OptiNose

Author: Liza Nordgaard<liza@inspireinvest.com>
inSpire was the seed capital investor in OptiNose, a research and development company founded in 2000 with the purpose of developing innovative devices for nasal delivery of vaccines and drugs (liquid and powder). This is what the medical profession calls topical or systemic action. The uniqueness of the concept has made OptiNose a pioneer as the technology has opened up a new dimension into how drugs can be delivered. Nasal delivery provides a fast, cost-effective and user-friendly alternative to injections, and offers additional local immune protection for many vaccines.

OptiNose won the 2000 Venture Cup Prize, an annual competition originally managed by McKinsey in Norway for good business ideas that are likely to achieve commercialization. This Prize was in part made possible by Professor Jan-Olaf Willums, from inSpire Invest, who as part of the jury, liked the professionalism of the founding team headed by Dr. Per Djupesland, a medical researcher at the University Hospital in Oslo.

The original research by Dr. Per Djupesland on how drugs were absorbed through the mucous tissue lead to the discovery of how one could dramatically improve the absorption of medication when applied through the nasal mucous if a patient simultaneously exhales through the mouth. This lead to a simple invention of a small hand-held device that would allow drugs to be administered by blowing into the device which in turn directs the flow medication through the nose.

inSpire introduced later the Dutch investor Andromeda (Brenninkmeijer Family) to become co-investor with InSpire in OptiNose. Today, Andromeda is the largest shareholder, while a US venture investor holds the second-largest share position after the owners. inSpire holds around 7% of the outstanding shares. The company has established a UK subsidiary and has completed the first phase of clinical trials of the product based on its technology.
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www.optinose.no