and equity investment opportunities. The companies also expect to strengthen their existing cooperation for the promotion of Pfizer’s Prevenar (7-valent) a pneumococcal conjugate vaccine, approved for use in China for active immunization of infants and toddlers for the prevention of invasive diseases caused by the bacterium Streptococcus pneumonia. Details of the companies’ various areas of potential cooperation under the strategic partnership will be set forth in future definitive agreements.

“Our intent to explore a range of business opportunities with Shanghai Pharmaceutical is an example of our commitment to expand our presence in China in collaboration with the local industry,” said David Simmons, President and General Manager, Emerging Markets and Established Products of Pfizer Inc. “Shanghai Pharmaceutical has been one of Pfizer’s major partners in China for years and is currently our largest distribution customer in the market.”

“From our first partnership discussion with Pfizer, we were impressed not only with their capabilities, but also their thoughtfulness toward the Chinese market,” stated Lu Mingfang, Chairman of Shanghai Pharmaceutical. “The Chinese pharmaceutical market is very dynamic and we believe a company must be forward thinking to succeed in China. Shanghai Pharmaceutical is built off of a vision for what the Chinese healthcare market will become, not what it has been. We respect Pfizer’s global experiences and resources and believe they are an ideal partner for us in the continuous evolution of our business model and implementation of an international strategy”.

Merck & Co., Inc., and Sun Pharma Sign JV for Medicines in Emerging Markets

Merck & Co., Inc., (NYSE:MRK), a global health care leader, known as MSD outside the United States and Canada, and Sun Pharmaceutical Industries Ltd., (“Sun Pharma”) a leading Indian multinational pharmaceutical company, today announced the creation of a joint venture to develop, manufacture and commercialize new combinations and formulations of innovative, branded generics in the Emerging Markets.

“Merck’s Emerging Markets strategy is driven by our overarching focus on applying innovation across our business from introducing novel compounds to broadening our focus on innovative branded generics,” said Kevin Ali, president, Emerging Markets, Merck/MSD. “By combining forces with Sun Pharma, we are complementing our innovative product portfolio with a solid foundation for addressing the diverse needs of patients, physicians and governments across the Emerging Markets.”

The partnership combines Sun Pharma’s proven track record of leadership and expertise in rapid, innovative product development using Sun Pharma Advanced Research Company Ltd’s (“SPARC”) proprietary platform technologies, and Sun Pharma’s world-class manufacturing network with Merck’s clinical development and registration expertise and a broad, geographic commercial footprint. The companies said that they will focus on ‘innovative branded generics,’ that bring together combinations of medicines using platform delivery technologies designed to enhance convenience for patients in Emerging Markets. The joint venture will be structured through Merck and Sun Pharma’s respective subsidiaries. Financial details of the joint venture were not disclosed.

“This joint venture reinforces our strategy of partnering to launch products using our highly innovative delivery technologies around the world,” said Dilip S. Shanghvi, chairman and managing director, Sun Pharmaceutical Industries Ltd. “Merck has an unrivalled reputation as a world leading, innovative, research-driven pharmaceutical company. We’re proud to be associated with them and look forward to working together.”

Experts estimate that during the coming decade, the Emerging Markets are expected to drive 90 percent of the world’s pharmaceutical growth, with 75 percent of
Sosei Acquires Development and Commercialization Rights to Loramyc(R) from BioAlliance Pharma

Sosei Group Corporation, the biopharmaceutical company announces that Sosei Co., Ltd., its wholly owned Japanese subsidiary, acquired development and commercialization rights to Loramyc(R) (miconazole Lauriad(R). Sosei development code: SO-1105) in Japan from BioAlliance Pharma.

Loramyc(R) is an antifungal agent, administered as a muco-adhesive buccal tablet for the treatment of oropharyngeal candidiasis in immunocompromised patients. BioAlliance received its first Loramyc(R) marketing authorization in France in October 2006. Loramyc(R) has since been registered in 26 European countries, in South Korea, and in the United States.

Under the terms of the agreement, Sosei will pay BioAlliance an upfront license fee of $3 million and further development and sales-based milestones totaling up to a maximum of $18.5 million. Sosei will also pay royalties on net sales of the product.

By acquiring development and commercialization rights to Loramyc(R) Sosei will broaden its development pipeline and continue with its strategy of bringing products that are in the late stage of development or already marketed in the West to Japan.

Shinichi Tamura, CEO of Sosei Group Corporation, commented: “We are very pleased to be teaming up with BioAlliance Pharma on this innovative product. Loramyc(R) has the potential to become the first treatment in tablet form for oropharyngeal candidiasis in Japan, to provide an important addition to available treatments, and to enhance patients’ compliance and improve their quality of life.”

About Oropharyngeal Candidiasis

Fungal infections of the oral mucosa are most frequently caused by Candida species, with C. albicans being the most common species associated with such infections. Oropharyngeal candidiasis is commonly found in immuno-compromised patients, including HIV and cancer patients, and in other chronic disease states such as diabetes. For instance, oropharyngeal candidiasis is the most frequently occurring infection in head and neck cancer patients undergoing radiation therapy. The clinical presentation of oropharyngeal candidiasis is variable with symptoms including soreness, burning, and/or altered taste. The signs of clinical candidiasis usually include white pseudomembranous plaques and patches (thrush), erythematous lesions or occasionally angular cheilitis. Left untreated, the condition may progress to involve the esophagus or to more serious systemic complications.