and, in contrast to CRISPR technology, recombines the genomic target sites in a completely error-free manner with nucleotide precision. This means it may be possible for the first time to permanently and precisely rid infected cells of HIV – a medical breakthrough. Brec1 will be tested soon in a first-in-human phase Ib/IIa clinical gene therapy trial at the University Medical Center Hamburg (UKE), where it will be used to modify hematopoietic stem cells in people living with HIV (PLWH). This trial has been publicly funded by the Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF), the Ministry of Science, Research, Equalities and Districts (BWFGB) Hamburg and the Else Kröner-Fresenius Foundation (EKFS). Brec1 technology will be further used by PROVIREX to conduct the subsequent pivotal Phase IIb/IIIa clinical trial.

PROVIREX is also developing new delivery strategies for genome editing tools, such as Brec1, that allow easier administration by direct injection. This option would significantly expand the market

and provide, for the first time, a tool for global HIV cure therapies. In addition, this may also be a platform technology of considerable interest to many other application areas, allowing one to simplify numerous future therapies.