Compounds for use in regulating follicle maturation

VALUE PROPOSITION
The technology allows for control of the most important early step of egg regulation via either activation or maintenance of dormancy:

Activating dormancy:
Present invention will make it possible to activate the primordial follicles, allowing a more effective treatment of infertility than what is possible with current commercial solutions.

This could in particular help the increasing group of women with age-related decline in eggs and/or women categorized as ‘low responders’, who does not respond to today’s treatment aiming at the later follicle stages.

Maintaining dormancy:
The invention allows for holding back egg maturation, thereby protecting the pool of resting eggs, i.e. the reproductive potential, from premature expiration. Holding back egg maturation may help women who need to maintain an egg pool, for example during disease treatment, such as cancer treatment, or due to genetic diseases or disorders causing premature depletion of eggs.

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITY
We are looking for a company interested in collaborating on further studies through testing of the identified compounds and screening of new compounds. We offer an option agreement to allow risk reduction before entering negotiations for a license.

TECHNOLOGY SUMMARY
Aarhus University have invented a list of new factors for screening for compounds that regulates ovarian follicle maturation.

A range of compounds have already been identified for their use in regulating follicle maturation, in particular for use in regulating the primordial to primary transition of follicles. The already identified, and potential additionally, compounds can be used for treating, preventing or ameliorating infertility in a large increasing cohort of women not responding to current available fertility treatments.

Additional compounds are expected to be identifiable through an in vitro-based screening method.

CURRENT STATE
Proof-of-concept has been provided using in vitro primary culture of mouse ovaries as model system. Soft funding has been secured for testing of the identified compounds, which are currently ongoing.

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS
The technology is protected through European patent applications EP17173965.9 filled in June 2017 and 17209250.4 filled in December 2017.
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