



ImmunityBio Announces Houston's Michael E. DeBakey VA Medical Center Is Among the First VA Hospitals to Administer ANKTIVA® to Bladder Cancer Patients

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CULVER CITY, Calif.--(BUSINESS WIRE)--Aug. 11, 2025-- ImmunityBio, Inc. ([NASDAQ: IBRX](#)), a leading immunotherapy company, today announced the Michael E. DeBakey Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Medical Center in Houston recently became the first VA hospital in the Houston region and one of the first in the U.S. to provide treatment with ANKTIVA® (nogapendekin alfa inbakicept-pmIn) to a veteran with bladder cancer.

ANKTIVA, the first of its kind immune-boosting, lymphocyte stimulating agent, is approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) in combination with Bacillus Calmette-Guérin (BCG) for patients with BCG-unresponsive non-muscle invasive bladder cancer (NMIBC). A 2024 [study](#) found military exposure to carcinogenic agents was associated with a higher risk for bladder cancer among veterans, making this treatment especially vital for those at the VA.

Nationally recognized urologic oncologists at the Houston VA, Dr. Jeffrey Jones and Dr. Jennifer Taylor, were instrumental in bringing this novel treatment to veterans. They are strong advocates for advancing care for those battling bladder cancer. In addition, Dr. Jones, who is also affiliated with Baylor College of Medicine, led efforts to enroll the facility in [ImmunityBio's Expanded Access Program \(EAP\) for rBCG](#).

"We are honored to see ANKTIVA reaching our nation's veterans," said Dr. Patrick Soon-Shiong, Founder, Executive Chairman and Global Chief Scientific and Medical Officer of ImmunityBio. "Drs. Jones' and Taylor's leadership and commitment to innovation are exactly what's needed to expand access to transformative treatments like ANKTIVA across the VA system. This milestone at DeBakey underscores the real-world impact of our mission."

About ANKTIVA

The cytokine interleukin-15 (IL-15) plays a crucial role in the immune system by affecting the development, maintenance, and function of key immune cells—NK and CD8+ killer T cells—that are involved in killing cancer cells. By activating NK cells, ANKTIVA overcomes the tumor escape phase of clones resistant to T cells and restores memory T cell activity with resultant prolonged duration of complete response.

ANKTIVA is a first-in-class IL-15 receptor superagonist IgG1 fusion complex, consisting of an IL-15 mutant (IL-15N72D) fused with an IL-15R α , which binds with high affinity to IL-15 receptors on NK, CD4+, and CD8+ T cells. This fusion complex of ANKTIVA, which confers stability and longer half-life than recombinant or native IL-15, mimics the natural biological properties of the membrane-bound IL-15R α , delivering IL-15 by dendritic cells and drives the activation and proliferation of NK cells with the generation of memory killer T cells that have retained immune memory against these tumor clones. The proliferation of the trifecta of these immune killing cells and the activation of trained immune memory results in immunogenic cell death, inducing a state of equilibrium with durable complete responses. ANKTIVA has improved pharmacokinetic properties, longer persistence in lymphoid tissues, and enhanced anti-tumor activity compared to native, non-complexed IL-15 in-vivo.

[ANKTIVA was approved by the FDA in 2024](#) for use in the United States with Bacillus Calmette-Guérin (BCG) for the treatment of adult patients with BCG-unresponsive non-muscle invasive bladder cancer with carcinoma in situ (CIS) with or without papillary tumors. For more information, visit [ImmunityBio.com](#) (Founder's Vision) and [Anktiva.com](#).

About ImmunityBio

ImmunityBio is a vertically-integrated commercial stage biotechnology company developing next-generation therapies that bolster the natural immune system to defeat cancers and infectious diseases. The Company's range of immunotherapy and cell therapy platforms, alone and together, act to drive and sustain an immune response with the goal of creating durable and safe protection against disease. Designated an FDA Breakthrough Therapy, ANKTIVA is the first FDA-approved immunotherapy for non-muscle invasive bladder cancer CIS that activates NK cells, T cells, and memory T cells for a long-duration response. The Company is applying its science and platforms to treating cancers, including the development of potential cancer vaccines, as well as developing immunotherapies and cell therapies that we believe sharply reduce or eliminate the need for standard high-dose chemotherapy. These platforms and their associated product candidates are designed to be more effective, accessible, and easily administered than current standards of care in oncology and infectious diseases. For more information, visit [ImmunityBio.com](#) (Founder's Vision) and connect with us on [X](#) (Twitter), [Facebook](#), [LinkedIn](#), and [Instagram](#).

Forward-Looking Statements

This press release contains forward-looking statements within the meaning of the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995, such as statements regarding clinical trial data and potential results and implications to be drawn therefrom, treatment of patients at VA Medical Centers and in certain geographic locations and potential implications to be drawn therefrom, the development of therapeutics for cancer and infectious diseases, potential benefits to patients, potential treatment outcomes for patients, the described mechanism of action and results and contributions therefrom, potential future uses and applications of ANKTIVA alone or in combination with other therapeutic agents for the prevention or reversal of lymphopenia, potential future uses and applications of ANKTIVA alone or in combination with other therapeutic agents across multiple tumor types and indications and for potential applications beyond oncology, potential regulatory pathways and the regulatory review process and timing thereof, the application of the Company's science and platforms to treat cancers or develop cancer vaccines, immunotherapies and cell therapies that has the potential to change the paradigm in cancer care, and ImmunityBio's approved product and investigational agents as compared to existing treatment options, among others. Statements in this press release that are not statements of historical fact are considered forward-looking statements, which are usually identified by the use of words such as "anticipates," "believes," "continues," "goal," "could," "estimates," "scheduled," "expects," "intends," "may,"

“plans,” “potential,” “predicts,” “indicate,” “projects,” “is,” “seeks,” “should,” “will,” “strategy,” and variations of such words or similar expressions.

Statements of past performance, efforts, or results of our preclinical and clinical trials, about which inferences or assumptions may be made, can also be forward-looking statements and are not indicative of future performance or results. Forward-looking statements are neither forecasts, promises nor guarantees, and are based on the current beliefs of ImmunityBio's management as well as assumptions made by and information currently available to ImmunityBio. Such information may be limited or incomplete, and ImmunityBio's statements should not be read to indicate that it has conducted a thorough inquiry into, or review of, all potentially available relevant information. Such statements reflect the current views of ImmunityBio with respect to future events and are subject to known and unknown risks, including business, regulatory, economic and competitive risks, uncertainties, contingencies and assumptions about ImmunityBio, including, without limitation, (i) risks and uncertainties regarding the FDA regulatory submission, filing and review process and the timing thereof, (ii) risks and uncertainties regarding commercial launch execution, success and timing and market access initiatives, (iii) risks and uncertainties regarding participation and enrollment and potential results from the expanded access clinical investigation program described herein, (iv) whether clinical trials will result in registrational pathways and the risks, (v) whether clinical trial data will be accepted by regulatory agencies, (vi) the ability of ImmunityBio to continue its planned preclinical and clinical development of its development programs through itself and/or its investigators, and the timing and success of any such continued preclinical and clinical development, patient enrollment and planned regulatory submissions, (vii) potential delays in product availability and regulatory approvals, (viii) ImmunityBio's ability to retain and hire key personnel, (ix) ImmunityBio's ability to obtain additional financing to fund its operations and complete the development and commercialization of its various product candidates, (x) potential product shortages or manufacturing disruptions that may impact the availability and timing of product, (xi) ImmunityBio's ability to successfully commercialize its approved product and product candidates, (xii) ImmunityBio's ability to scale its manufacturing and commercial supply operations for its approved product and future approved products, and (xiii) ImmunityBio's ability to obtain, maintain, protect, and enforce patent protection and other proprietary rights for its product candidates and technologies. More details about these and other risks that may impact ImmunityBio's business are described under the heading “Risk Factors” in the Company's Form 10-K filed with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) on March 3, 2025, and the Company's Form 10-Q filed with the SEC on August 5, 2025, and in subsequent filings made by ImmunityBio with the SEC, which are available on the SEC's website at www.sec.gov. ImmunityBio cautions you not to place undue reliance on any forward looking statements, which speak only as of the date hereof.

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