



PRESS RELEASE

Warsaw, 23th of March 2020

The Łukasiewicz Research Network – Institute of Biotechnology and Antibiotics (a team of scientists led by Małgorzata Kęsik-Brodacka, Ph.D.), working with a team led by Professor Marcin Drąg of the Wrocław University of Technology is among the three Polish research centres selected to implement a project sponsored by Poland’s Medical Research Agency (ABM).

The Medical Research Agency is set to implement the project for ‘Research on a SARS-CoV-2 vaccine and support for research designed to find effective treatments’ in partnership with Polish and international research centres in response to the epidemic caused by the SARS-CoV-2 virus.

In collaboration with scientists of the Wrocław University of Technology, the Łukasiewicz researchers will look for effective treatments among known drugs by advancing work on SARS-CoV-2 Mpro protease inhibitors. The research aims to inhibit the enzyme and thus prevent the virus from spreading. Inhibitors of the protease specific to the coronavirus are excellent drug candidates given the substance’s uniqueness. A drug inhibiting its activity could fight the virus with few side effects.

The project is another step in the effort undertaken by the Łukasiewicz researchers to address the public health threat caused by SARS-CoV-2. On March 23rd 2020, the Łukasiewicz Research Network and Celon Pharma S.A. announced the start of a joint research programme to check whether drugs already available on the market or their combinations could help in the treatment of COVID-19 and to also look for new cures for the disease.