Biocon’s subsidiary Clinigene International has signed a Letter of Intent with SCIREX Corporation to collaborate on global clinical trials. SCIREX is a subsidiary of the US-based Omnicom Group.

“SCIREX is extremely pleased to forge a new kind of exclusive partnership in India. We were a natural fit from the very beginning,” said SCIREX CEO Jim Utterback. “This brings our clients a best in class firm that not only offers them substantial value based on cost efficiencies and great science but also demonstrated clinical trial expertise. SCIREX and our parent, Omnicom Group, can be truly integrated research and commercialization partners with Clinigene for years to come,” he continued.

“SCIREX’s expertise and vast experience in IND filings and conduct of global clinical trials will further position Biocon/ Clinigene as a world-class clinical development organization,” added Dr. Arvind Atignal from Clinigene. “At the end of the day, the CRO business is about expertise, leadership and commitment to creating value. I feel our respective companies’ personalities and cultures were a perfect fit,” said Utterback.

The partnership will allow Clinigene to expand its markets and partake in clinical trial programs. It will also provide SCIREX clients to access clinical investigations in India.

**About Clinigene**

Clinigene is a clinical research organization that offers global biotechnology and pharmaceutical majors strong clinical trial, regulatory and laboratory capabilities for drug development. Established in the 2000, as a Biocon subsidiary, the company set up India’s first CAP (College of American Pathologists) accredited central reference laboratory with clinical specializations in biochemistry, haematology, histopathology and microbiology. Their services include patient registries and clinical databases in diabetes, lipedema, oncology and cardiovascular diseases.

**About SCIREX**

SCIREX Corporation is a leader in the delivery of Phase I-IV drug development services to the global pharmaceutical and biotechnology industries. Their services include clinical trial management, post-marketing services, data management, electronic data capture, medical writing and many more.

SCIREX is formed through a merger between Biomedical Research Group, National Medical Research Corporation and an infusion of private equity growth capital in 1996. It is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Omnicom Group Inc.
In February 2005, CSL announced a share buyback of up to 10 million shares or 5% of issued capital. Recently, the company has decided to buy back another eight million shares from July 2005 onwards. This decision was made after CSL restated that its annual net profit target will be between US$270 million and US$295 million.

CSL managing director, Brian McNamee, said the second buyback was underpinned by the company’s “strong cashflows and balance sheet position.”

“Combined with the buyback completed in May this year, it is very likely that we will have returned to shareholders in excess of the US$550 million we raised to acquire the global plasma therapeutics business of Aventis Behring in December 2003. At the same time, the market value of CSL has more than doubled since making the announcement to acquire the business,” Dr McNamee said.

“That’s affirmation that they (CSL) think things are pretty good,” commented Citigroup Smith Barney analyst, Rosemary Cummins. She also said the announcement from CSL gave investors more confidence in the stock after some varying assessments from brokers.

The company said the forecast net profit is subject to currency fluctuations and material movements in the price of core plasma products. It also depends on selling more of a large inventory acquired during the Aventis Behring deal. CSL announced that it had agreed to acquire Aventis Behring for around US$925 million in December 2003 and completed the acquisition in March 2004. CSL combined Aventis Behring with CSL’s ZLB Bioplasma business to form ZLB Behring, which now provides most of CSL’s earnings.

However, the full year net profit forecast does not include the profit from the sale of CSL’s cell culture reagent business, JRH Biosciences, to US-based Sigma-Aldrich for US$370 million in January 2005.

About CSL
CSL Ltd is a global, specialty biopharmaceutical company that develops, manufactures and markets products to treat and prevent serious human medical conditions. Headquartered in Melbourne, Australia, the CSL Group includes CSL Bioplasma, CSL Pharmaceutical and ZLB Behring incorporating ZLB Plasma Services. With major facilities in Australia, Germany, Switzerland, US and Japan, CSL has over 7000 employees working in 25 countries.
International Alliance Between ChemGenex and Stragen Pharma

A ustralian-based ChemGenex Pharmaceuticals and Swiss-based Stragen Pharma S.A., has announced an international alliance to accelerate the clinical development of ChemGenex’s leading anti-cancer therapeutic, Ceflatonin®.

Ceflatonin® is currently in a Phase 2 clinical trial at the M.D. Anderson Cancer Center in Houston, Texas, USA. It is used to treat chronic myeloid leukemia (CML) patients who are resistant to Gleevec®. In addition to CML, Ceflatonin® has established clinical activity in other hematological malignancies, including myelodysplastic syndrome (MDS) and acute myeloid leukemia (AML).

Under the terms of the alliance, ChemGenex will be responsible for the global clinical development of Ceflatonin®, as well as registration and marketing in North America and Asia Pacific. Stragen will be responsible for drug production and global supply, as well as facilitating regulatory approvals within Europe. In addition, ChemGenex will engage Stragen’s established European clinical network to accelerate the development of Ceflatonin®. Once Ceflatonin® is approved in Europe, the alliance partners will market the product under the ChemGenex brand. Forty-nine percent of the sales will go to ChemGenex while 51% goes to Stragen.
ChemGenex and Stragen will combine their respective strengths to pursue clinical approval of Ceflatonin® in the US, Europe, Australia and other territories. ChemGenex provides expertise in drug development and clinical trial management while Stragen offers GMP manufacturing, distribution, and marketing expertise. Stragen has a patented manufacturing process for a semi-synthetic highly purified form of homoharringtonine, the active molecule in Ceflatonin® and has patented a suite of derivative molecules of homoharringtonine. ChemGenex will exclusively license the global rights to Stragen’s manufacturing process and novel analogues under the terms of the alliance.

“The alliance with Stragen is a great opportunity for both companies to capitalize on our respective strengths and to accelerate the development of Ceflatonin® as a potential new therapy for chronic and acute leukemia. This alliance expands ChemGenex’s global presence and gives us an outstanding partner with whom to progress regulatory approval and eventual marketing of Ceflatonin® in Europe.” said Greg Collier, CEO of ChemGenex Pharmaceuticals.

“Stragen is very pleased to be able to partner with ChemGenex on the development of this promising anticancer drug. Stragen’s manufacturing capabilities and established European drug distribution and marketing network, combined with ChemGenex’s strong clinical development and pharmaceutical marketing capabilities make this an ideal partnership for the development and commercialization of Ceflatonin®,” said Jean-Luc Tetard, President of Stragen Pharma.

About ChemGenex Pharmaceuticals Ltd
ChemGenex Pharmaceuticals is a pharmaceutical company dedicated to improving the lives of patients by developing therapeutics in the areas of oncology, diabetes, obesity, and depression.

ChemGenex currently has two compounds in Phase 2 clinical trials, Ceflatonin® for leukemia and Quinamed® for solid tumors, and has a significant portfolio of anticancer, diabetes, obesity and depression programs.

The company’s diabetes and obesity program is partnered with Merck KGaA and the depression program is partnered with Vemalix.

ChemGenex currently trades on the Australian Stock Exchange under the symbol “CXS” and the NASDAQ exchange under the symbol “CXSP”.

About Stragen Holdings
Stragen is involved in the development, manufacturing and registration of special generic products. Stragen sells its products mainly to the European Union and other various European countries such as Russia, CIS Territories, Turkey and some other overseas export countries. Its products include dermatological drugs, drugs for the genito-urinary system, sex hormones, anti-infectives, non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs and immunomodulating agents.
Mayne Pharma Expands in Europe

The Mayne Group has recently seen through a series of acquisitions in Europe in an attempt to penetrate the European market and reinforce Mayne Pharma’s leading marketing and distribution position for generic, hospital pharmaceuticals in the region.

In Italy, Mayne has acquired two generic pharmaceutical businesses specializing in the hospital segment, Biologici Italia Laboratories and PHT Pharma. Mayne Pharma is buying the hospital sales and distribution capability of Biologici, a pharmaceutical company based in Milan that currently sells acute care hospital injectable products across a broad range of therapeutic areas. PHT Pharma is a Milan-based marketing and sales organization selling generic injectable and generic oral products to hospitals. Mayne Pharma is also acquiring Germany’s Onkoworks, a pharmaceutical company selling generic oncology products to specialist doctors operating in private practices across Germany.

Mayne Pharma has also recently broadened its strategic relationship with Ivax Corp in Eastern and Western Europe. As part of this collaboration, Ivax will license and sell a range of Mayne’s generic, injectable products for markets in Central and Eastern Europe.

The acquisitions come as Mayne Group moves to demerge, involving separate Australian listings of its global injectable pharmaceutical business, Mayne Pharma, and its domestic healthcare businesses Mayne Diagnostic Services, Mayne Pharmacy, and Mayne Consumer Products.

About Mayne Group Ltd

Mayne Group Ltd has an international pharmaceutical organization (Mayne Pharma) with operations based in the Asia Pacific, the Americas and Europe, the Middle East and Africa. Mayne Pharma focuses on the research, development, manufacture and sale of specialty pharmaceuticals with an emphasis on generic, injectable oncology, treatments and related therapeutic areas. The company is a leading provider of health care products and services.

Two Australians, John Mayne and Enoch Nickless, established the company, now known as Mayne Group Limited, in 1886. Originally a Melbourne and suburban parcels delivery service, Mayne later became one of Australia’s largest transport operators and in 1986 began its successful health care operations.

Mayne is listed on the Australian Stock Exchange and has businesses in pharmaceuticals, health-related consumer products, diagnostic services and pharmacy.
Bausch & Lomb is an eye health company, dedicated to perfecting vision and enhancing life for consumers around the world. Its core businesses include soft and rigid gas permeable contact lenses and lens care products, and ophthalmic surgical and pharmaceutical products.

One of the oldest continually operating companies in the USA today, Bausch & Lomb traces its roots to 1853, when John Jacob Bausch, a German immigrant, set up a tiny optical goods shop in Rochester, New York. When he needed more money to keep the business going, Bausch borrowed US$60 from his good friend, Henry Lomb. Bausch promised that if the business grew, Lomb would be made a full partner. The business did grow and the partnership was formed.
Eli Lilly has signed a licensing agreement with Taisho Pharma. Under the agreement, Eli Lilly will have exclusive rights to develop and commercialize Taisho’s TS-021. TS-021 is an oral DPP-IV inhibitor used to treat type 2 diabetes.

TS-021 inhibits di-peptidyl peptidase-IV (DPP-IV), which is an enzyme that breaks down the human hormone known as glucagon-like peptide-1 (GLP-1). This would in turn maintain glucose homeostasis. GLP-1 stimulates the body to produce insulin in response to elevated levels of blood glucose, suppresses glucagon secretion leading to a reduction in the release of glucose from the liver, slows the rate of food absorption and promotes satiety and reduces appetite.

“As a DPP-IV inhibitor, TS-021 will further diversify our robust diabetes pipeline and may represent a new treatment option for patients with type 2 diabetes,” said Jose F. Caro, M.D., vice president of endocrine research and clinical investigation for Lilly. “New treatment options along the entire continuum of care are vital to combat the growing epidemic of this progressive disease, which is expected to double in the next 20 years.”

About Eli Lilly
Eli Lilly and Company is a leading, innovation-driven corporation committed to developing a growing portfolio of best-in-class and first-in-class pharmaceutical products that help people live longer, healthier and more active lives. Lilly products treat depression, schizophrenia, attention-deficit hyperactivity disorder, diabetes, osteoporosis and many other conditions.
Pingchuan Signs Purchase and Sales Agreement with Sinopharm

Pingchuan Pharma has recently signed a purchase and sale agreement with Sinopharm Medicine Holding Tianjin Co Ltd. Based on the agreement, Pingchuan authorizes Sinopharm to be its non-exclusive franchisee in the metropolitan area of Tianjin, China. Also, Sinopharm will purchase medicines produced by Pingchuan, totaling RMB5 million (US$0.6 million), and provide relevant information on production, marketing, clients, network and promotional activities.

"After signing the contract, we have great confidence in our ability to increase our medicine sales market from our existing market coverage, together with stable growth in sales revenues. It is a global trend, and an inevitable step, for companies to work together to forge 'strong alliances' in order to reach the goal of becoming an industry giant. This agreement helps to accelerate the speed of our development," said Hu Zhanwu, chairman and president of Pingchuan Pharmaceutical Inc.

About Pingchuan Pharmaceutical Inc

Pingchuan Pharmaceutical Inc is formerly known as Xenicent Inc. The group produces antibiotics, medicine in capsule form, traditional Chinese medicine and other products. Pingchuan Pharmaceutical Inc is a modernized pharmaceutical manufacturer with first-class medical R&D abilities, pioneered medicine products, and well-established marketing networks. Since its establishment, it has focused its businesses on diabetes medicine and its medical products. The marketing network of Pingchuan covers more than 50% of China and exports to the US, Japan, Russia, and Southeast Asia.

About China National Pharmaceutical Group Corporation (Sinopharm)

China National Pharmaceutical Group Corporation (Sinopharm), is founded in 1998. It is one of China’s largest pharmaceutical group companies. Incorporating research with production and service trade, the company has, under the control of the central government, 10 wholly owned subsidiaries or shareholding companies.

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Vietnam to Begin Animal Testing of VIRA 38

VIRA 38 is PRB Pharmaceuticals' over-the-counter broad spectrum anti-viral medication known for its effectiveness in treating and preventing influenza. VIRA 38 has recently been shown to contain compounds that inhibit a variety of pathogens including the H5N1 virus. VIRA 38, first gained notoriety during the Taiwan SARS outbreak when it was used by the Taiwan presidential staff and doctors at Sunghshan Hospital and again in 2004 when it was found to inhibit H5N1 infections.

Vietnam’s Department of Animal Health will begin testing an animal version of VIRA 38 on their poultry flocks as part of a multi-national, avian influenza research collaboration.

“Our collaboration with PRB Pharmaceuticals is headed by Dr. To Long Thanh and is part of Vietnam’s continued effort to bring Avian Influenza under control,” said Dr. Bui Quang Anh, director-general of the Department of Animal Health, Vietnam.

“The massive infection and death of migratory birds at China’s Qinghai Lake and the emergence of new H5N1 strains is cause for concern,” said Dr. Charles Hensley, chairman and CEO of PRB Pharmaceuticals.

About PRB Pharmaceuticals

PRB Pharmaceuticals is a fully integrated biopharmaceutical company that develops unique and highly efficient anti-viral treatments and preventative therapies. The company, which has been in business since 2001, is located in Irvine, California and has offices in Hong Kong. The company is divided into three functionally distinct divisions; consumer products, agriculture, and biotechnology.

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About Lee’s Pharmaceuticals

Lee’s Pharma is an integrated research-driven and market-oriented pharmaceutical group. The group was listed on the Hong Kong stock exchange in 2002. It has obtained license-in drugs and technologies with potential markets from reputable pharmaceutical companies in USA and Europe. The company aspires to become a successful biopharmaceutical group in Asia providing innovative and high-quality pharmaceutical products of value that combat diseases and improve health.

“The H5N1 virus is gaining momentum and the migratory bird, poultry, human axis is driving the evolution of this virus towards the development of a pandemic strain. A comprehensive approach targeting each component of this axis is desperately needed,” Dr. Hensley added.

“The nightmare scenario is that new H5N1 variants will emerge that are not only highly contagious in humans but also resistant to existing anti-viral drugs. Viral resistance is most likely to occur when a drug targets a single point of the viral life cycle. The H5N1 virus is already resistant to amantadine and the World Health Organization (WHO) has reported oseltamivir (Tamiflu) resistance in Northern Vietnam,” added Dr. Benjamin Li, CEO of Lee’s Pharmaceuticals.

“Our approach is to attack the virus at multiple points of its life cycle. This results in greater efficacy and reduces the likelihood of the virus developing resistance. A crucial component of our research program is the testing of VIRA 38 and its fractions against the H5N1 variants emerging in China and Vietnam as well as those showing resistance to oseltamivir (Tamiflu),” continued Dr. Hensley.
NIRS and Toshiba Medical Systems Develop a New 4-D Medical Imaging Device

The National Institute of Radiological Sciences (NIRS) and Toshiba Medical Systems has developed the world’s first four-dimensional X-ray computed tomography (CT) scanner. This new device provides accurate images of organs and unveiled images.

The new scanner, which has 256-row detectors, can image the entire heart or brain. In addition, by increasing the revolving speed of detectors, the scanner can measure the locations of moving organs such as lungs or liver in real time. The NIRS has commenced clinical research using the scanner. It expects that the new scanner will contribute to the development of sports medicine.

About Toshiba
Established in 1895, Toshiba is a world leader in high technology. It is a diversified manufacturer and marketer of advanced electronic and electrical products, spanning information and communications equipment, internet-based solutions and services, electronic components and materials, power systems, industrial and social infrastructure systems, and household appliances.

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Medipost—First Biotech Company to List on the Korea Stock Exchange

Korea-based Medipost will list its shares in the Korea Stock Exchange to become the first biotech venture to trade its shares on the main stock exchange. It will list 4.58 million shares on the main exchange.

The biotechnology company was established in 2000. It is the only biotechnology company in the world to develop cell therapy using cord blood.

“We will be the world’s leading bio company in stem cell therapy. To this aim, we used 13.47 percent of sales in research and development (R&D) last year and plan to invest more in R&D next year,” said Yang Yoon-sun, CEO of Medipost.

The cord blood bank received permission from the government to do the first clinical test of a stem cell therapy in April 2004. It expects a full commercialization of its therapy in 2007, with the domestic market reaching 300 billion won (US$300 million).

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About Medipost
First established in 2000, Medipost is a biotech company set up by Seoul National University Hospital, Samsung Medical Center and Asan Medical Center. It focuses on the development of a cell replacement therapy through the use of a variety of stem cells in the cord blood.
Korea Plans First Stem Cell Hospital

Korea plans to set up the world’s first stem cell hospital soon. The hospital will provide treatment to patients using stem cells from the umbilical cord blood.

Histostem Co Ltd is currently negotiating with an European investment firm on the stem cell hospital. Both companies will come up with US$80 million to set up the 100-beds hospital.

“This would be the world’s first hospital exclusively for umbilical cord blood stem cell therapy,” said Dr. Han Hoon, head of Histostem, a medical venture company.

Dr. Han is an expert in immune genetics and bone marrow transplant. He has ample stockpile of umbilical cord blood in his laboratory for his experiments in new techniques and treatments.

About Histostem Co Ltd
Histostem is a biotechnology company that is developing the latest human cell-based therapy. Its name originates from “Histo”, means tissue and “stem”. It is a pioneer in cell-based therapy with stem cells. The main divisions of Histostem are cell therapy research, public cord blood bank for transplantation, family cord blood bank, and human leukocyte antigen (HLA) assay.

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Bio-Diagnostic Commercializes Rapid Diagnostic Kits for Infectious Diseases

Malaysian company, Bio-Diagnostics Research Sdn Bhd, will be marketing its diagnostic kits for detecting typhoid, brugia, bancroftian filariasis and tuberculosis soon. The company has recently signed a memorandum of understanding with Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM) to commercialize the medical kits.

The diagnostics kits have already been accepted and used by the international community. For instance, the rapid test for brugia has been endorsed by the World Health Organization (WHO). The typhoid test kits have been exported to Pakistan, the Philippines and India. In the recent outbreak in Kelatan, Malaysia, Bio-Diagnostics has also supplied typhoid test kits to the Kelatan General Hospital.

The company hopes to provide more efficient diagnostic kits to reduce healthcare costs and to contribute to the development of molecular biology by producing more rapid test kits for all kinds of infectious diseases.

About Bio-Diagnostics

Bio-Diagnostics Research Sdn Bhd is backed by the Malaysian Technology Corporation Sdn Bhd (MTDC). MTDC is an agency under the Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation (MOSTI). Bio-Diagnostics was incorporated in 1992 with the focus on commercializing research results of universities and research institutions, identifying and transferring emerging and strategic technologies for adoption by industries, and encouraging the growth of technology-based enterprises in Malaysia.
About typhoid
Typhoid fever is caused by an infection with the bacterium *Salmonella typhi*, which is only found in humans. *S. Typhi* lives only in humans. Persons with typhoid fever carry the bacteria in their bloodstream and intestinal tract. A small number of persons, called carriers, recover from typhoid fever but continue to carry the bacteria. Both ill persons and carriers shed *S. Typhi* in their stools. One can get typhoid fever if one eats food or drinks beverages that have been handled by a person who is shedding *S. Typhi* or if sewage contaminated with *S. Typhi* bacteria gets into the water you use for drinking or washing food. Therefore, typhoid fever is more common in areas of the world where handwashing is less frequent and water is likely to be contaminated with sewage.

Once *S. Typhi* bacteria are eaten or drunk, they multiply and spread into the bloodstream. The body reacts with fever and other signs and symptoms. Typhoid fever is an infectious feverish disease with severe symptoms in the digestive system in the second phase of the illness. It can be life-threatening, but antibiotics are an effective treatment. The disease lasts several weeks and convalescence takes some time.

About Brugia
*Brucei malayi* is a vector borne disease, spread by mosquitos. It can cause elephatiasis. Four stages of the disease are recognized. The first stage is the incubation period of 3 to 12 months in which there are no symptoms. The second stage is the acute symptomatic stage in which some swelling of the extremities may occur and this may be accompanied by pain, weakness of arms and legs, headache, insomnia. Fever is usually not present. There is a period of recovery which is permanent if reinfection does not occur. If there is continued reinfection the cycle repeats and elephantiasis may result.

The worms in the lymphatic system cause tissue changes which restrict normal flow of lymph and result in swelling, fibrosis and eventually secondary infections in the affected tissues. The lower extremities and groin are the parts most likely to be affected. The adult worms live for several years. Antibiotics is used to prevent secondary infections. Pressure bandages is also used to reduce swelling. Surgical removal of infected tissues can improve lymph flow. Chemotherapy can also kill circulating microfilaria.

About Bancroftian Filariasis
*Bancrofti filariasis* is a disease caused by threadlike round worms. Larvae enter the skin via the bite of an infected mosquito and settle in lymph nodes, principally in the groin and axilla. Adult females release microfilaria into the blood to be available for another feeding mosquito and it is this normally causes fever. The adult worm does not multiply in the human host, thus severity of disease depends on the number of infected bites received.

Tropical areas of Africa, India (especially in the south), other parts of South East Asia and Central and South America. Sometimes symptoms such as fever, lymphangitis and oedema develop. Repeated and chronic infections can cause chronic lymphoedema of the limbs or genitalia which can be very disabling and usually irreversible. Serious illness is rare in travellers.

Usually diethyl-carbamazine or sometimes ivermectin is used for treatment. Prevention is through avoiding mosquito bites. There is no vaccine available.
INS Bioscience is expected to be listed on Bursa Malaysia by the end of August 2005. Under its listing exercise, INS Bioscience has allocated 51.68 million shares for private placement, 15 million shares to eligible directors, employees, customers and suppliers; and five million shares to the Malaysian public. The company, expects to raise RM25.09 million (US$6.6 million) from the listing exercise and RM22 million (US$5.8 million) will be set aside for expansion. About RM1.09 million (US$0.29 million) will be used as working capital.

“Most of the money will be used for research and development because it is our strength and it gives us the edge. We have invested some RM10 million (US$2.6 million) in Malaysia and another RM1.5 million (US$0.4 million) in R&D facilities in China,” said Wong when asked about how the money will be invested.

Backed by the money raised from the listing exercise, INS plans to take its products to China, the US and the West Asian markets later this year. With some 100,000 distributors nationwide, its global business director Wong Kin Nam said these areas are a lucrative market for the company’s range of products that included nutraceutical and slimming products.

“Dubai (United Arab Emirates) and Iran appear to be good markets for us and with our halal food certificates, we should be able to tap into West Asia,” he said after the launch of the company’s prospectus recently. Wong said the Chinese market was expected to generate about 40% of the company’s overall revenue next year, while sales from the US would be about 15%.

About INS Enterprise Sdn Bhd

Established in 1996, INS Enterprise Sdn Bhd is a continuously growing and expanding network marketing company in Malaysia.

INS Enterprise Sdn Bhd is well known for carrying innovative and high quality products. All their products are researched, developed and produced in-house.

As a network marketing company, INS Enterprise Sdn Bhd has established a strong distribution channel to create substantial consumption power and opportunities for their distributors. They distribute their products to Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand, Indonesia and Hong Kong.
Neuren Teams up with Walter Reed Army Institute of Research

Neuren Pharmaceuticals Ltd announced that it has signed an agreement with the Walter Reed Army Institute of Research (WRAIR) based in Washington DC, USA. They will work together to develop Neuren's second lead compound, NNZ-2566, as a therapy for traumatic brain injury ("TBI").

Under the current agreement, Walter Reed funds half of the preclinical research relating to NNZ-2566, with Neuren retaining all future commercial rights outside the US military. Walter Reed has also developed a specialized model to predict the clinical outcome of TBI by using an easy to detect clinical event that may be more efficient than what is currently used in clinical trials.

The company announced that preclinical results from the NNZ-2566 studies showed that the benefit of administration the compound following injury has increased from a 50% reduction in neurological deficit to a 70% reduction with longer drug exposure.

About Neuren
Neuren was formed by the merger of NeuronZ Limited and EndocrinZ Limited in 2004. These companies were established in 1995 and 2002, respectively as for-profit "spin-offs" from the University of Auckland based on intellectual property created by the University of Auckland (including the Liggins Institute, a leading centre for research in the neurosciences and endocrinology) and other international collaborators.
Paradigm Signs Licensing and Collaborating Deal with Ortho-McNeil

Paradigm Therapeutics Ltd has entered into an exclusive licensing and collaborative research agreement with Ortho-McNeil Pharmaceuticals Inc, a subsidiary of Johnson & Johnson company, in the area of pain and urinary incontinence.

Under the terms of the agreement, Paradigm will receive upfront research payments and be eligible for payments on successful achievement of pre-specified scientific, clinical and regulatory milestones, as well as royalties on product sales. In return, Paradigm will provide an exclusive licence to one of its proprietary discovery programs with potential utility in the treatment of chronic pain and urinary incontinence.

The initial drug discovery research will be conducted both at Paradigm and at Johnson & Johnson Pharmaceutical Research and Development, a division of Janssen Pharmaceutica N.V.

“We are extremely pleased to enter this exclusive licensing agreement with Ortho-McNeil, and with J&JPRD. Their research and development capacity has been an important factor in partnering this program as it could possibly lead to first class therapeutics in these key areas,” said Dr Alastair Riddell, CEO of Paradigm.

About Paradigm Therapeutics
Paradigm Therapeutics is located in the Cambridge Science Park, UK and it has a wholly owned subsidiary, Paradigm Therapeutics Singapore Pte Ltd, based at the Biopolis in Singapore.
Paradigm Therapeutics has a unique drug discovery platform that combines a powerful proprietary in vivo functional genetics platform, functional pharmacology and proprietary medicinal chemistry. It uses this expertise to identify and validate innovative, druggable targets which have the potential to lead to first-in-class therapeutics in key areas and which, when validated, are licensed to major pharmaceutical companies for preclinical and clinical development.

About Ortho-McNeil
Ortho-McNeil Pharmaceutical Inc was formed by the 1993 merger of Ortho Pharmaceutical Corporation and McNeil Pharmaceutical. Their headquarters is located in Raritan, N.J., USA. Ortho-McNeil employs about 3,500 associates and is one of the largest companies within the Johnson & Johnson family of companies.
Paradigm and Takeda Enter Into CNS Therapeutics Alliance

Paradigm Therapeutics Ltd and Takeda Pharmaceutical Company Ltd announced that both parties have agreed to enter into a therapeutics alliance in the field of central nervous system (CNS) diseases.

Under the terms of the three year agreement, Paradigm will provide Takeda with exclusive access to proprietary drug targets in defined CNS fields, with selected targets being subject to further validation by Paradigm and subsequent screening and development carried out by Takeda. The deal anticipates the identification of multiple targets through each year of collaboration. The initial agreement also allows for further extension of the collaboration by mutual agreement.

Takeda will pay upfront research exclusivity payments. In addition, Paradigm will be eligible for payments of approximately US$18 million in maximum for each product based on successful achievement of pre-specified research, clinical and regulatory milestones. In addition, Paradigm will receive royalties on the sales of any commercialized products.

"Takeda has a tremendous track record of taking new targets through to commercialization, and through this collaboration we aim to provide a powerful platform for the discovery of new targets for key CNS disease indications. The collaboration provides a means to move a significant number of Paradigm’s proprietary targets towards clinical validation rapidly and realize significant value for the company. We anticipate close collaboration between the companies and are looking forward to the prospect of the identification and progression of valuable first in class therapeutics. This deal represents the first of several carefully selected alliances for key disease areas in our portfolio," said Dr Barry Kenny, commercial director at Paradigm.

"We are excited very much with this deal, which will enable us to have access to Paradigm’s potential druggable targets created based on their state-of-art proprietary in vivo functional genetics platform. CNS field is one of our core therapeutic areas to which our management resources are selectively dedicated, and we believe the joint research with Paradigm will contribute to enhance our franchise in this field. Takeda is pursuing every possibility for enhancing its research and development pipeline, and promoting this kind of alliance activity so that we can utilize outside resources efficiently in the research processes," said Takashi Soda, general manager of the pharmaceutical research division at Takeda.

About Takeda

Takeda, located in Osaka, Japan, is a research based global company with its main focus on pharmaceuticals. As the largest pharmaceutical company in Japan and one of the global leaders of the industry, Takeda is committed to striving toward better health for individuals and progress in medicine by developing superior pharmaceutical products. Takeda’s four core therapeutic areas in research and development are lifestyle-related diseases, oncology, urologic diseases, central nervous system diseases and gastroenterology diseases.