



PRESS RELEASE

AiCuris selects Mercachem as preferred medicinal chemistry partner

Wuppertal, Germany and Nijmegen, The Netherlands, March 7, 2017:

AiCuris, a leading pharmaceutical company focused on the discovery and development of novel antiviral and antibacterial agents for the treatment of severe and potentially life-threatening infectious diseases, has selected Mercachem as its preferred medicinal chemistry partner. Under the collaborative research service agreement, Mercachem in cooperation with AiCuris will establish lead finding programs and subsequent lead optimization campaigns on multiple anti-infective targets.

"After having worked successfully with Mercachem for many years on several projects, we recognized the Company as the right partner to support us in the further expansion of our anti-infectives discovery pipeline," said Dr. Holger Zimmermann, CEO of AiCuris. "Mercachem's extensive expertise and well established infrastructure in medicinal chemistry combined with their knowledge of underlying biological mechanisms should enable us to further accelerate our promising discovery programs addressing life-threatening diseases with high unmet medical needs including multi-resistant pathogens."

"We are pleased that AiCuris has chosen Mercachem as their strategic collaboration partner in the field of medicinal chemistry," commented Dr. Gerhard Müller, Senior Vice President Medicinal Chemistry of Mercachem. He further added: "We will leverage our in-house expertise applying ligand-based design using the phenotypic biology data in progressing AiCuris' Lead Finding and Optimization projects".

About AiCuris Anti-infective Cures GmbH

AiCuris was founded in 2006 as a spin-off from Bayer and focuses on the discovery and development of drugs against infectious diseases. The company's majority investor is SANTO Holding. The company is developing drugs for the treatment of viruses such as human cytomegalovirus (HCMV), herpes simplex virus (HSV), hepatitis B virus (HBV), and adenoviruses. In the field of antibacterials, AiCuris seeks to develop innovative treatment options for life-threatening, (multidrug)-resistant hospital-treated pathogens. In 2012, AiCuris signed a license agreement with Merck & Co (MSD), one of the largest agreements of its kind in the European biotech industry. The agreement covers the development and commercialization of novel drug candidates against HCMV. Letermovir, the most advanced compound under this agreement, met the primary endpoint in a pivotal phase 3 clinical trial in patients undergoing bone marrow transplantation.

About Mercachem

Mercachem is a privately owned leading European contract research organization (CRO) offering innovative chemistry, parallel chemistry, medicinal chemistry and early process research services and GMP production to accelerate the drug discovery and development process in a flexible and cost-effective way. Working for many pharmaceutical and biotech companies throughout the world, Mercachem is recognized for its high-quality products and services and its unprecedented problem solving capabilities. More information on Mercachem can be found on the company website www.mercachem.com.

Contacts:

AiCuris Anti-infective Cures GmbH: Katja Woestehemke +49 202 317 63 0
business@aicuris.com; www.aicuris.com

Mercachem B.V.: Jan Schultz +31 24 3723369 jan.schultz@mercachem.com;
www.mercachem.com