



News Release

Lonza Opens Collaborative Innovation Center in Haifa, Israel

- New center will be a hub to identify and accelerate fresh solutions to rethink drug development and manufacturing
- Labs in the new facility, together with funding, will enable projects in collaboration with Israeli talent in academia, medical institutions and early-stage innovative companies

Haifa (IL), 19 November 2018 – Lonza Pharma & Biotech officially opens its Collaborative Innovation Center (CIC) in the Haifa Life Science Park, Israel. The CIC acts as a hub for partnerships to identify and accelerate new solutions for biopharma manufacturing.

The 1,000 m² (10,764 ft²) facility, including lab space equipped with cutting-edge bioprocessing and analytical equipment, is being made available to collaborating partners as a test bed for new ideas and technology. In addition to infrastructure, Lonza will make funding and in-house expertise available for collaborative research into strategic areas of application relevant to a variety of biopharma development needs.

"Israel has established itself as a point of convergence for digital technologies, engineering and life sciences, providing new solutions for healthcare in particular," said Marc Funk, COO Lonza Pharma & Biotech. "We want to expand this potential to reimagine the development and manufacturing of future medicines by working with academic institutions, teaching hospitals and startups."

The CIC is open to ideas that might benefit Lonza customers and has already signed up with leading institutions in Israel on research projects in three key focus areas:

- **Expression systems and synthetic biology** to enable efficient scale up of the increasingly complex protein-based constructs currently in early stage pipelines. Lonza is expanding on its successful GS System® to develop a novel toolbox of solutions for hard-to-express proteins and new molecular formats.
- Increasing numbers of **cell and gene therapies** are advancing towards commercialization but

manufacturing technology remains relatively immature. Lonza hopes to combine its in house knowledge and technology with local expertise and proximity to teaching hospitals and academic institutions, driving reliable and repeatable processes and enabling more patients to access these therapies.

- **Data acquisition and analytics** are essential to driving efficiency and consistency in manufacturing processes. Lonza's CIC will tap into the wealth of expertise in sensor technology and big data handling to develop better in-line testing and predictive analytics to optimize and control bioprocesses.

Several projects are currently underway including with the Center for Regenerative Medicine, Stem Cell and Tissue Engineering at the Chaim Sheba Medical Center, a leader in the field of CAR-T therapies. Lonza and Sheba will be working together to evaluate and test the Cocoon™ manufacturing technology, a patient-scale, closed and automated cell-therapy manufacturing system.

"Advanced autologous cell therapies are growing to become a major part of future medicine. High-quality manufacturing at point-of-care, is a key challenge in making these applicable," said Dr. Elad Jacoby, Sheba Medical Center.

"We have treated more than 60 children and young adults with leukemia and lymphoma with CAR-T cells, which makes Sheba Medical Center the ideal place to help drive new technologies that could extend treatment to even more young people," he added. "The collaboration with Lonza will enable us to develop a growing platform for production of CAR-T and other cell therapies."



The CIC sits at the interface of Lonza's extensive R&D network, with eight sites globally, and the Israeli innovation community. It will be run by Dr Frida Grynspan- Gotlieb, who brings her extensive R&D experience in the Israeli biotech and life sciences sectors.

A short, explanatory film is available [here](#). Additional photos requests can be sent to the media contacts below.

About Lonza

Lonza is one of the world's leading and most-trusted suppliers to the pharmaceutical, biotech and specialty ingredients markets. As an integrated solutions provider, Lonza is boosting its value creation along and beyond the healthcare continuum with a strong focus on patient healthcare, consumer preventive healthcare and consumer's healthy environment.

Lonza harnesses science and technology to create products that support safer and healthier living and that enhance the overall quality of life. With the recent Capsugel acquisition, Lonza now offers products and services from the custom development and manufacturing of active pharmaceutical ingredients to innovative dosage forms for the pharma and consumer health and nutrition industries.

Benefiting from its regulatory expertise, Lonza is able to transfer its know-how from pharma to hygiene and fast-moving consumer goods all the way to coatings and composites and the preservation and protection of agricultural goods and other natural resources.

Founded in 1897 in the Swiss Alps, Lonza today is a well-respected global company with more than 100 sites and offices and approximately 14,500 full-time employees worldwide. The company generated sales of CHF 5.1 billion in 2017 with a CORE EBITDA of CHF 1.3 billion. Further information can be found at www.lonza.com.

Lonza Contact Details

For Investor Relations Inquiries:

Dirk Oehlers, Head Investor Relations
Lonza Group Ltd
Tel +41 61 316 8540
dirk.oehlers@lonza.com

For Media Inquiries:

Lonza Corporate Communications

Constance Ward, Head External Communications
Lonza Group Ltd
Tel +41 61 316 8840
constance.ward@lonza.com

Lonza Pharma & Biotech

Sanna Fowler, Head Public Relations
Lonza Pharma & Biotech
Tel +41 61 316 8929
sanna.fowler@lonza.com

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