



Sensorion and Griffin Discoveries awarded Eurostars grant for development of new therapies for vestibular disorders

Montpellier, France and Amsterdam, The Netherlands - July 8, 2013.

Sensorion and Griffin Discoveries have been awarded a grant through the 1.1 M€ Eureka Eurostars program for the joint development of new therapies for vestibular disorders.

Griffin Discoveries and Sensorion team up to bring an innovative solution for the treatment of vestibular disorders which are characterized by debilitating symptoms including dizziness, visual disturbances and balance impairment. This family of disorders that include, Meniere's disease and vertigo crisis currently represent an area of truly unmet medical need.

In the Eurostars program H4 INVEST, both SMEs will jointly map the function of histamine receptors in the inner ear and develop a new histamine H₄ receptor antagonist for the treatment of vestibular disorders. The histamine H₄ receptor is the most recently added member of the histamine receptor family that holds great promise for the treatment of a variety of diseases including allergic asthma and atopic dermatitis. More recently Sensorion scientists have described the role of the H₄R in vestibular dysfunction and identified this G protein-coupled receptor as a novel therapeutic target.

Dr. Rogier Smits, managing director Griffin Discoveries, is very excited for the recently started project. "We are very happy to start this collaboration with Sensorion with the support of the Eurostars program. It is a great recognition of Sensorion's biology platform dedicated to the treatment of inner ear diseases as well as our medicinal chemistry expertise on histamine receptors. We both see the enormous potential for selective H₄R antagonists in this therapeutic area and the 1.1 M€ Eurostars program allows us to kick-start our development plans."

"Receiving funding from Eurostars for the development of one of our key programs is regarded by Sensorion as validation of our scientific work in a very competitive environment and of the need for new treatments in the inner ear space. We are thrilled to join forces with Griffin as they bring complementary skills in medical chemistry and knowledge of the histaminergic pathway. Inner ear disorders is a young segment for the pharma industry and we believe that innovative partnerships are key to progress new therapies against inner ear disorders" declares Laurent Nguyen, CEO of Sensorion.

About Eurostars

The Eurostars Program is a European Joint Program dedicated to R&D performing SMEs, and co-funded by the European Communities and 33 EUREKA member countries. Eurostars Grants aim to stimulate these SMEs to lead international collaborative research and innovation projects by easing access to support and funding. It is fine-tuned to focus on the needs of SMEs, and specifically targets the development of new products, processes and services, and the access to transnational and international markets.

About Griffin Discoveries

Griffin Discoveries is a GPCR focused drug discovery company that develops innovative drugs for areas of unmet clinical need. Its focus lies on the histamine receptor family where it has currently two programs in pre-clinical development. Its histamine H₄R antagonist program is the basis for the collaboration with Sensorion and the development of a novel therapy for vestibular disorders. Its H₁R/H₄R dual-action antagonist program targets ocular allergy and is based on a unique series of new chemical entities, with which a strong preclinical proof-of-concept has recently been established.

About Sensorion S.A.S.

Sensorion is a private pharmaceutical company, pioneer in the area of the pathologies of the inner ear. Dysfunctions of the inner ear, which comprises the cochlea and the vestibular system, lead to a number of troubles of audition and of equilibrium such as deafness and vertigos, which are particularly disabling in older patients. The prevention and treatment of these pathologies is still an untapped market with significant unmet needs. Sensorion has developed an integrated platform of *in vitro* and *in vivo* tests which have allowed the Company to select key targets and pathways involved in inner ear disorders, and to identify novel active compounds. The Company was founded in 2009 on the basis of scientific work on vestibular physiopathology developed at a research unit of INSERM, the public French medical research institute, located in the Institute of Neurosciences of Montpellier, France.

For more information please visit:

Griffin Discoveries at www.griffindiscoveries.com

Sensorion at www.sensorion-pharma.com

Eurostars website <http://www.eurostars-eureka.eu>



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