ORYZON will participate at the 5th Annual EpiCongress in Boston, Massachusetts

Epigenetic drug discovery is exploding across the industry.

Barcelona, SPAIN; July 7th, 2014 Oryzon Genomics SA will participate at the 5th Annual EpiCongress, Boston. This meeting is a premier networking, interactive and solution-led conference that addresses how understanding the mechanisms behind genome regulation and chromatin function can help provide new therapies. The meeting will be held from Wednesday July 23rd 2014 till Thursday July 24th 2014 at the Hyatt Regency Cambridge 575 Memorial Drive, Cambridge, MA 02139, USA.

Dr. Carlos Buesa, CEO of Oryzon, will present the communication ***ORY-1001, the First Specific LSD1 Inhibitor in Acute Myeloid Leukemia Therapy*** in the Session "The Challenges of Clinical Phase Trials" to be held on July 23th. On the same day Oryzon will participate in the panel ***Interactive Solution Finding: How do You Approach Clinical Trials Successfully?*** Additionally Dr. Tamara Maes, CSO of Oryzon, will act as moderator at one of the EpiC roundtable discussions at the meeting.

Oryzon has a lead program, ORY-1001, granted orphan drug status by EMA in August 2013, that is currently in phase I/IIA for acute myeloid leukaemia (AML). In April 2014, Roche and Oryzon signed a worldwide collaboration to research, develop and commercialize inhibitors of Lysine Specific Demethylase-1 (LSD1; KDM1A), including ORY-1001. Under the terms of the agreement, Oryzon receives an undisclosed upfront payment and a near-term milestone totalling $21 million, plus potential development, commercial and sales milestone payments across haematology, cancer and non-malignant indications that could exceed $500 million, together with tiered royalties on sales which range up to mid-double digits.

The company has a second program in LSD1 inhibition, ORY-2001, devoted to Alzheimer's disease (AD) and Huntington´s disease that is expected to enter in Clinical trials in 2015. ORY-2001 is an oral disease modifier drug able to stop memory decay and cognitive impairment in mouse AD models.

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About epigenetics

Epigenetics is a term used to describe functionally relevant changes to the genome that do not involve a change in the nucleotide sequence. Examples of epigenetic mechanisms include DNA methylation or histone modification, each of which alters how genes are expressed and consequently read or not read without altering the underlying DNA sequence. These epigenetic changes may last through cell divisions for the duration of the cell's life, and may also last for multiple generations even though they do not involve changes in the underlying DNA sequence. Epigenetics is an active field of cancer research. The lysine-specific demethylase 1 (LSD1), which demethylates a histone, is an indispensible epigenetic governor involved in regulation of key cellular processes including proliferation and differentiation.

About LSD1 inhibition

LSD1 is also called an “eraser”, for it removes signals in the histone, provoking changes in the reading context of the chromosome and turning off genes. Aberrant “erasing” activity may lead to disease. In mixed lineage leukaemia (e.g., AML, ALL) LSD1 has been identified as playing a pivotal role. Drugs inhibiting LSD1 produced changes in gene expression leading to differentiation of leukemic blasts cells into normal differentiated cells, reducing proliferation and reducing viability of leukemic stem cells.

For further information:

Oryzon

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