DISCOVERY CASE STUDY

Overcoming unique client challenges with a strong collaborative partnership

Background

A radiopharmaceutical company focused on development of cancer therapies with a strong clinical and preclinical pipeline initially approached Labcorp to run small animal efficacy studies as there is limited availability of this service offering in the industry. As the relationship grew, the client expanded the scope of work placed with Labcorp. This expanded scope included development of new assays, research models (from cell modification through model development), biodistribution, and tolerance and efficacy in small animals.

The challenge

The client's test article had very specific handling requirements and limited stability, as well as limited manufacturing timelines. Due to the number of compounds in development, progression from biodistribution to tolerance and efficacy study work needed to be carefully managed and scheduled to maintain no gaps in program progression. Individual challenges for the unique test articles had to be overcome at multiple steps in the preclinical development process.

The solution

A strong collaborative relationship with the client enabled us to accelerate their discovery oncology program. Through open communication, efficient project management, critical thinking and collaboration, we aligned with our client's programmatic needs and enacted a plan to meet their end goals effectively and efficiently.

Communication:

- Due to specific requirements for manufacture, shipment, delivery and dosing, we developed strategies for communication of scheduling to achieve their needs

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Project coordination:

- We scheduled cohorts of studies weeks and months in advance based on the client's test article delivery timelines and our vivarium capacity, providing full visibility with drop dead dates for each step in the disease induction process and clear assessment of risks and expectations for both parties at each step
- A Labcorp program manager maintained a holistic view of the program and monitored specific deadlines to ensure both teams had accurate information

Flexibility:

- To accommodate a large volume of work and meet regulatory submission deadlines, we procured additional animal racks to increase housing capacity for the special needs of the client's work
- We modified our sampling and handling protocols to suit the client's needs, developing new methods collaboratively to achieve their goals in a safe manner while still providing the needed answers to their questions
- We amended our handling license multiple times with national regulatory authorities to gain necessary licensure for their specific study need or expansion of work capacity. We continue to pursue additional changes that would allow us to address specific client requests. This has resulted at times in monthslong discussions with the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission to determine feasibility of each request
- When the sponsor had design requests that we were unable to accommodate, we provided alternative suggestions and collaborated to meet the needs and constraints of both groups

Collaboration:

- We worked collaboratively with team members across Labcorp to transfer knowledge and practices enabling a seamless transition of client work to other sites as the project progressed

Conclusion

This program has been successful over several years as a direct result of the strong partnership between the client and Labcorp. The client continues to work closely with Labcorp and view us as an essential part of their collaborative, problem-solving team. This is one example of how our oncology pharmacology knowledge, breadth of tools and experience help move life-changing drug candidates through preclinical development and beyond quickly and effectively.

Do you need a discovery partner who can start your study quickly and expedite the development of your next cancer research breakthrough?

Visit biopharma.labcorp.com/industry-solutions/by-therapeutic-area/oncology/preclinical.html to learn more.

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