

# RAUCON *BD Executive News*

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## Important euroPLX Notice

National CoViD-19 restrictions are currently changing on a daily basis and expected distancing in conference rooms forced us to decrease the **number of tables and places available at euroPLX 73 Vienna**. This could change in either direction during the next weeks.

## Hot Company News

\* Acquisition: **AcelRx Pharmaceuticals, Inc.**, executed an amendment to its merger agreement to acquire **Tetraphase Pharmaceuticals, Inc.**, with revised consideration of \$30.0 million in stock and cash based on the AcelRx closing share price on May 22, 2020, plus an additional \$14.5 million in contingent value rights (CVRs) payable in cash. 27 May 2020 ([www.acerlx.com](http://www.acerlx.com))

\* Acquisition: **Advanz Pharma Corp.**, a frequent attendee of euroPLX Conferences, closed its previously announced acquisition of specialty pharmaceutical company **Correvo Pharma Corp.** The acquisition has a total purchase price of approximately \$76 million. 27 May 2020 ([advanzpharma.com](http://advanzpharma.com))

\* Collaboration: **AstraZeneca** will collaborate with **ArcherDX**, a genomic analysis company focused on precision oncology, to use personalised cancer monitoring to detect minimal residual disease (MRD) in patients with early-stage non-small cell lung cancer (NSCLC). MRD describes a very small number of otherwise undetectable cancer cells that shed circulating tumour DNA (ctDNA) in the blood. 26 May 2020 ([www.astrazeneca.com](http://www.astrazeneca.com))

\* Name change: **Biodesy Inc.** has changed its corporate name to **BlueLight Therapeutics Inc.** 27 May 2020 ([bluelighttx.com](http://bluelighttx.com))

\* Acquisition: **Boehringer Ingelheim** acquired **Northern Biologics Inc.**, a wholly owned subsidiary

of **Northern LP**. By acquiring this entity, which focuses on therapeutic antibodies targeting the tumor microenvironment, **Boehringer Ingelheim** is now positioned at the forefront of the stromal biology space - an emerging area in cancer immunology. The seller will retain the Northern Biologics name and will continue to drive certain preclinical efforts on one of the programs, while **Boehringer Ingelheim** will be responsible for clinical, regulatory and commercial development of the acquired programs. Financial terms were not disclosed; the total transaction includes an upfront payment, milestones and other consideration payments. 14 May 2020 ([www.boehringer-ingelheim.com](http://www.boehringer-ingelheim.com))

\* Acquisition: **Roche** has acquired **Stratos Genomics**, an early-stage sequencing technology company to advance the development of Roche's nanopore sequencer. The acquisition provides Roche access to Stratos Genomics unique chemistry, Sequencing by Expansion (SBX™). The Roche nanopore sequencer, once developed, will utilise a novel approach that combines electronic and biological components to sequence DNA for fast, flexible and cost-effective clinical diagnostic testing. 22 May 2020 ([www.roche.com](http://www.roche.com))

\* Partnership: **Gilead Sciences Inc.** and **Arcus Biosciences, Inc.**, an oncology-focused biopharmaceutical company working to create best-in-class cancer therapeutics, have entered into a 10-year partnership to co-develop and co-commercialize current and future therapeutic product candidates in Arcus's pipeline. 27 May 2020 ([www.gilead.com](http://www.gilead.com))

\* Acquisition: **Merck & Co., Inc.** (MSD) and **Themis**, a company focused on vaccines and immune-modulation therapies for infectious diseases and cancer, have entered into a definitive agreement under which Merck, through a subsidiary, will acquire privately-

held Themis. Themis has a broad pipeline of vaccine candidates and immune-modulatory therapies developed using its innovative measles virus vector platform based on a vector originally developed by scientists at the Institut Pasteur, a world-leading European vaccine research institute, and licensed exclusively to Themis for select viral indications. 26 May 2020 ([www.merck.com](http://www.merck.com))

\* Acquisition: **Novavax, Inc.**, a late-stage biotechnology company developing next-generation vaccines for serious infectious diseases, acquired **Praha Vaccines a.s.**, part of the **Cyrus Poonawalla Group**, in an all cash transaction of approximately \$167 million. The acquisition includes a biologics manufacturing facility and associated assets in Bohumil, Czech Republic. The facility is expected to provide an annual capacity of over 1 billion doses of antigen starting in 2021 for NVX CoV2373, Novavax' COVID-19 vaccine candidate. 27 May 2020 ([www.novavax.com](http://www.novavax.com))

\* Name change: Following the closing of the merger with **Qualigen Therapeutics, Inc.**, the name of **Ritter Pharmaceuticals, Inc.** was changed to Qualigen Therapeutics, Inc.. 19 May 2020 ([www.qualigeninc.com](http://www.qualigeninc.com))

\* Partnership: **GlaxoSmithKline plc** and **Samsung Biologics** have entered into a partnership to provide GSK with additional capacity to manufacture and supply GSK's innovative biopharmaceutical therapies. Samsung Biologics will provide GSK with additional capacity for large-scale biopharmaceutical product manufacturing. The agreement is worth more than \$231 million US over the next eight years. It will initially cover commercial production of Benlysta (belimumab). 22 May 2020 ([www.samsungbiologics.com](http://www.samsungbiologics.com))

\* Acquisition **Sensei Biotherapeutics, Inc.**, a clinical-stage biop-

harmaceutical company, acquired **Alvaxa Biosciences, Inc.**, a camelid antibody therapeutics company. Alvaxa's nanobodies, or camelid antibodies, are small, highly-specific antigen-binding domains with high-affinity binding. 28 May 2020 ([www.sensebio.com](http://www.sensebio.com))

\* Acquisition: **Shionogi & Co., Ltd.** agreed to acquire **Tetra Therapeutics Inc** and make it a subsidiary. Tetra is a clinical stage biotechnology company developing a portfolio of therapeutic products seeking to address the impact on cognitive function of disorders such as Fragile X syndrome (FXS), Alzheimer's disease (AD), traumatic brain injury, and other brain disorders. 26 May 2020 ([www.shionogi.co.jp](http://www.shionogi.co.jp))

\* Acquisition: **SERB Specialty Pharmaceuticals**, a leading European specialty pharmaceutical group focused on prescription medicines that address rare and life-threatening diseases, acquired **Veriton Pharma**, a private pharmaceutical company specialising in the development of licensed and unlicensed medicines for patients with special requirements. Financial details of the transaction were not disclosed. 20 May 2020 ([www.veritonpharma.com](http://www.veritonpharma.com))

## BD People on the Move

\* Applied Therapeutics: Dr. **Chuck Silberstein**, formerly Senior Vice President of Corporate Business Development at Allergan plc, has been appointed as Chief Financial Officer and Head of Business Development. ( Press Release 26 May 2020)

\* Neuromod Devices Limited: **Rosemarie Tully**, most recently Chief Business Officer, responsible for business development, has been appointed as Chief Operating Officer. (Press Release 27 May 2020)