

TCG achieves key milestones

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TCG Lifesciences (TCGLS) achieved two distinct milestones in their ongoing drug discovery partnership with Endo Pharmaceuticals. TCGLS will receive undisclosed success fees against these milestones. In the first of the two fully integrated discovery programs with Endo aimed at identifying novel small molecule drug candidates for an unmet medical need, TCGLS has successfully delivered a pre-clinical development candidate. Two lead molecules resulting from this collaboration have been selected by Endo for cGMP manufacturing and GLP-toxicology studies.

In the second of the two fully integrated discovery programs with Endo, initiated in 2011, TCGLS has designed and delivered novel fast-follower hit structures well within collaboration timelines. This multi-year, three-stage project aims to identify potent in-vivo active novel blockers of an undisclosed target for eventual clinical development.

Additionally, TCGLS also announced the nomination of a pre-clinical development candidate under an R&D collaboration entered into in 2009 with Pfizer. As per the agreement, Pfizer will own the candidate and other back up candidates, while TCGLS will receive a milestone payment for its success in moving these molecules to the candidate stage. TCGLS' participation encompasses synthetic chemistry, in-vitro pharmacology, DMPK, in-vivo pharmacology, and preliminary safety.

Early-stage milestone for Jubilant

Jubilant Biosys, a Bangalore-based subsidiary of Jubilant Life Sciences, achieved an early-stage milestone in one of their collaborative programs with US-based Endo Pharmaceuticals that has nominated a candidate into full development. The novel molecule targeting cancer is anticipated to go for clinical trials by late 2012. Jubilant and Endo Pharmaceuticals will continue the collaboration in the development phase as well.

The multi-target collaboration that began three years ago focuses on best-in-class differentiated therapies to address the

unmet needs of cancer patients worldwide. The collaboration has since delivered multiple milestones across the discovery phase. Endo will pursue development and commercialization of the compound, while Jubilant becomes eligible to receive development milestones.

Astellas renews license for GOSTAR

Astellas Pharma has extended and renewed its license for the GVK BIO SAR databases (GOSTAR). GVK BIO Online Structure Activity Relationship (SAR) (GOSTAR) Database is an online scientific database product of GVK BIO. It integrates information on compounds from discovery & development stages and marketed drugs. Information provided includes SAR, ADME, toxicity, preclinical, clinical and structural data for over 5.1 million compounds and 16.7 million SAR points.

Advinus, Celgene collaborate

Advinus Therapeutics, an emerging drug discovery and development company, has initiated a discovery and development collaboration with Celgene Global Health.

The collaboration, which has been agreed upon for an initial term of 18 months, will focus on therapies for visceral leishmaniasis (VL), the second-largest parasitic killer in the world with an estimated 500,000 cases each year. Recent estimates show that more than 90 percent of cases occur in India, Bangladesh, Nepal, Brazil and Sudan. The collaboration has been formed to specifically address unmet patient needs as current treatments have significant drawbacks, including route of administration, length of treatment (21 to 28 days), and emerging parasitic resistance. The goal of the project is to identify and develop compounds that are safe and effective against VL parasites.

Brookfield inaugurates lab in India

US-based laboratory Brookfield Engineering Laboratories inaugurated its first application lab in India powered by Amkette Analytics (of the ANM alliance group). This is the company's first application lab in the whole of South East Asia. This was inaugurated in Mumbai by Mr David Brookfield, president and CEO of Brookfield Engineering Labs, USA.

The laboratory will look at services like after-sales support, demonstrations, maintenance and will also be a nodal point where customers from different regions in Asia can bring in samples for testing.