

# RAUCON *BD Executive News*

Vol. 16 # 6 | 2 April 2020

## Hot Company News

\* Acquisition: **Advanz Pharma Corp.**, a frequent attendee of euroPLX Conferences, closed its previously announced definitive agreement to acquire from **UCB S.A.** the rights to a portfolio of alprostadil products in 20 countries around the world, the majority of which are in Western Europe. Advanz paid the purchase price of \$83 million<sup>1</sup> (€75 million), and a deposit for inventory of approximately \$13 million. The alprostadil product portfolio consists of two established, niche, injectable Prostaglandin E1 formulations for the treatment of erectile dysfunction and peripheral arterial occlusive disease. Alprostadil is marketed under the brand names of Prostavasin<sup>®</sup>, Viridal<sup>®</sup>, Vasaprostan<sup>®</sup> and Edex<sup>®</sup>. 1 Apr 2020 (advanzpharma.com)

\* Distribution: **Azelis** entered into a new distribution agreement with **Merck**. Effective on April 1st 2020, Azelis will distribute Merck Performance Materials' complete range in Vietnam for personal care, CASE (coatings, adhesives, sealants and elastomers), food & health, and industrial chemicals. This partnership is an extension of existing distribution agreements between Azelis and Merck in other countries and covers Merck Performance Materials' range for personal care, CASE, food & health and industrial chemicals in Vietnam. 24 Mar 2020 (www.azelis.com)

\* Licensing: **Bayer AG** and **Curadev Pvt. Ltd.**, a drug discovery company based in India, today announced a research collaboration and license agreement for Curadev's Stimulator of Interferon Genes (STING) antagonist program. The collaboration aims to discover new drug candidates for the treatment of lung diseases, cardiovascular diseases and other inflammatory diseases. Under the terms of the agreement, Curadev will receive an upfront payment.

In addition, Curadev will receive research funding and might be eligible for pre-clinical, clinical and sales milestones of potentially over EUR 250 million as well as royalties of single digit percentages of net sales. 23 Mar 2020 (www.bayer.com)

\* Acquisition: **Bormioli Pharma** announces today the issuing of a Binding Offer for the acquisition of 100% of **GCL Pharma**, an Italian subsidiary of the Guala Closures Group, specialised in the production of plastic, rubber and aluminium closures for pharmaceutical applications. The aggregate purchase price offered for the acquisition is 8,9 M€. 18 Mar 2020 (www.bormioliopharma.com)

\* Licensing: **Debiopharm** entered into a worldwide, exclusive license & research agreement with **3B Pharmaceuticals**, a German biotechnology firm, to further the development of their radioligand program, now called Debio 0228, which targets the CAIX (Carbonic Anhydrase 9) enzyme to fight the progression of cancer. Currently in Lead Optimization stage, the Debio 0228 program is set to identify a Development Candidate with best-in-class potential, designed to selectively destroy tumor cells that express the CAIX target. 25 Mar 2020 (www.debiopharm.com)

\* Acquisition: **Dermapharm Holding SE** completed the acquisition of **Allergopharma GmbH & Co. KG**, a company focusing on subcutaneous hyposensitization of allergies. Financial terms were not disclosed. 31 Mar 2020 (www.dermapharm.de)

\* Acquisition: **Eton Pharmaceuticals, Inc.** has acquired U.S. marketing rights to Alkindi<sup>®</sup> Sprinkle from **Diurnal Group plc**. Alkindi Sprinkle's New Drug Application (NDA) is currently under review with the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) for approval as a replacement therapy for pediatric adrenal insufficiency

(AI), including congenital adrenal hyperplasia (CAH) in patients from birth to less than 17 years of age. 27 Mar 2020 (etonpharma.com)

\* Partnership: **Johnson & Johnson** announced the selection of a lead COVID-19 vaccine candidate from constructs it has been working on since January 2020; the significant expansion of the existing partnership between the Janssen Pharmaceutical Companies of Johnson & Johnson and the **Biomedical Advanced Research and Development Authority (BARDA)**; and the rapid scaling of the Company's manufacturing capacity with the goal of providing global supply of more than one billion doses of a vaccine. The Company expects to initiate human clinical studies of its lead vaccine candidate at the latest by September 2020 and anticipates the first batches of a COVID-19 vaccine could be available for emergency use authorization in early 2021. The parties have committed more than \$1 billion of investment to co-fund vaccine research, development, and clinical testing. 30 Mar 2020 (www.jnj.com/)

\* Licensing: **Lipigon Pharmaceuticals** announced that the company has acquired antisense drug candidates jointly generated with **Secarna Pharmaceuticals** under a previous research collaboration. Lipigon will continue the research and development of the acquired assets targeting the ANGPTL gene family, and Secarna will receive undisclosed payments customary for such a transaction. 23 Mar 2020 (www.lipigon.se/)

\* Termination: **Novartis** today announced the mutual agreement with **Aurobindo Pharma USA Inc.** to terminate the agreement to sell the Sandoz US generic oral solids and dermatology businesses to Aurobindo Pharma USA Inc. This decision was taken as approval from the U.S. Federal Trade Commission for the transaction

was not obtained within anticipated timelines. 2 Apr 2020 (www.novartis.com)

\* Acquisition: **RedHill Biopharma Ltd.** has completed the recently announced acquisition of the global rights, excluding Europe, Canada and Israel, to Movantik<sup>®</sup> (naloxegol)<sup>1</sup>, for the treatment of opioid-induced constipation (OIC)<sup>2</sup> from **AstraZeneca**. 2 Apr 2020 (www.redhillbio.com)

\* Distribution: **Sandoz US** has acquired the distribution rights in the United States for daptomycin 500mg injection and fosaprepitant 150mg for injection from **BE Pharmaceuticals AG**, to reinforce the company's strategy to grow its injectables portfolio and overall offerings in the hospital setting. Daptomycin is a naturally occurring lipopeptide antibiotic used in the treatment of infections caused by Gram-positive bacteria and is the generic version of Cubicin<sup>®</sup>. 23 Mar 2020 (www.us.sandoz.com)

## BD People on the Move

\* Bone Therapeutics: **Stefanos Theoharis**, PhD, bringing more than 15 years of business development experience has been appointed as Chief Business Officer, responsible for corporate development business strategy. (Press Release 26 Mar 2020)

\* I-Mab Biopharma Co., Ltd.: **Fernando J. Sallés**, Ph.D. has been appointed as Senior Vice President, Head of US & EU Business Development. (Press Release 27 Mar 2020)

\* Nutrisens: **Pauline Cognet**, who has been International Marketing Manager, left the company on 24 February. (Pers Comm 1 Apr 2020)

\* Samsung Biologics: **Eun Young Yang** has been promoted to vice president of business development for the company's expanded CDO (contract development organization) business. (Press Release 30 Mar 2020)