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Sanofi and UCB partner to innovate in immune-mediated diseases

19 March 2014 | News | By BioSpectrum Bureau

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These molecules will have the potential to treat a wide range of immune-mediated diseases in areas such as gastroenterology and arthritis.

"Immune-mediated diseases affect individuals, families, and communities and impact the economies of countries and nations, making this poorly understood category of diseases a significant public health burden," said Dr Elias Zerhouni, president, global R&D, Sanofi.

"Joining efforts with UCB, we will address a scientific challenge in immunology, and increase the chances of accelerating the discovery and development of future therapies," he added.

"We partner Sanofi's significant expertise, strong capabilities and resources with UCB's cutting-edge research skills and breakthrough innovations. Together we can maximize the opportunity to treat diseases currently treated by biologic agents with small molecules and thus benefit millions of people suffering from severe diseases," commented Mr Ismail Kola, president, UCB NewMedicines.

UCB NewMedicines, the research arm of UCB, has used an innovative approach to identify small molecules modulators of a biological pathway, for which parenterally administered biologic therapies have proven highly efficacious in patients.

A dedicated team of scientists will be formed under the leadership of Sanofi and UCB, and will join forces in a discovery and development based collaboration to characterize and identify new potential therapies.

Under the terms of the agreement, Sanofi and UCB will share costs and profits on a 50/50 basis.

UCB will be entitled to initial upfront, preclinic al and clinical development milestone payments from Sanofi, potentially exceeding Ã¢â??Â¬ 100 million.