

AQILION

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Press release

Aqilion strengthens the company's pipeline through the acquisition of a phase-1 ready anti-inflammatory program from LEO Pharma

AQILION AB (publ) announced today that it has strengthened its pipeline with an innovative development program in the field of chronic inflammation. With this acquisition, Aqilion is taking over all rights to the program, now under the name Regulus, from LEO Pharma. The project is ready for clinical trials and Aqilion plans to begin clinical development in 2022.

Aqilion has acquired all rights to Regulus from LEO Pharma, who developed the project from early internal discovery research. Under the terms of the agreement, Aqilion will make an upfront payment that is a combination of cash and equity and LEO Pharma will become a shareholder of Aqilion. Furthermore, Aqilion will make additional payments from either product sales or through out-licensing revenues.

Regulus is a novel next-generation selective JAK1 inhibitor previously developed as LEO 142397, now AQ280. Drugs with a similar mechanism of action have shown clinical efficacy in autoimmune and inflammatory diseases. Aqilion will initially investigate AQ280 as a potential therapy for eosinophilic esophagitis (EoE), an inflammatory disease of the esophagus. To date, no drugs with the same mechanism of action have been developed for EoE and there is a high unmet medical need. Aqilion will conduct the Regulus project in-house with the aim of starting a Phase 1 safety study in healthy volunteers in 2022, followed by a Phase 2a study in patients.

“It is both gratifying and inspiring for us at Aqilion to be able to expand our chronic inflammation pipeline with such an innovative, high quality and exciting program as Regulus. Expanding our pipeline with a project in early clinical development has been a priority and we now look forward to advancing Regulus, while benefiting from synergies with our pipeline of preclinical projects,” says Sarah Fredriksson, CEO of Aqilion.

“We are always excited to see our R&D operations bring forward new compounds that has the potential to help patients in any indication. In this case EoE where Aqilion is the right partner to pursue the potential of LEO 142397 – now Regulus. LEO Pharma will continue our dedication to bringing forward new innovative treatments that are either first or best in class and changing the standards of care within medical dermatology,” says Thorsten Thormann, VP Research and Early Development in LEO Pharma.

For more information, please contact

Sarah Fredriksson, CEO, AQILION AB, + 46 (0)70 261 4575, sarah.fredriksson@aqilion.com

About eosinophilic esophagitis

Eosinophilic esophagitis (EoE) is a rare chronic disease involving inflammation of the esophageal mucosa; its main symptom is swallowing difficulties. EoE is a relatively new diagnosis that is increasing in incidence. The disease, which has a progressive course, is also known as “allergic esophagitis” and is thought to be triggered by food allergens. Both children and adults can be affected and the diagnosis is most common in children in their teens and in adults aged 30-50. The condition is more common in men.

About Aqilion

Aqilion is a biotech company that focuses on developing new innovative treatments for diseases caused by chronic inflammation and dysfunctional immune reactions such as autoimmune diseases. The company is mainly active in the early phases of drug discovery, from idea to early clinical development.

Aqilion combines its experience from major pharmaceutical companies with the drive and entrepreneurship of small growth companies. With solid experience of business development in innovative biotech and pharmaceutical companies, Aqilion's experienced team and board have successfully shepherded drugs all the way from discovery to market.

AQILION AB (publ) is a Swedish public limited company headquartered in Helsingborg, Sweden. www.aqilion.com

About LEO Pharma

LEO Pharma helps people achieve healthy skin. The company is a leader in medical dermatology with a robust R&D pipeline, a wide range of therapies and a pioneering spirit. Founded in 1908 and majority owned by the LEO Foundation, LEO Pharma has devoted decades of research and development to advance the science of dermatology, setting new standards of care for people with skin conditions. LEO Pharma is headquartered in Denmark with a global team of 6,000 people, serving 93 million patients in 130 countries. In 2020, the company generated net sales of DKK 10,133 million. For more information, please visit www.LEO-Pharma.com