

Servier and Scandicure enter into agreement to conduct research in the field of metabolic diseases

Paris and Gothenburg, 3 April 2018 – Servier, an independent international pharmaceutical company, and Scandicure, a Swedish spin-out of the University of Gothenburg, today announced the establishment of an agreement to exploit Scandicure's innovation in the field of metabolic disease.

Scandicure, in collaboration with the IMI¹-funded European Lead Factory, has developed inhibitors of a novel biological target for non-alcoholic steatohepatitis (NASH), type-2 diabetes and potentially other metabolic diseases.

Servier will continue research started by Scandicure and advance Scandicure's novel compounds through preclinical development using Servier's drug discovery capabilities and knowledge of the disease areas. Under the terms of the agreement, Servier shall provide Scandicure with an upfront payment, as well as pre-clinical and clinical milestones.

"We have identified a new attractive target in metabolic diseases, and the European Lead Factory has provided an access to a high-quality compound library and a platform of expertise for high-throughput screening. This unique combination of a well-validated target with the high-quality output of the European Lead Factory has provided Scandicure with strong starting points for new and transformative treatments in NASH and related diseases," stated Dr. Margit Mahlapuu, founder and CEO of Scandicure. *"Servier with its deep and integrated capabilities throughout the entire pharmaceutical R&D chain, is an ideal partner for Scandicure in this development initiative".*

"Our access to Scandicure's target-knowledge and novel chemistry allows us to explore an important pathway in metabolic diseases. Our goal is to find treatments for patients who suffer from NASH, who are underserved by current therapies", said Claude Bertrand, General Director of Research and Development at Servier. *"This agreement illustrates Servier's continued commitment to novel approaches to diseases where significant unmet medical needs still exist".*

¹ IMI : Innovative Medicines Initiative

About Servier

Servier is an international pharmaceutical company governed by a non-profit foundation, with its headquarters in France (Suresnes). With a strong international presence in 148 countries and a turnover of 4.152 billion euros in 2017, Servier employs 21,600 people worldwide. Entirely independent, the Group reinvests 25% of its turnover (excluding generic drugs) in research and development and uses all its profits for development. Corporate growth is driven by Servier's constant search for innovation in five areas of excellence: cardiovascular, immune-inflammatory and neuropsychiatric diseases, cancer and diabetes, as well as by its activities in high-quality generic drugs.

Servier has been involved in the research and development of innovative therapeutics against non-insulin diabetes (type II diabetes) for over 40 years. Currently gliclazide is one of the most prescribed oral treatments worldwide. Identifying new therapeutic targets in this field is Servier's priority, as well as research of specific therapeutic solutions to diabetes-linked complications such as diabetic nephropathy or non-alcoholic fatty liver disease.

More information: www.servier.com

Find us on Social Media:   

Press contacts:

Sonia MARQUES : media@servier.com – Tel. +33 (0)1 55 72 40 21 / + 33 (0) 7 84 28 76 13

Karine BOUSSEAU : media@servier.com – Tel. +33 (0)1 55 72 60 37

About Scandicure AB

Scandicure AB is an entrepreneurial company spun out of the University of Gothenburg, Sweden. Together with IMI's European Lead Factory, the company has identified novel inhibitors of a target which may be able to reverse the metabolic complications in type-2-diabetes and metabolic liver disease NASH.

The company is owned by its founder, Dr Margit Mahlapuu, and the top ranked incubator and investor GU Ventures AB, which is wholly owned by the Swedish state. Scandicure serves as a holding company for intellectual property rights.

Press contact:

Dr. Lorna Fletcher Tel. +46(0)73 4167084– lorna.fletcher@ventures.gu.se

About the European Lead Factory

The European Lead Factory is a unique, collaborative platform for early drug discovery. It offers unrivalled opportunities to any European academic or SME working in any therapeutic area for the discovery of new diagnostic or drug lead molecules; compounds that can result in the development of novel treatment options for patients. To this end, the European Lead Factory provides a high-quality compound library, industry-standard screening facilities and drug discovery expertise. The European Lead Factory has received support from the Innovative Medicines Initiative Joint Undertaking (IMI-JU) and EFPIA companies' in kind contribution.

More information: www.europeanleadfactory.eu.

Press contact:

Dr. Kristina Orrling kristina.orrling@lygature.org