

AiCuris Celebrates 10 Years Anniversary

This year, 2016, marks the 10th anniversary of AiCuris Anti-infective Cures. In my role as CEO of the Company it is a great pleasure for me to look back over the history of AiCuris as we celebrate our tenth year as an authority in the discovery and development of infectious disease drugs following our spin-out from the Bayer Healthcare Infectious Disease division in 2006.

This anniversary was achieved through the hard work and dedication of our team as well as our dedicated research and development strategy and continuing support by our investors. Since our foundation we have come a long way – 10 years ago the problem of increasing bacterial and viral resistance to common treatments was not top of the pharmaceutical industry's agenda. Today, resistance has become a widely accepted topic and what began as a company with 22 employees has developed into a Powerhouse for anti-infectives with a team of over 55 internationally regarded scientists and drug developers occupying 3,000 square meters at the Life Science Park in Wuppertal, Germany. Now we expect very soon to see the first product from our own research and development activities on the market, through our licensee Merck & Co (MSD) that will shift us from a research and development to a real product based company with an exciting development pipeline to meet future disease challenges. I believe it is fair to say that, in the past 10 years, AiCuris has established itself as a unique player in the sector.

The journey to develop new drugs is a long and winding road with many challenges, but this hasn't stopped us from developing new approaches with resistance-breaking characteristics to treat infectious diseases. We started off with a portfolio of research and early development projects - today, this portfolio has matured up to phase 2 – and, partnered, even phase 3.

Throughout its history AiCuris has seen many highlights; among these was the international phase 2b trial with letermovir incl. the USA in 2010 and the first successful treatment of a patient with HCMV disease during the same year confirming to us the importance and potential of our work. The second AiCuris project, pritelivir, entered phase 2 trials in 2009. Then, in 2011, we started the development of life-saving cures for the treatment of Gram-negative infections with AIC499 to ensure effective resistance-breaking antibacterial therapeutic options for the future. Today, our antibacterial pipeline comprises several highly innovative discovery programs as well as the late stage preclinical candidate targeting multi-resistant Gram-negative pathogens.

The most significant milestone in our company history however, was in 2012 when, on the back of positive data from a phase 2 trial, MSD and AiCuris signed an exclusive worldwide licensing agreement for a portfolio of investigational medicines targeting Human Cytomegalovirus (HCMV), including letermovir (AIC246), an oral, late-stage antiviral candidate being investigated for the treatment and prevention of HCMV infection in transplant recipients. With a record upfront payment of €10 million, milestone payments of up to €32.5 million and further royalties on the net sales, this agreement was one of the largest of its kind in the European biotech industry.

Our partner, MSD, just recently announced that letermovir met the primary endpoint in the pivotal phase 3 study, further validating our scientific expertise and our capabilities to discover and develop new therapies which clearly make a difference in areas of high medical need for the benefit of patients. Right at this time of our 10 years anniversary, our view that letermovir could soon become AiCuris' first product to enter the market becomes more and more an exciting reality.

It is with great pleasure that I look back at our successful ten-year track record of growth and innovation. The past achievements make me proud of our team, which has worked very hard for many years with great commitment and dedication and I am very thankful for the confidence our investors continue to place in us.

Today though, I am thinking much more about AiCuris' future, which will continue to hold many opportunities as we endeavor to address the medical needs that will continue to change the world around us. It is therefore of vital importance, that we remain forward-focused on this next decade and transform our significant plans into substantial additional value in the field of antiviral but also antibacterial treatments. We seek for example to develop innovative treatment options for life-threatening, multi-resistant hospital-treated infections. In the coming years, we have the opportunity to make a huge impact for people around the world.

Let us now look at the exciting near-term events. Later this year and early 2017 we plan to start two further phase 2 trials with pritelivir to treat HSV infections, including a topical treatment. In addition, we plan to start a phase 1 clinical trial with AIC499, a novel Gram-negative resistance-breaker antibiotic and we await results from a phase 1 trial with our immune modulator AIC649 performed in Hepatitis B virus (HBV)-positive patients.

We have accomplished a lot together during our first 10 years and remain dedicated to continue doing so. Having mastered the challenges of the past, I look to the future with confidence and would like to cordially thank our employees and investors for their dedication and significant contributions to our success. Moreover, I would especially like to thank our founding-CEO Prof. Dr. Helga Rübsamen-Schaeff for setting up AiCuris, her dedication over many years and her continuing support of AiCuris as Chair of the Scientific Advisory Board.

Fighting emerging resistant pathogens needs dedicated teams. AiCuris is ready to take this challenge!

Yours sincerely,



Dr. Holger Zimmermann (CEO)