



# MTECH

## MARYLAND TECHNOLOGY ENTERPRISE INSTITUTE

---

### **Interest in UM-China Research Park**

Name of Maryland Company ImiGene, Inc

Primary Company Business

ImiGene is a Biotechnology Company Focused on the Development and Commercialization of Therapeutic Vaccines for Viral Liver Diseases.

Names of Possible Chinese Companies for Collaboration

Open for suggestions.

Proposed Business Collaboration (Technical Area, Market Possibility, Role of Participants, etc.)

#### **Hepatitis Therapeutic Vaccines**

Vaccine-mediated protection against persistent viruses, such as HCV, is unfortunately very difficult to achieve. Despite substantial efforts to develop new prophylactic vaccines, this has proven to be very difficult. Realistically, the prospects of a prophylactic HCV vaccine remain remote. Clearly, alternative treatment strategies are needed. Such could be the exploitation of viral interference as a therapeutic vaccine strategy in treating persistent viral infections.

ImiGene is developing orally-administered hepatitis therapeutic vaccines based on an attenuated avian virus (IBDV) that causes no disease in humans. IBDV interferes with replication of liver specific human viruses, induces interferon (IFN) production in the liver and a multi-functional inhibitor of infectious agents. Furthermore, IBDV can be delivered orally because it remains active at pH 2.0 and can be produced in Vero cell cultures for large scale manufacture.

ImiGene plans to conduct clinical trials for treatment of decompensated viral hepatitis B and hepatitis C patients.

Funding required and Potential Sources

~2 M from Corporate Collaborations for R&D and Clinical Development