

CYTOIMMUNE APPOINTS DISTINGUISHED CELL THERAPY AND CHEMISTRY, MANUFACTURING AND CONTROLS EXPERT AS PUERTO RICO-BASED CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER

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The clinical-stage biotech CytolImmune Therapeutics welcomes Puerto Rico native and biochemistry and molecular biology expert José Eduardo Vidal, Ph.D., to lead the cellular and virus manufacturing capabilities.

TOA BAJA, Puerto Rico, Dec. 14, 2021 (GLOBE NEWSWIRE) -- [CytolImmune Therapeutics](#), a clinical-stage cell immunotherapy company developing novel natural killer (NK) cell therapies to fight cancer, appoints [José Eduardo Vidal, Ph.D.](#) as its Chief Operating Officer.

"Jose is a tremendous addition to the team at CytolImmune and will lead the manufacturing capabilities here in Puerto Rico. This enables us to generate ample cells for all of our planned clinical trials. Given his experience with allogeneic cell therapies and his leadership in the field, we expect to rely heavily on his expertise in our mission to provide novel cellular medicines for patients battling metastatic solid tumors and refractory hematologic malignancies," said CytolImmune CEO Christina Coughlin, MD, Ph.D.

Dr. Vidal joins CytolImmune from Atara Bio, where he led the Chemistry, Manufacturing, and Controls (CMC) and was instrumental in the development of Atara's allogeneic T-cell therapy. He was responsible for Global Quality Assurance Operations, functionality and compliance, and Process Sciences. Moreover, he was in charge of the product manufacturing processes development from the preclinical stage to commercialization.



Prior to Atara, Dr. Vidal was Vice President of Global Product Process Development and Vice President of Drug Substance Operations at Amgen. He supervised over 1,000 employees and oversaw a budget of half a billion dollars while managing its worldwide product development network.

Before holding several senior and executive roles in pharmaceutical companies such as Wyeth, Pfizer, and prominent startups, including Biovail, Dr. Vidal earned a bachelor's degree in biology from the University of Puerto Rico and a Ph.D. in cellular molecular biology.

With over two decades in developing biopharmaceuticals worldwide, Dr. Vidal will manage CytolImmune's cell and virus manufacturing and lead the operations team in Puerto Rico in its mission against cancer.

"I feel humbled and incredibly fortunate for the opportunity to join Dr. Caliguiri and the team at CytolImmune as we begin clinical studies," said Jose Eduardo Vidal, Ph.D. "I also welcome an opportunity to return home to Puerto Rico and contribute to the island's R&D clinical cell therapy footprint."

CytolImmune Therapeutics formed a Puerto Rico subsidiary in 2020 and has hired 40 employees to support its cell therapy manufacturing activities in Toja Baja, Puerto Rico.

About CytolImmune Therapeutics, Inc.

[CytolImmune Therapeutics](#) is a clinical-stage biotechnology company founded by Michael Caligiuri, M.D., and Jianhua Yu, Ph.D., in 2017. It focuses on developing a portfolio of natural killer (NK) cell-based immunotherapies designed to utilize the power of a patient's own immune system to eliminate cancer cells. CytolImmune is moving towards filing Investigational New Drug (IND) applications for novel immunotherapy programs in hematological and solid malignancies.

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