

To be released on November 4th 2015

SynAging announces extension of its collaboration with Europe's largest biopharmaceutical company

SynAging announces the extension of its drug discovery collaboration with Actelion Pharmaceuticals Ltd. in neurodegenerative diseases. The extension was signed recently to develop multiple lead series targeting a non-disclosed G protein-coupled receptor to stop neuronal apoptosis.

The collaboration started in December 2010 with the aim of discovering neuroprotective small molecules for the treatment of age-related neurodegenerative diseases such as Alzheimer's and Parkinson's, for which SynAging has unique scientific expertise and models. The joint lead optimization process of the collaboration extension aims to deliver orally active molecules for clinical development.

SynAging has provided the target and relevant accompanying insights into disease biology and pharmacology to the collaboration and will participate in the upside of the project. Following joint target directed high-throughput screening and hit evaluation, the specificity and biological validation of lead compounds is performed in SynAging's phenotypic models.

In contrast to most competing disease models, SynAging does not rely on transgenic models, but uses proprietary preparations of low number oligomers e.g. of amyloid beta peptides, to induce neurodegeneration. Compounds which prove positive in SynAging's *in vitro* phenotypic test system are validated for their on target activity and mode of action. Further validation is then performed in *in vivo* models at SynAging.

Dr. Thierry Pillot, CEO of SynAging, said: "The current contract extension shows that SynAging has delivered on its promises and that Actelion agrees that the accomplishments justify further investment. The extension of the collaboration with Actelion will permit us to develop and test our ideas of novel targets and disease-fighting mechanisms. Something we could not pursue on our own, as our focus remains to become an internationally recognised CRO.



About Actelion:

Actelion is a leading biopharmaceutical company focused on the discovery, development and commercialization of innovative drugs for diseases with significant unmet medical needs.

Actelion is a leader in the field of pulmonary arterial hypertension (PAH). Their portfolio of PAH treatments covers the spectrum of disease from WHO Functional Class (FC) II through to FC IV, with oral, inhaled and intravenous medications. Although not available in all countries, Actelion has treatments approved by health authorities for a number of highly specific diseases including Type 1 Gaucher disease, Niemann-Pick type C disease, digital ulcers in patients suffering from systemic sclerosis and mycosis fungoides type cutaneous T-cell lymphoma.

Founded in late 1997, with now over 2,400 dedicated professionals covering all key markets around the world including Europe, the US, Japan, China, Russia and Mexico, Actelion has its corporate headquarters in Allschwil/Basel, Switzerland.

Actelion shares are traded on the SIX Swiss Exchange (ticker symbol: ATLN) as part of the Swiss blue-chip index SMI (Swiss Market Index SMI®). All trademarks are legally protected.

About SynAging:

SynAging focuses on disease-inducing protein aggregates which are involved in the earliest stages of proteopathic neurodegenerative diseases, like Alzheimer's and Parkinson's. As a French contract research organization located in Nancy, SynAging provides highly reproducible drug testing services, employing these proprietary protein aggregates to initiate disease symptoms *in vitro* and *in vivo*.

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