



Press Release – Science

Foamix Ltd. and VIB Sign Co-Development Agreement for Innovative Topical Therapy for Psoriasis

Ness Ziona, Israel, and Ghent, Belgium, February 2, 2009

Foamix Ltd., a leading worldwide developer of topical foams for dermatology and gynecology has entered into an agreement with VIB (the Flanders Institute for Biotechnology) for the development of a unique topical drug for the treatment of Psoriasis.

Under the terms of the agreement, Foamix and VIB will jointly investigate the potential use of VIB's proprietary Caspase-14 compound in psoriasis therapy. Subsequently, Foamix will have an exclusive option to commercialize products based on this technology. The financial terms of the agreement were not disclosed.

Psoriasis is a chronic skin disease that affects about 2-3% of the population. The World Psoriasis Day Consortium reported that a total of 125 million people worldwide suffer from this skin condition.

The potential use of Caspase-14 in dermatology, more specifically in psoriasis, was discovered by the research group headed by **Prof. Peter Vandenabeele** and **Prof. Wim Declercq** from the Department for Molecular Biomedical Research and patented by VIB and Ghent University.

Dr. Dov Tamarkin commented on the deal: "We believe that Caspase-14 has great potential for the treatment of psoriasis, with its unique mode of influencing the skin growth. This agreement demonstrates Foamix's commitment to seek out novel treatments for important dermatological conditions, such as psoriasis. The VIB compounds will be a unique addition to our current in-house dermatological and gynecological pipeline. We look forward to seeing the product progress further through clinical development and towards market."

"It is a great opportunity for VIB as a research institute to translate our research results into products. The combined technologies of Foamix and VIB form an excellent basis for the development of an effective psoriasis therapy", said **Dr. Barbara Leyman**, Licensing Manager of VIB. "We are very pleased with the commitment of Foamix to develop the Caspase-14 compound into a product."



Note to the Editor

Foamix

Headquartered in Ness Ziona, Israel, Foamix Ltd. is a leading developer of topical foams for dermatology and gynecology. Foamix's state-of-the-art foams provide controlled delivery of a variety of active ingredients. Foamix is a privately held company, whose business model is based on partnering with leading pharma companies to develop products utilizing its proprietary foam technologies. Foamix is currently collaborating with 10 pharmaceutical companies on 12 projects in the development of proprietary dermatological and gynecologic foam drugs, and has its own in-house pipeline of dermatological and gynecological drugs in foam presentation. Foamix holds 3 patents and has 70 patents pending.

For additional information please visit www.foamix.co.il

VIB

VIB is a non-profit research institute in life sciences. About 1100 scientists and technicians conduct strategic basic research on the molecular mechanisms that are responsible for the functioning of the human body, plants, and micro-organisms. Through a close partnership with four Flemish universities – UGent, K.U.Leuven, University of Antwerp, and Vrije Universiteit Brussel – and a solid funding program, VIB unites the forces of 65 research groups in a single institute. The goal of the research is to extend the boundaries of our knowledge profoundly. Through its technology transfer activities, VIB strives to convert the research results into products for the benefit of consumers and patients. VIB develops and disseminates a wide range of scientifically substantiated information about all aspects of biotechnology. For more information, please visit: www.vib.be.

UGent

After more than twenty years of uninterrupted growth, Ghent University is now one of the most important institutions of higher education and research in the Low Countries. Ghent University yearly attracts over 30,000 students, with a foreign student population of over 2,200 EU and non-EU citizens. Ghent University offers a broad range of study programmes in all academic and scientific branches. With a view to cooperation in research and community service, numerous research groups, centres and institutes have been founded over the years. More info: www.UGent.be.

Mention both VIB and the university

When reporting this research, please always mention VIB as well as the university concerned.

For more information

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